

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



MERRY
Christmas

The TLM team wishes the resistance fighters and victims of the Meiteis' brutality and who are now stationed either at various Relief Centres, or are still out there at the frontlines within our ancestral land, bordering Manipur, braving the cold and loneliness, so that we can celebrate Christmas in the warmth of our homes.

This edition of TLM is dedicated to them.



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 16.12.2023



158
DEATHS



200+
VILLAGES BURNT



7000+
HOUSES BURNT



360+
CHURCHES &
SYNAGOGUES BURNT



41,425+
DISPLACED
PERSONS

Thingkho Le Malcha (charred wood tied with chilli): A war symbol; a pre-arranged secret code agreed upon by the Kukis to inform the people about the commencement of war and on receiving this, one has to remain alert and be ready for the battle.

KUKI INPI, KSO EXTENDS CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

The Kuki Inpi Manipur and the Kuki Students' Organization Churachandpur extended Christmas greeting on the occasion of the birth of Lord Jesus Christ, exuberating peace, love, unity and harmony among the Christian community.

The Kuki Inpi president, Ch. Ajang Khongsai in a statement said: "I extend my warmest greetings and heartfelt wishes to all the Kuki-Zo people on this auspicious occasion of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In the midst of the war and the agony that has been brought upon our people, may the spirit of Christmas fill our hearts with peace, happiness, and hope. May it reminds us of the values that bind us together as a community—love, compassion, and unity."

May the light of Christmas illuminate our hearts with unwavering hope for a better tomorrow, where Justice is free and our women and children weep no more."

Wishing the Kuki-Zo people moments of courage, strength, and resilience this Christmas, and a spirit of hope and renewal as we look forward, he added.

"Despite resisting the 'Meiteis' pogrom to annihilate us' for the past eight months, we have entered the Christmas season by the grace of God, for which the Kuki Students' Organisation Churachandpur would like to extend a warm 'Christmas Greetings' to all and one", KSO Churachandpur said in their 'Christmas Greetings' message.

"While we are about to welcome the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the KSO Churachandpur appeal the people not to forget the families of our Martyrs,



village volunteers, Displaced Persons who are still languishing in the Relief Camps; and avoid extravagant fireworks display and merry making to show our solidarity to the aggrieved families and village volunteers who would be spending festive season apart from loved ones."

Reckless driving and anti-social elements that could derail the already gloomy festive mood should be avoided, KSO cautioned. "May the true essence of Christmas live in the heart of each and every one of us," KSO proclaimed.

INFORMATION

Dear esteemed readers,
We regret to inform you all that there will be no issue of **Thingkho le Malcha** tomorrow i.e. 25th December, 2023 on account of Christmas Day.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas 2023!

FAILURE TO LAUNCH THE MST BUS INDICATES THE SEPARATION OF KUKI-MEITEI IN MANIPUR, SAYS KUKI BODY

The Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills, or the KISH asseverated that the failure to launch the MST bus service indicated the physical and mental separation of the Kuki and Meitei in Manipur.

The Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills also conveyed heartfelt gratitude to all the right-thinking Meiteis for not crossing the buffer zone and trespassing into the Kuki-Zo community area at this dangerous juncture despite the ridiculous notice of the Manipur home department for opening the highway which was never closed at all.

Paojalal Hangshing, Information and Publicity Secretary of KISH said that numerous Meiteis who have crossed the buffer zone into Kuki-Zo areas have been sent back safely on humanitarian grounds, but the Meiteis continue to slaughter any Kuki-Zo community in their areas regardless of age and gender since the ethnic violence erupted on May 3.

He asserted that as the Meitei would never come towards the Kuki-Zo areas, the Kuki-Zo would never set foot again in the Meitei-dominated areas not because of the roads and highways being closed but for the fear of their lives.

“Thus, the state Government should accept that separate administration for the Kuki-Zo is the only solution for a lasting peace, not some gimmick of opening a highway that was never closed”, he added.

The Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills also cautioned the Meiteis to tread carefully and not to fall for the gimmicks of the State Government which is trying to show the world that the situation is under control while the state burns in reality.

The Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills also wished everyone a joyous and merry Christmas.

