

Thingkho *Le* Malcha



AWAITING JUSTICE



FLORENCE NENGPICHONG (27 YEARS)

D/O PAOTINTHANG HANGSHING

ADDRESS: KHOPIBUNG, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF DEATH: 4TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: IMPHAL

CAUSE OF DEATH: RAPED AND KILLED BY MEITEIS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.05.2024



185
DEATHS



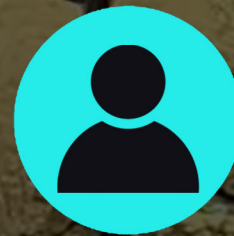
200+
VILLAGES BURNT



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.

MANIPUR GOVT'S ATTEMPT TO DESTROY KUKI LIFELINE EXPOSES SINISTER CAMPAIGN IN MANIPUR: KUKI INPI CHANDEL

In a harrowing escalation of ethnic tensions in Manipur, the Kuki community accused the state government of aiding and abetting attacks against their people. Since May 3, 2023, allegations of ethnic cleansing against the Kuki people have surfaced, revealing the grim reality of violence and displacement. The destruction of vital bridges further isolated Kuki areas, prompting community-driven initiatives like the construction of the Selloitha Bridge over the Gunpi River.

The Kuki people of Chandel district, especially those residing in the foothills between Chandel and Kakching districts, have long lived harmoniously in an area that has been their home for generations, even before Manipur attained statehood in 1972. The Kuki inhabitants in the Chandel district side of the Sugnu foothills have always relied on two main bridges: the Napat bridge over the Gunpi (Imphal) river and the Serou bridge over the Chakpi river. However, the Napat bridge connecting Sugnu to Lamka was maliciously destroyed by Meiteis on May 28, 2023, further isolating the Kuki areas.

The geographical reality has left the Kuki areas of Chandel and Tengnoupal districts completely cut off from the valley and other Kuki dominated hill districts. This isolation has necessitated the construction of a bridge to connect these areas with Lamka, to ensure the proper supply of essential commodities. Recognising the dire need for connectivity, the Kuki community of Chandel district came together, pooling their limited resources to construct a bridge over the Gunpi River without any governmental or organisational assistance. They worked tirelessly with donations from Kuki people. This effort is justified under the Right to Life as guaranteed by the Constitution of India.

However, on May 25, 2024, tensions reached a boiling point as Meitei militants, purportedly in Manipur Police uniforms, attempted to destroy the under-construction Selloitha Bridge. The Kuki Inpi Chandel, representing the Kuki community, condemned these attacks as



PRESS RELEASE 25th May 2024

The ethnic cleansing against Kuki-Zo people, which began on May 3, 2023, and continues to this day, has clearly shown that Manipur government has utterly failed to protect the rights, lives, and properties of the Kuki-Zo people. In fact, there is clear evidence that the state government has aided and abetted this genocide against the Kuki-Zo people and hence has lost its authority to enforce its biased rules in Kuki-Zo areas. The Kuki-Zo people of Chandel district, especially those residing in the foothills between Chandel and Kakching districts, have long lived harmoniously in the area that has been their home for generations, even before India's independence in 1947. The Kuki-Zo inhabitants in Chandel district side of the Sugnu foothills have always relied on two main bridges: Napat Bridge over the Gunpi (Imphal) River and Serou Bridge over the Chakpi River. However, the Napat Bridge connecting Sugnu to Lamka was maliciously destroyed by Meiteis on May 28, 2023, further isolating the Kuki-Zo areas.

This malicious destruction of the aforementioned vital bridges and the resulting geographical reality have left the Kuki-Zo areas of Chandel and Tengnoupal districts completely cut off from the valley and other Kuki-Zo dominated hill districts. This isolation necessitated the construction of a bridge to connect these areas with Lamka, ensuring essential supplies. Recognizing the dire need for connectivity, the Kuki-Zo public of Chandel district came together, pooling their limited resources to construct a bridge over the Gunpi River without any governmental or organizational assistance. They worked tirelessly with donations from Kuki-Zo people. This effort is justified under the Right to Life as guaranteed by the Constitution of India.

Today, May 25, 2024, Meitei militants in Manipur Police uniforms, accompanied by state-sponsored Meitei terrorists, attempted to violate Kuki-Zo areas and embarked on a mission to destroy the under-construction bridge. This blatant attempt to undermine the survival of the Kuki-Zo people is both unacceptable and unlawful. The Meitei government, unable to tolerate the Kuki-Zo's capability to construct such a vital bridge, views this project as a threat to their agenda of isolating and annihilating Kuki-Zo tribals in these regions.

The Kuki Inpi Chandel demands to know why Central Security forces have allowed state-sponsored Meitei terrorists in police uniforms to roam freely in Kuki-Zo areas while Kuki-Zo tribals are restricted and confined to their villages. This biased enforcement of law and order to crush the Kuki-Zo tribal minorities is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Kuki Inpi Chandel vehemently condemns this blatant attempt by radicalized Manipur Police along with Meitei insurgents and terrorists to intrude into Kuki-Zo territory on May 25, 2024, to destroy the Selloitha Bridge, which is currently under construction. The Kuki-Zo people hereby warn that any further attempts to intrude into Kuki-Zo areas by Meiteis or anyone representing the Government of Manipur will be met with severe consequences. The Kuki-Zo tribals will not tolerate this infringement on their right to life by the biased Manipur government and will resist tooth and nail against any attempts to deny us our right to life.

The Kuki Inpi Chandel shall not be responsible for any consequences arising from the Meitei-centric Government of Manipur and the Meitei state police forces' attempts to deny our right to existence if they persist in their agenda to destroy our vital bridge.

Issued by:
Information & Media Cell,
Kuki Inpi Chandel

No. KICDL-PR-25



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their agenda of isolating and annihilating Kuki tribals in these regions.

Amidst accusations of biased law enforcement favoring Meitei interests, the Kuki community demands answers from central security forces regarding the presence of state-sponsored Meitei terrorists in Kuki areas. They vowed to resist any further intrusions into their territories and assert their right to life and survival.

The situation remains volatile, with the Kuki Inpi Chandel holding the Manipur government accountable for any consequences arising from attempts to deny their existence and destroy vital infrastructure. As tensions escalate, the urgency for intervention and dialogue to address ethnic grievances becomes increasingly evident.

The Kuki people warned that any further attempt to intrude into Kuki areas by Meiteis or anyone representing the Government of Manipur will be met with severe consequences. The Kuki tribals will not tolerate this infringement on their right to life by the biased Manipur government and will fight tooth and nail against any attempts to deny us our rights to life and survival.

The Kuki Inpi Chandel shall not be responsible for any consequences arising out of the Meitei-centric Government of Manipur and the Meitei state police forces attempts to deny our rights to existence and persisting in their agenda to destroy our vital bridge, the apex Kuki body in Chandel stated in a statement.

THREAT LETTER ISSUED TO MANIPUR CCF, BOMB PLANTED IN HIS RESIDENCE

The Chief Conservator Forest Department of Manipur Longjam Joykumar was threatened with a bomb by an underground outfit on Saturday.

The explosive device was found along with a letter written as “The last warning,” reportedly served by the proscribed Kangleipak Communist Party — Noyol group.

This was confirmed when a team of Manipur police rushed to the residence of Longjam Joykumar, 58, the Chief Conservator Forest, Manipur, located at Wangoi Longjam Leikai under the Wangoi Police station in Imphal West district at around 10 AM on Saturday.

Upon receiving a WhatsApp message, a team of the Manipur police bomb detection and disposal squad quickly responded and identified the object as a hand grenade placed in the courtyard of the Chief Conservator.

Near the bomb, there was a letter stating “The last warning Sir, Joykumar, Chief Conservator of



Forest by Kangleipak Communist Party (Noyol) Burma-based contact Division Finance, Bobby.”

The bomb experts successfully removed the explosive device, the police said, adding that monetary demand may be the cause of the case. A case in this regard was registered, the police added.

A NAGA DOCTOR FACED DEATH THREAT FROM MANIPUR POLICE; ALL NAGA DOCTORS' FORUM MANIPUR CONDEMNS POLICE ACTION

In the lawless state of the Meiteis' Kangleipak in the erstwhile state of Manipur, the minority communities have faced existential threat of their lives and properties. Not only the Kukis who are devastated in the hands of the communal Meiteis under the incumbent fascist regime of N. Biren Singh, the other minority communities such as the Manipur-Naga and Muslims have also been targeted every now and then.

In a serious incident of crime involving the law enforcing agency, the Manipur Police man-handled a Doctor belonging to the Naga community and attempted to murder him without any plausible reason. On the 24th of May, 2024 at around 9:00 PM, a medical officer, Dr. Larung Mejonah, currently posted at Moreh Hospital, Tengnoupal District, was manhandled and detained for hours by the Manipur Police in the heart of Imphal city, at Konung Mamang, Imphal. The police personnel also threatened to murder him.