Meanwhile, the Kuki Inpi Manipur, the apex body of the Kuki tribes extended Christmas greetings to all the Kuki-Zo across the globe on the auspicious occasion of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Kim President, Ch. Ajang Khongsai said that in the midst of the war and the agony that has been brought



Office of the
KUKI INPI, SADAR HILLS
(Apex body of Kuki Tribes)

KI(SH) Office, Near Brig. Thomas Ground, Kanggui-795129

Moltam Block | Phailengmol Block | Saikul Block | Twibul Block | Twilang Block
KI(SH)PR/02/2023

PRESS RELEASE
Kanggui 24th Dec 2023

The Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the right thinking Meiteis for not crossing the buffer zone and trespassing into the Kuki-Zo community area in these dangerous times despite the ridiculous notice issued on 21st Dec 2023 by the State Government of opening highways which was never closed at all.

The Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills also wants to point out that numerous Meiteis who have crossed the Buffer zone into Kuki-Zo areas have been sent back safely on humanitarian ground, while the Meiteis continue to slaughter any Kuki-Zo community in their areas regardless of Age & Gender since the ethnic violence broke out.

The Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills also wants to state that the failure to launch the MST service indicates that Meitei and Kuki-Zo are separated physically and mentally, simply put the Meiteis will not come towards the Kuki-Zo areas likewise the Kuki-Zo will never set foot again in the Meitei dominated areas not because the roads and highways are closed but for the fear of their lives. Thus, the State Government should accept that Separate administration for the Kuki-Zo is the only solution for a lasting peace, not some small gimmick of opening a highway which was never closed.

The Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills also caution the Meiteis to tread carefully and not to fall for the gimmicks of the State Government who are trying to show the world that the situation is under control while the state burns in reality, while wishing them, a joyous and Merry Christmas.

Paojalal Hangshing
Assistant Info & Publicity
Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills

upon our people, may the spirit of Christmas fill our hearts with peace, happiness, and hope.

He also wished the Kuki-Zo people stating that Christmas reminds us of the values that bind us together as a community - love, compassion, and unity.

“May the light of Christmas illuminate our hearts with unwavering hope for a better tomorrow, where Justice is free and our women and children weep no more”, he added.

KIM President also wished the Kuki-Zo people moments of courage, strength, and resilience this Christmas, and a spirit of hope and renewal as we look forward to it.

GLOOMY CHRISTMAS AS KUKIS PREPARE TO CELEBRATE WITH LOVED ONES AMIDST WAR

Christmas, a joyous and happy annual event to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ for billions around the world has come. A festive mood fills the air in every Christian home across the world. But the same cannot be said for Kuki-Zo Christian.

The advent of Christianity has evolved the Kuki-Zo traditions and cultures, leaning them to a more Christian way. Yes, Christmas is one of the most important festivals for all Christians but I bet for the Kuki-Zos, its significance means much more as herein Christian tradition meets the old Kuki tradition in our Christmas celebrations. We can say the Kukis have 'Kukiased' it by adding our traditional flavour to the event. One can say it's a rejuvenation time for the Kuki-Zo. On this joyous occasion, aside from praise and worship in the church, people from all strata of society come together and celebrate the festive occasion with music, sumptuous meals and lots of smiles.

It's a time of rest and a shopping season for shifting cultivators on the hills. I bet most people dwelling in the hills wait the whole year to come to town and gift themselves something new in their closets. For students and workers in towns and cities, it's time to head back home to their parents, families and friends. In short, it has become convention that Christmas also means a time for family reunion. Parents might hold a strong rein on children's demands for new toys in the preceding months but not during Christmas. Thus children wait patiently the whole year for this time of the year. But the same cannot be said about Manipur this time.

This year's Christmas in Manipur seems sombre, with sadness lingering around in the back of everyone's mind while on the surface, they put up brave faces to celebrate the birth of their Lord and Saviour. The ethnic violence that gripped the state since May earlier this year, and still continues to burn, has dampened the festive spirit. Where decorations were once seen in houses and streets of towns like Churachandpur, now flowers and decorations adorn the gravestones of the victims of ethnic violence. The Christian majority Kuki-Zo populace



is experiencing a Christmas like never before when they are left yearning for their lost loved ones.

Happy streets ignited by Christmas carols by different churches turn to a silent and sad one; churches and homes decorated with delightful Christmas ornaments are absent; echoes of "Lenkhom" (social gathering where people sing and dance) muted. Our hearts and minds dwell in different venues altogether - on the frontlines where our men stand watch in the cold over the buffer-zones, prepared to thwart any attempts by the Meitei militants to encroach our ancestral land and threaten the people therein; and in the place where we our martyrs are laid to rest, victims of the most brutal deaths. Most of the graves of the victims who were given a burial on December 20 in Churachandpur are now adorned with flowers, decorations and the symbolic Christmas star atop them from relatives and kin who are pained by their absence this Christmas. Thus the town and villages which normally are abuzz with activity and festive fervour are experiencing a bittersweet Christmas this year.