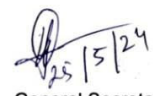
Strongly condemning the incident, the All Naga Doctors' Forum, Manipur (ANDFM) has demanded the concerned authority to book the Manipur Police personnel involved in the incident and to suspend and relieve such individuals from their duty.

In a statement issued on Saturday, the Doctors' Forum has said that about 6-7 personnel of Manipur Police stopped the Medical Officer, Dr. Larung Mejonah, at Konung Mamang at around 9 PM and asked for car documents which were produced promptly. When he told the police that he was a doctor, currently posted in Moreh Hospital as Medical Officer, Manipur Health Services, the police replied "adudi hatpabu yarene (in Meitei dialect)", which means "Then, you can be killed (in English)". The police personnel manhandled and detained him for an hour.



ALL NAGA DOCTORS' FORUM, MANIPUR

Shalom Pharmacy Complex
Nagaram Block - A, Near Eagle High School,
Imphal East District

<p>President Dr. M. Shyami Tarao</p> <p>Vice President Dr. Romen Shinglai</p> <p>General Secretary Dr. Ngulani KS</p> <p>Joint Secretary Dr. Namjubou Daimai</p> <p>Treasurer Dr. Modungkhul Makunga</p> <p>Joint Treasurer Dr. Lawrence</p> <p>Publicity Secretary Dr. Priscilla Kayina</p> <p>Executive Committee Dr. Kanmi Ningshen Dr. Roel Langshong Dr. G. Poufullung Kabui Dr. Sumpi Gilbert Dr. Anthony Kashing Dr. Borningthar Monsang Dr. Rangla James Dr. Chongreilien Dr. Manbiaknem Chothe Dr. Khullar Kamnong</p>	<p>Ref. No. Date. 25/05/2024</p> <p style="text-align: center;">PRESS NOTE</p> <p>We strongly condemn the mishandling of Dr. Larung Mejonah by Manipur Police personnel on 24th May, 2024 at 9:00 pm.</p> <p>The Manipur Police group of 6 or 7 stopped him at Konung Mamang at around 9 pm and asked for the car documents which were produced promptly. When he told the police that he was a doctor, currently posted in Moreh Hospital as Medical Officer, Manipur Health Services the police replied ' adudi hatpabu yarene(then I could even kill you)'</p> <p>They mishandled and detained him for an hour.</p> <p>In the already tense situation prevailing in the state, doctors require the full co operation and support from the law enforcement agency in order for us to provide our service.</p> <p>On the contrary, such untoward and unprofessional manhandling, abuse of power, intimidation and death threat informed by communal feelings, by one state employee to another, is highly inappropriate.</p> <p>We demand the concerned authority to book the Manipur Police personals involved in the incident and be suspended from their duty.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  President All Naga Doctors' Forum Manipur </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  General Secretary All Naga Doctors' Forum Manipur </div> </div>
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The Forum said, "In the already tense situation prevailing in the state, doctors require the full co-operation and support from the law enforcement agency in order for us to provide our service."

"On the contrary," it said, "such untoward and unprofessional manhandling, abuse of power, intimidation and death threat informed by communal feelings, by one state employee to another, is highly inappropriate," it added.

NSCN-IM MUST STOP PROPAGATING LIES: KUKI NATIONAL ARMY (BURMA)

Apropos to the statement of NSCN (IM) blaming the Burma-based Kuki outfit for the death of one of its cadre amid crisis in Myanmar, the Kuki National Army (Burma) made a fervent appeal to the NSCN-IM not to take shelter at the army camps of military junta of Myanmar especially during operations launched by the Democratic Alliance Army but instead, extend support to the NSCN-Hanshi group who are part of the pro-democracy movement in Myanmar.

In a statement on Saturday, the KNA-Burma stated that it has come to their knowledge that the NSCN-IM had in a condolence message on 23rd May, 2024 for their late Lieutenant Sentilong Jamir, a resident of Nagaland (India), blamed the KNA-B for the death, which it said was fabricated with the motive of inciting the Ao community in Nagaland against the Kuki community.

In this regard, the KNA-B asserted that the outfit is part of the Democratic Alliance Army under the National Unity Government (NUG), which is the pro-democratic government in exile, and therefore KNA-B never carried out military operations alone. "The Operation Myothit which began on the morning of May 7 and lasted till May 11 was launched by KNA-B and PDF under the unified command of Military Operation Region-1," it said.

"During the intense fighting in the battlefield, it is out of the question for us to know the identity of each of our opponent members. However, they can be identified on interrogation in case of surrender or captured and from recovered documents in case of death in action," KNA-B said, while reiterating that their fight in Myanmar is for reinstating democratic principles and values. "The Democratic Alliance Army respects lives, including the lives of our opponents and do not harm any of them who surrendered or are captured alive. This is the reason why many members of the military Junta's army or police surrendered to us at Myothit," it added.



Ref No:KS/GHQ 004/24

OFFICE OF THE
KUKI NATIONAL ORGANISATION
GOVERNMENT OF KUKI STATE

ကုန်းအမျိုးသားအစည်းအရုံး / ကုန်းအမျိုးသားတပ်မတော် (မြန်မာပြည်)

GENERAL HEADQUATER

E-mail : knaburma@gmail.com

DATE: 25 May 2024

PRESS RELEASE

NSCN-IM MUST STOP PROPAGATING LIES

It has come to the knowledge of Kuki National Army-Burma (KNA-B) that the NSCN-IM has in a condolence message on 23rd May, 2024 for their late Lieutenant Sentilong Jamir, a resident of Nagaland (India) blamed KNA-B for the death which is but fabricated with the motive of inciting the Ao community in Nagaland against the Kuki community. As we have stated earlier, KNA-B is part of the Democratic Alliance Army under the National Unity Government(NUG), which is the pro-democratic government in exile and therefore KNA-B never carries out military operation alone. The operation Myothit which begin on the morning of May 7 and lasted till May 11 was launched by KNA-B and PDF under the unified command of Military Operation Region-1.

During the intense fighting in the battle field, it is out of question for us to know the identity of each of our opponent member. However, they can be identified on interrogation in case of surrender or captured and from recovered documents in case of death in action. We reiterate that our fight in Myanmar is for reinstating democratic principles and values, and the Democratic Alliance Army therefore respects lives, including the lives of our opponents and do not harm any of them who surrendered or are captured alive. This is the reason why many members of the military Junta's army or police surrendered to us at Myothit. We therefore appealed to all the informed people of Nagaland not to fall victims to this sort of NSCN-IM's cheap propaganda but maintain peace and tranquillity in Nagaland for Christ sake.

Ever since February 1, 2021 when the Myanmar military (or Tatmataw) launched a coup against the civilian government, declaring the results of the November 2020 general election invalid, instating a one-year state of emergency, arresting State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and other senior officials, the entire country including peripheral areas is in turmoil. The whole world understands how the general public across ethnic lines felt shocked and reacted to the military's nightmarish action which has shattered the peoples' progress and future. The KNA-B would like to thank once again to the international community including India, the largest democratic nation on earth for humanitarian assistance provided to the people of Myanmar who suffer but for the cause of democracy.

While KNA-B is busy mobilising our limited resources in the midst of this chaos, putting all efforts to restore democracy in Myanmar and is in dire need of assistance from both within and outside our country - Myanmar, it is very unfortunate that we have been accused time and again by NSCN-IM of being used by Indian army to create violence in Manipur. Would someone whose house is burning and

The Kuki National Army-Burma, therefore, appealed to all the informed people of Nagaland to not fall victim to this sort of cheap propaganda by the NSCN-IM's but maintain peace and tranquillity in Nagaland.

The Burma-based outfit said that ever since February 1, 2021 when the Myanmar military (or Tatmataw) launched a coup against the civilian government, declaring the results of the November 2020 general election invalid, instating a one-year state of emergency, arresting State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and other senior officials, the entire country including peripheral areas is in turmoil. The whole world understands how the

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general public across ethnic lines felt shocked and reacted to the military's nightmarish action which has shattered the peoples' progress and future.

The KNA-B once again expressed their gratitude to the international communities including India, the largest democratic nation on earth, for the humanitarian assistances provided to the people of Myanmar who have suffered for the cause of democracy.

"While KNA-B is busy mobilising our limited resources in the midst of this chaos, putting all efforts to restore democracy in Myanmar and in dire need of assistances from both within and outside our country - Myanmar, it is very unfortunate that we have been accused time and again by NSCN-IM of being used by the Indian Army to create violence in Manipur," it said.

"Would someone whose house is burning and is intensely engaged in fire fighting to save his property abandon halfway for some frivolous job not related to him? It is as simple as that. So, KNA-B has nothing to do with the violence in Manipur."

The Kuki National Army-Burma also informed the Meitei public about the truth which it alleged is the Meiteis' PLA & UNLF, whom they highly expect to achieve independence of Manipur, are taking shelter in Myanmar, and are actively participating in crushing the pro-democracy movement by burning down houses, laying landmines, looting properties and killing civilians and perpetrating various forms of human rights violations. "This will leave an indelible mark down the history that will shape the Meitei-Myanmar relationship," it said.