Life in Relief camps is more distressing. Not only do they undergo the grief of losing everything they had, but innocent children wishing for new toys and clothes bring tears to the eyes of many parents, their

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innocent questions like “Why are they not back to their villages for the event?” are heartbreaking. They will be haunted by memories of a happy Christmas a year ago in a place they called a home. They miss their warm homes more than ever from the relief camps. The convention of the season being a family reunion is thrown out of the window. Adult male members guard the frontline, some relocating to towns and cities in search of jobs just so they can provide a better environment than those in Relief Camps. While it hits all members of the community hard, the families of martyrs are hit harder than all. Reminiscing the old good days is their only refuge.

The Kuki-Zo community has faced a long and tumultuous eight-month period since the violence broke out, and the mass burial on December 20 marks a significant

moment for the Kuki-Zos as they honour those who had lost their lives in the conflict. The absence of a festivity mood in all the Kuki-Zo inhabited areas has been a stark reminder of the deep-seated issues that have led to such tragic outcomes.

As a ritual of presenting each other gifts during Christmas, ask any members of the Kuki-Zo community what they want for Christmas this year. The old and the young alike will respond to you with “nothing but justice” which is a complete separation from the state of Manipur. Thus if Santa must come to the town, he/she better come with the “Separate Administration” news for all of us. We the Kuki-Zo want separate administration for Christmas this year.

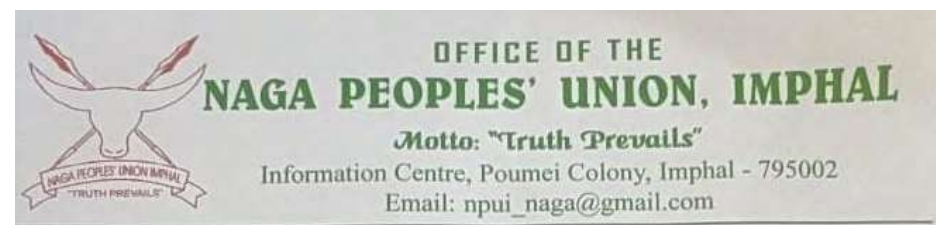
COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND ORDER: NAGA PEOPLE’S UNION IMPHAL APPEALS ALL NAGAS TO MAKE THEIR MOVEMENT BEFORE SUNSET

The Naga People’s Union Imphal (NPUI) has fervently appealed to all the Nagas in general residing both in the hills and valley to make their “to and fro” movement from Imphal to hill districts before sunset or during broad daylight.

Expressing concern at the violent incidents which took place recently to many Nagas in the valley, the NPUI stated that whoever comes from the hills to Imphal or valley should try to reach their destination before sunset and also concomitantly, whoever is leaving or going to depart Imphal or valley should try to leave or evacuate before sunset or during broad daylight in order to avoid any kind of untoward incidents and safety for all.

In the previous days, there were unpredictable incidents which took place and were witnessed by many Naga males and females in Imphal valley, which created extreme anxiousness, extreme anxiety, extreme peril, extreme apprehension, extreme self-consciousness, extreme life risk, etc., it stated.

NPUI also appealed to all Nagas residing in Imphal valley and who are coming from hills or villages to Imphal not



to consume any kinds of intoxications or alcohol or drugs and frequent around in the streets or leikais or lanes on their own risk, fully knowing the fact that the present situation has become out of control or beyond control irresponsibly. The Union has restricted late night movements by the Nagas to avoid any untoward incident.

The NPUI also advised the Nagas to stay away from violent incidents and criminal activities, but to kindly adhere to act in accordance with the appeal served by the Union.

The NPUI wished all to have a blessed Merry Christmas on the auspicious celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION DURING CHRISTMAS: MEITEI CHRISTIAN BEATEN UP FOR DOING CHRISTMAS DECORATION

Despite the Meitei intellectuals negating the current violence as religious persecution, a Meitei Christian, Mr. Thoiba Meitei (54yr) from Awang Leikinhab village, 14km away from Imphal, was reportedly thrashed brutally by Meitei radical groups on 21st Dec at his residence while decorating his house for the Christmas celebration. He is now said to be hospitalized at Raj Medicity, Imphal. The miscreants thrashed him saying “you are in the valley, not hills”.