Similarly, the KNA-B also wonders about the logic behind NSCN-IM's support to the Meitei militants and the military Junta while making hue and cry about

violation of human rights perpetrated against the Naga people whom they claimed to represent.

The KNA-B as part of Democratic Alliance Army under the Unified Command of Military Operation Region-1 has reiterated their resolute stand for the restoration of democracy in Myanmar.

Upholding 'human rights' even of their enemies being part and parcel of their commitment to reinstate democratic form of government in Myanmar, the KNA-B said that the outfit maintained the principles of humanitarian law - military necessity, proportionality, humanity, and honor. "Therefore, if late Lieutenant Sentilong Jamir, a resident of Nagaland (India), was a victim of the operation Myothit as stated by NSCN-IM, KNA-B on behalf of the Democratic Alliance Army sincerely expressed our condolences to the bereaved family," it said, reiterating that the KNA-B has nothing against him either as an individual or as a member of NSCN-IM.

As fellow Christians, the KNA-B also appealed to the NSCN-IM not to mislead the Naga people of India with cheap propaganda to instigate, incite and create violence on communal lines on the basis of military operations launched by the pro-democratic forces in Myanmar.

While thanking the general public of India, including the Naga people for their support for democracy in Myanmar, the Kuki National Army-Burma also humbly requested the people of Nagaland to be vigilant and not to be carried away by cheap propaganda of NSCN (IM) as the KNA-B might not be able to respond to or clarify each and every unfounded allegation against the organisation, in the future.

MAINLAND INDIAN WORKING AT PLY FACTORY SHOT ON LEG IN MANIPUR

A 40 year old non-local was shot on his left side leg by unknown miscreants at Thokchom Louyai under Yairipok Police station on Saturday. Reason(s) behind the shooting remains to be confirmed.

As per police sources, the incident took place at around 4:40 PM. The victim has been identified as Sayeed Farooque Zamal, son of Aksar Ali from Gosaigao Athbari, Assam. He served as a manager at PBS Ply factory located at Wangjing Sabal leikai under Khongjom Police Station, Thoubal district.

According to sources, the victim was kidnapped by unknown armed miscreants along with one Meitei woman on the midnight of friday. The woman was also staying at the factory as a labourer and she was identified as Nungsithoi, a resident of Keirak, Kakching District. Whereabouts of the woman and reason(s) behind their kidnap remains unknown till the filing of this report.



A case has been registered at Yairipok Police Station for further investigations and the victim was hospitalized at Raj Medicity after being given first aid treatment at Thoubal district hospital.

ORANGE ALERT FOR HEAVY RAIN IN NORTHEAST ON MAY 27 OWING TO CYCLONE REMAL

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has said that a cyclonic storm developing in the Bay of Bengal is likely to reach near the coasts of West Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh on Sunday (May 26) as a severe cyclonic storm.

In anticipation of inclement weather conditions, the IMD has forecasted squally weather conditions spreading to adjoining areas of the North Bay of Bengal, with gale-force winds reaching speeds of 60-70 kmph, gusting up to 80 kmph from the morning of May 25.

IMD has further issued an orange alert for the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura in the Northeast, warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall at isolated places as a consequence of the cyclone's trajectory.