This was not the first time a Meitei Christian has been persecuted by his own people.

A Meitei Christian pastor’s residence was stormed and attacked by the Arambai Tenggol in the month of April 2023 for what they perceived as blasphemous and offensive speech. The Meitei pastor ultimately tendered a public apology the day later.

A fuming Sanajaoba, MP Rajya Sabha, in his Facebook post back then, questioned the identity of the “uncouth man” (Ramananda, the Meitei pastor whose residence was later vandalised by Arambai goons) who had dared to derogate the culture and customs of the Meitei community.

On his above-mentioned post, Sanajaoba had pledged that he would never forgive or let the man scot-free. “If he does not apologize, I swear in the name of Ebudhou Pakhangba (Supreme God of Meitei) that I will skin him alive. I do not care whether I remain an MP or not”, the MP had written.

The religious attack on Christian institutes has been a testifying fact. Archbishop of Imphal, Dominic Lumon has claimed that religious attacks have been carried out in the state of Manipur leading to 249 churches belonging to the Meitei Christians being destroyed within 36 hours of the start of the conflict between Meitei and Kuki



communities. The archbishop also indicated that the attacks may have been pre-planned and some pastors have been told not to rebuild the churches.

On the contrary, all Meitei Christian Churches or ‘Laishang’ have been found still standing tall in Kuki dominated areas. The Churches belonging to the Meitei Christians located at Thingkangphai and Yaiphakol in Churachandpur still remain untouched and stand safe and sound despite the claims made by a Meitei pastor that the Churches were already destroyed.

As per media reports based in Imphal, on October 7, a Meitei Pastor K. Ibungo briefed media persons and said that the Thingkangphai Nungshiba Presbyterian Church of India and Yaiphakol Presbyterian Church of India were among the churches which were destroyed by Kuki Christians in Churachandpur district. This was debunked by the local media with photo evidence.



**Remember, if Christmas isn't found in your heart,
you won't find it under a tree.**

– Charlotte Carpenter

**NEWS ANALYSIS**

Decoding the Meiteis' Evil Design to Disrupt Christmas: Will It Work?

There has been a leaked phone conversation [audio recording] between two Meitei gentlemen doing the rounds on social media in the last few days. One of the men in the audio appears to be a priest [Maiba; he introduced himself as Ojha (Teacher) from Keibi] and the other someone who might be an influential person staying nearby a periphery bordering Manipur and the hills inhabited by the Kuki-Zo. Perhaps he may be a militant or social leader, as the former can be heard instructing him to perform war rituals to their lord for assistance.

In the conversation, the messenger proclaims that their lord [Ibudhou Pakhangba] delivered a message about a possible attack on the night of 24 December which will continue till the next day. He also gave three possible fronts where the attacks will be carried out. The name of the front which will be most affected, according to him, is sadly not audible but Koubru range is the second in his list.

According to this priest, Ibudhou is preparing to go to the frontlines to fight alongside the Meitei soldiers since he wouldn't be able to tolerate the sufferings of his children. In another undated video that went viral, a supposedly possessed woman (laitongba) is proclaiming more or less the same message. To her, Ibudhou Pakhangba is leaving his palace to fight for his people, and urged all the sons of the soil to wear combat uniform and arm themselves to fight along with him. She also instructed all the children of the land to perform rituals with lighting [candles?] to please and seek the strength of their lord.

Though the audio conversation hinted about a possible attack from the other side [Kukis], the writing on the wall is not difficult to comprehend. In fact, the Kuki-Zo had never taken any offensive since the beginning of the current ethnic violence on May 3, but has been defending all the while. Almost all the firings along the frontlines occurred only when the Meiteis attacked the Kuki-Zo areas.

The other reason why the Kukis will not be willing to engage on the said date is, because it is Christmas Day. Though there is no plan for grand celebrations this time, no rational Christian will think of engaging in any sort of confrontation on this auspicious day. The same with New Year. So, if at all there is any gunfight between the two warring sides during Christmas and New Year, it will only happen with an attack from the Meiteis.

As expected, about 50-100 vehicles each have been seen entering the buffer zones in Yaingangpokpi and Dolaithabi in the evening of December 23, videos of some of which have already gone viral. Now, one may question why they leaked an audio predicting about a possible attack from the Kukis when they are the one actually planning. This is probably because they wanted the media to write their side of the story as they always did in the last seven months.