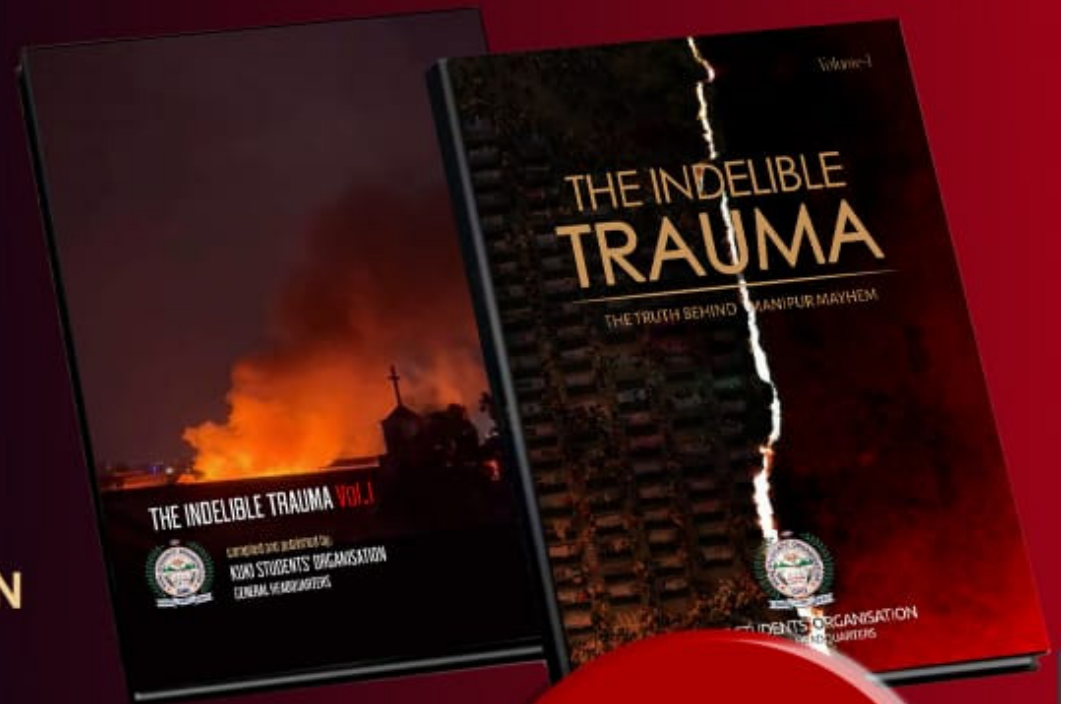
The weather department has also issued a warning for the fishermen and said, "They are advised not to venture into the south Bay of Bengal till 24th May, central Bay of Bengal till 26th May and North Bay of Bengal from 24th May onwards till the morning of 27th May. Fishermen out at sea are advised to return to the coast."

Source: [NE Now](#)

THE INDELIBLE TRAUMA

THE TRUTH BEHIND MANIPUR MAYHEM **VOL. I**

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY
KUKI STUDENTS' ORGANISATION
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS



ABOUT THE BOOK

PAPERBACK COVER &
HARD COVER PRINT

**AVAILABLE
NOW**

This treatise is being prepared and published to unravel the lies and perfidy of our adversaries and put in perspective the authentic truth so that it stands as a testimony of the genocide that is being perpetrated on us and our people
With the hope and expectation that the perpetrators of these reprehensible crimes are brought to justice; and ignite a glimmer of solace and consolation to our indignant souls
The treatise also seeks to debunk the patently false canards, innuendoes and narratives that are being peddled as the gospel truth, and the aspersions that are being casted without any substance
And to put in perspective the historical misdeeds meted out to the tribal society by the extremely self-centered Meitei society with the clarion call to stand united and the urgent need for the convergence of our political position so as to collectively extricate ourselves from this oppressive dispensation
If we are to march forward like our tribal counterparts of Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh- SEPARATION IS THE ONLY SOLUTION.

Issued and published by
Kuki Students' Organization- General Headquarters





FEATURED ARTICLE

Manipur's Ethnic Violence Splinters Teams and Sporting Dreams

Chiranjit Ojha

Ethnic clashes in India's Manipur state saw its most successful women's club fail to field a team in the Indian Women's League in 2023-24, with its coach fleeing his burning home and a number of players in self-imposed exile interstate.

The unrest in the northeastern state, which has resulted in more than 200 dead and tens of thousands displaced, divided football teams like Eastern Sporting Union (ESU) along ethnic lines and forced some players out of the state.

"At first we didn't think it would be that bad, but suddenly it was everywhere," former ESU skipper Irom Prameshwori Devi, who has since joined East Bengal, told Reuters of the outbreak of violence.

"We had five Kuki players in the team ... they were scared because Kukis were being attacked on the streets of Imphal. We were trying to assure them it would be fine, but houses were being burned by then."

Violence erupted in Manipur on May 3, 2023 between the majority Meitei and minority Kuki communities over the potential sharing of economic benefits and quotas in government jobs and education.

As warring groups set fire to each other's homes and places of worship, football teams in the capital Imphal also found themselves splintered.

ESU coach Ngampao Kipgen, a member of the Kuki tribe, told Reuters he was forced to flee to the hills with his family after his house was burned down.

"They came in the middle of the night. I had to leave with my wife and children," Ngampao said. "I have no team here, no income. I am helpless."

According to official figures released in February, Ngampao's house was one of more than 13,000 structures destroyed during the violence.

ESU manager Homendro Irengbam said the conflict, which broke out while the team was playing in the IWL in the western state of Gujarat, drove a wedge between players.

"Our Kuki players were staying with Meitei roommates but once the conflict started, they wanted to stick together," he said. "Match preparation, team meetings, everything was disturbed. That was reflected on the field."

The team tried to put on a united front, Devi said, but finished fourth in the group stage before crashing out in the semi-finals of the 2022-23 competition, a contest they had won in the inaugural 2016-17 season.

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When the tournament ended, the manager urged his players not to return to Manipur.

“I told them, ‘If you go back, you’ll become village defence volunteers. You’ll stop playing football and join the war,’” Irengbam said.

While most ESU first team players were signed by clubs around India, many Manipuri players did not escape the fighting.

“Some players have joined volunteer units. They have taken up arms. It’s a miserable situation,” ESU coach Ngampao said.

Today, Manipur remains divided with Meiteis controlling the Imphal valley, which includes the state capital and most of the sporting infrastructure.

The Kukis are in surrounding hills with the two sides separated by a stretch of no-man’s land monitored by federal paramilitary forces.

Manipur has been a hotbed of Indian sport, sending a stream of athletes to the Olympics and other international competitions.

The state women’s team has won 22 of 28 national soccer championships, claiming their most recent title earlier this month, but without any Kuki players.

Six players from Manipur, none of whom are Kukis, are in the women’s national team, which is ranked 55

places above the men and represents India’s best hope of World Cup qualification.

But ESU can no longer afford to play in the national Indian Women’s League after community contributions dried up due to the conflict. “Unfortunately, we were not able to even pay some of the players,” Irengbam said.

Midfielder Lhingneilam Kipgen, one of ESU’s Kuki players, said she had not returned to Manipur due to the violence and joined Delhi-based Garwhal United, but still missed her old club.

“I hope ESU come back. When things are better I want to join again,” she said.

The unrest also prevented Kuki players reporting for pre-season training for Imphal-based NEROCA and TRAU, the two biggest men’s soccer teams in the state. Both teams have since been relegated from India’s second tier after playing the 2023-24 season in exile.

“The mental trauma is still there for all the players. We are participating against all odds,” TRAU general secretary Phulen Meitei said.

“Our own people are (being) killed ... football is less important than life.”

First published by : [Reuters](#)



A politician thinks of the next election, a statesman, of the next generation.

— J.F Clarke

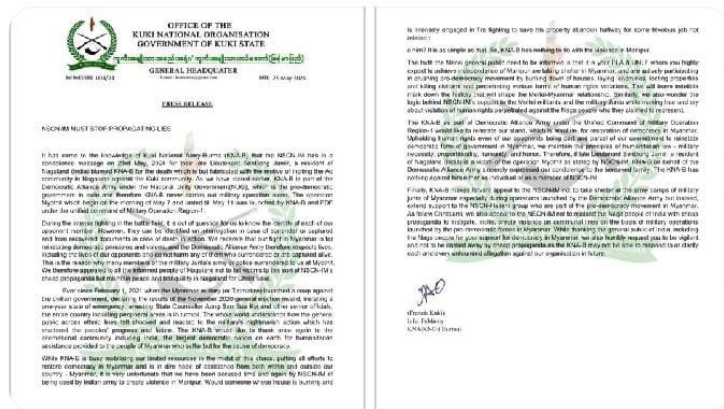
THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



SAMUEL T KHONGSAI @SamKhongsai_

NSCN-IM MUST STOP PROPAGATING LIES AGAIN & AGAIN

If NSCN-IM is siding with Tatmadaw/Junta in Myanmar, it shouldn't drag & incite Indian civilians. It should be prepared to face onslaught of Resistance Forces. Bullet is blind. @NIA_India



PMO India and 9 others

8:56 pm · 25 May 24 · 72 Views



Sumkawn @Sumkawn

Follow

Biren is objecting to the construction of a public bridge.

In 2012, an IAS officer named Armstrong Pame constructed a 100km road without government funds and was called the "Miracle Man."