Now that the two minute audio recording has reached almost everyone on WhatsApp, including the Kukis, the people behind this evil plan may think twice before actually carrying out the attack. Whatever may be in the minds of these indoctrinated spoilt brats sponsored by Biren and his gangs, the Kuki-Zo village volunteers guarding the beautiful green hills and its masters will have to remain alert. There is no shame but only pride in protecting one's ancestral land, women and children whom the radicalised Meiteis often find pleasure in parading, raping, torturing and even killing them!

Wishing Merry Christmas to all the brave hearts whose celebrations are in the frontlines sacrificing everything they had so that their mothers and sisters could welcome the birth of the Prince of Peace.

**FEATURED ARTICLE****‘Christmas Won’t Be the Same’: At Mass Burial, Families of 87 Victims of Manipur Conflict Bid Goodbye****KARISHMA HASNAT**

On a barren hillock across the Khuga river and near the Sehken village, about 9km from Churachandpur (locally known as Lamka) town in Manipur, the remains of 87 men, women and children were laid to rest Wednesday, in a mass burial ceremony for the tribal Kuki-Zo victims of the ethnic violence that erupted in the state on 3 May.

“The youngest tribal victim in the ongoing violence is one-month-old Isaac, while the oldest is 87-year-old Veinem Chongloi,” read a statement issued by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders’ Forum (ITLF), a conglomerate of recognised Kuki-Zo tribes in the state.

The mass funeral ceremony brought some relief to the family members of the victims, as they now hope to visit their loved ones’ graves. The tribal civil society organisations appreciated the Supreme Court for “having to intervene and understand the sentiments of the Kuki-Zo communities” — to enable a decent burial.

The Supreme Court on 28 November had ordered an end to an impasse over the bodies of those killed in the Manipur violence, fixing a deadline for families to either accept the identified corpses that have not been claimed yet or let the state perform their last rites in line with their religion.

“It is exactly after seven months and 17 days that my brother has been given a burial. It has brought us much relief, but we cannot get over the grief ever,” said Helamboi Baite, the younger sister of 38-year-old Jamkhogin Baite, an ex-serviceman of the Indian Army who died on 3 May.

His body had remained at the Churachandpur (Lamka) district hospital morgue since.

“We were at the cemetery till sunset. It was difficult for all present to control their tears. People were wailing, every family member...Yes, they are sad, but some are happy to finally get closure,” said Helamboi. Baite’s family hails from Torbung village of Churachandpur.

An elderly local who did not wish to be named said, “I am blank... I just have tears and a lump in my throat thinking about it all.”

Wednesday’s funeral ceremony was also attended by members of the Central Young Mizo Association (YMA), from neighbouring Mizoram, led by its president Lalmachhuana. Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma, too took to social media late Wednesday evening to offer his condolences.

Ethnic clashes between Manipur’s tribal Kuki-Zo and non-tribal Meitei communities erupted on 3 May, following a ‘Tribal Solidarity March’ taken out to oppose the demand for inclusion of Meiteis in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category, and for what was described as an effort to secure the rights and constitutional safeguards of the ethnic Kuki and their sub-tribes.

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The state is divided into hill and valley districts, with the former dominated by Kuki and other tribes, while the valley is dominated by the non-tribal Meiteis.

‘Heard of his death through social media’

Earlier on 4 May, Helamboi had spoken with ThePrint, stating that the family had decided not to claim the body unless the government conceded to the demands raised by the tribal leaders — among them, a mass burial for all victims in their native land.

Jamkhogin had joined the Tribal Solidarity rally on 3 May, and had stepped out of his house in the evening after hearing of clashes in the area. His sister said he had not carried the phone with him, and it was past midnight that they “heard of his death through social media”.

The former serviceman had taken voluntary retirement from the Indian Army in October last year. He was father to four children, the youngest being five months old at the time of his death.

The burial ceremony that took place at 2:30pm Wednesday was preceded by a farewell service at the Peace Ground in the Tuibong area, which was attended by hundreds.

Earlier in the day, volunteers from different organisations had prepared the burial site, cutting into the rocky ground with pickaxes, and refusing to use machines — as a show of respect for the deceased.