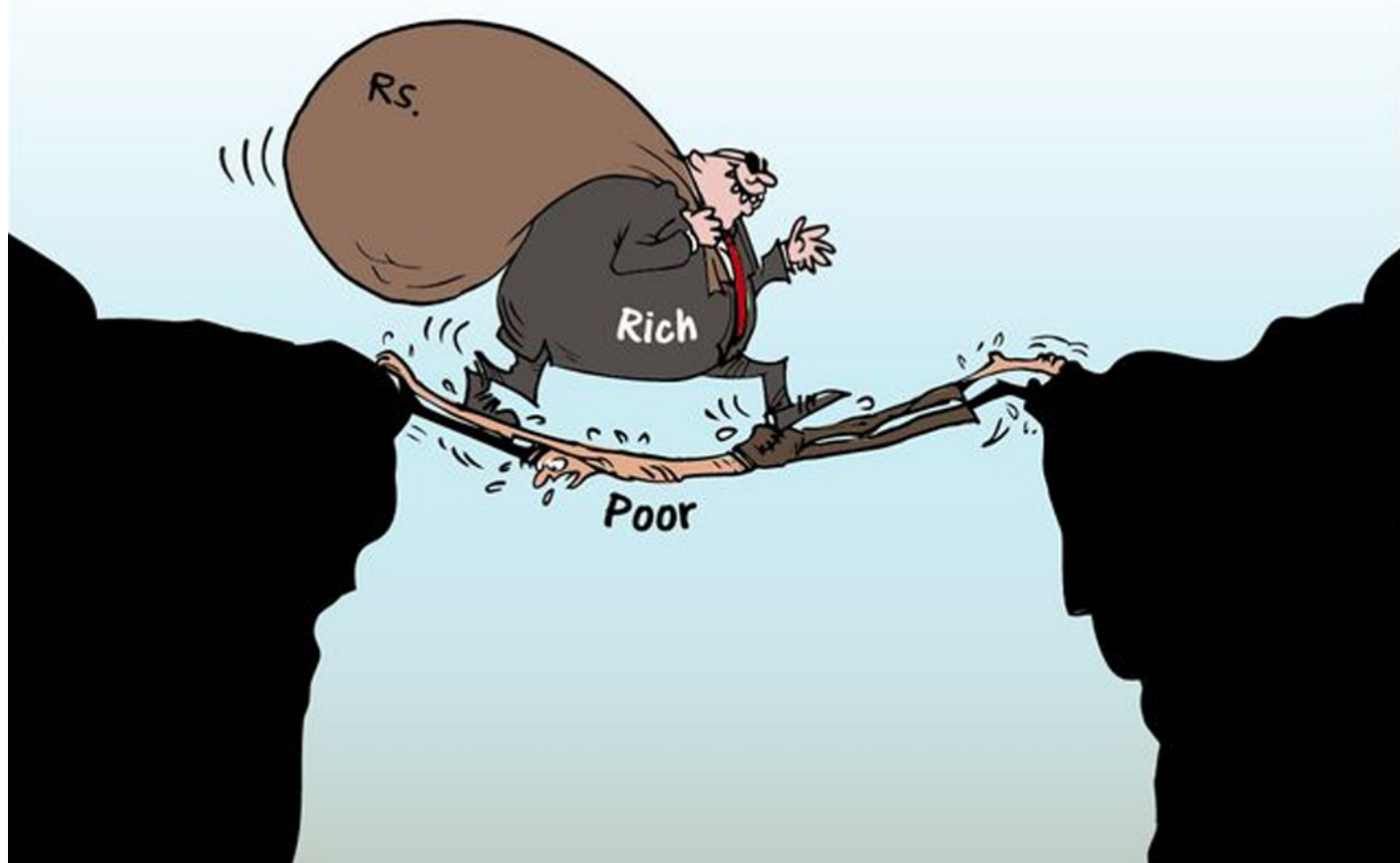
However, when the Kuki-Zo community built a public bridge without state funds, Biren's government objected to the construction work.

The intervention from the central government is needed for humanitarian reasons. As no single Kuki can enter Imphal, road communication in the tribal area is vital.

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THE REALITY OF STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM





LET'S SCORE MORE GOALS TO WIN THE LEAGUES!

- Hillsman J. Tearsworth

Nothing worthy comes easy by itself;
It tests the patience of mortal men.
Mayflower blooms after April showers!
A lovely baby is born after long labor pain!
Nobody wants to hear the mama's cries;
But only the cries of the baby comfort us!

The ripened fruits that hang on its branches
Stand still against the storms when others fall.
The one who still clings to its roots will survive.
Do not tread on someone's path, though easy;
Discover your own path, whether muddy or stony.
Learn when you fall, wipe off the dust, and go on...

A bountiful harvest comes after long, hard toils!
If you don't dirty your hands in sowing seasons,
Don't bother to wash your hands either at harvest,
For the lazy deserve to starve for good reasons.
Athletes win medals after much sweat!
A big fat man never won an Olympic medal!

Hear me, my people; may our tears be worthy!
No team divided ever won La Liga or CL.
To win, it needs teamwork and dedication.
Do we have enough of those required traits?
No matter the weather, whether rainy or sunny,
Let's work out to score more goals to win the leagues!