As crosses were laid on the coffins resting close to each other, the Kuki-Zo volunteers accorded a traditional gun salute for the “martyrs”. While most bodies were laid to rest in accordance with Christian customs, a Messianic ritual was performed for three victims, in keeping with their faith. Jewish rituals were conducted for one deceased who followed Judaism, the ITLF stated in its statement.

Remains of 13 victims ‘missing’

As violence continued through the summer months, bodies were brought into the mortuaries of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) and the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences



(JNIMS) in Imphal, and were later identified by families and relatives.

On 14 December, the mortal remains of 41 victims were airlifted from the mortuaries in Imphal to their hometown in Churachandpur. The remains of the Churachandpur victims were then kept at the mortuary of the district hospital there, along with 46 other bodies that had been lying there, even as families awaited a burial.

All 87 have now been laid to rest at the ‘Kuki-Zo Martyrs’ Cemetery’, five days after the funeral ceremony of 19 other victims in Kangpokpi district.

Of the “160 deaths from the Kuki-Zo community”, as cited by the ITLF, the remains of 13 people are said to be missing.

‘Christmas won’t be the same’

Meanwhile, Helamboi said no family would celebrate Christmas in the hills of Manipur this year, the way they used to.

“The violence continues. In this environment, nobody can celebrate Christmas, or any other festival like before. It won’t be the same for us. Maybe, families would have a somber celebration inside their homes, but I don’t think any gathering will take place in the streets,” she said.

“We have separated already from the Meitei community, the valley people. It now depends on the Central Government to take action and work out a solution, speak out for the Kuki people. We are running out of patience,” added Helamboi.

(Edited by Poulomi Banerjee)

First published by: [The Print](#)

THE BUZZ

SOCIAL MEDIA

Prof Lyla Mehta
@Lylamehta

"Manipur has fallen off the national conscience" @harsh_mander on the carnage, suffering & the new border between the Meitei valley & Kuki hills in Manipur 7 months later
In grief-struck relief camps, songs and prayers heavy with suffering
scroll.in/article/106075... via @scroll_in



11:39 PM · Dec 23, 2023 · 4,012 Views

The Caravan
@thecaravanindia

#Manipur | Lamtinthang believes that aligning with #BirenSingh is the biggest political blunder the #Kuki community has committed. "You don't deal with the devil and expect anything good out of it," he said.

From our August cover story:



9:15 PM · Dec 24, 2023 · 419 Views

Post MORTEM

BIREN'S CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO MANIPUR





I AM SORRY, BABY

Zero Christmas feeling I carry this season
For reasons I've become a troubled person
Joylessly melancholic as I recall memories
Good old days those hand me sad poetries.

Silent and shut stands numerous churches
'Out Christmas songs as many turned ashes
Churches memberless many and pastorless
In bunkers some as many camped homeless.

Incomplete and broken families everywhere
Longing for the gone loved ones to be here
For their missing kin to be found some pray
From Home and family members some away.

No Christmas feasts and gifts and shopping
Nay Christmas Carols but everyone sobbing
For they've lost the energy to move forward
A surprise isn't that PTSD strikes us so hard.

Loaded my head with these things every day
Thus not offering you a room to live but today
Yes, this manger-like heart I open it all to you
Saying, "Baby Jesus, I am sorry. I love you".

- Letginmang Singsit



Mayly Christmas

I saw my beloved at home,
Waved at him as we both smiled
The next moment i saw him preyed,
And came a sudden gloomy air,
Through the smog i could blurry see,
My beloved slayed by dark shadows.
Scorched upon my heart
I saw his eyes filled with words and pain
With tears of blood and loud silent screams,
Then the alarm rang.

Digging into my mind as I woke,
Murderous rage traverses my veins
As darkness encompass my gait,
So this is how a family feels.
The moon our witness, the stars will agree,
Question why the sun still arises
Where each echo of life that once lingered
Has been driven away by greedy monsters.

Time passes by and we try to move on
Until otherwise we hurt and loss again.
Then as the tears come
so did the sense of dejavu,
we'd been here before.
The wounds we bear, the scars engraved
Memories, like wisps of smoke
Drifting in and out of mind,
Both the good and bad echoes.

Oh Noel season here,
Memories of laughter and joy
Of love that felt so true
Of moments that we shared with those,
Whom we bid a fond adieu.
Dejavu encores however contrasted now,
With memories of griefs and loss,
All the tears and unsaid goodbyes
The stories and traumas we hold,
This time a Mayly Christmas.

- *Angie Doungel*

