

# Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## Leilon Khunou RELIEF CENTRE

Leilon Khunou Community & School Hall, Sadar Hills

Managed by  
District Administration &  
Kuki CSOs, Sadar Hills

**Total Inmates Registered: 510**





## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 20.02.2024



**164**  
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.



# FACT-FINDING TEAM FROM KARNATAKA HIGHLIGHTS DISPARITIES IN MANIPUR

A Fact-Finding Team from Karnataka visited the strife-torn Manipur in August 2023 to comprehend the underlying issues that triggered the ethnic cleansing of Kuki tribals by the majority Meiteis since May 3, 2023.

The team that visited Manipur last year consisted of members of civil societies, representatives of the CPI (ML) Liberation group, the All India Progressive Women's Association, and the All India Lawyers Association for Justice. An independent feminist also accompanied the team.

According to a report released last week, Manipur is now effectively divided into two opposing halves due to escalating ethnic tensions, as observed by the fact-finding team from Karnataka after their tour of the northeastern state.

Armed members representing both Meitei and Kuki communities are stationed on either side of a newly established "border", while security forces work to maintain separation. The report underscores that Meiteis and Kukis, who once co-existed for generations, now perceive each other as adversaries in every aspect of life, attributing the turmoil and animosity engulfing Manipur to each other, as noted by the Karnataka team in their report.

Tit-for-tat blockades have been initiated, with Meitei groups imposing unofficial blockades hindering the movement of relief, medical supplies, and essential items to the hills, the traditional home of tribal Kukis. In retaliation, Kukis periodically block the national highways, affecting supplies to the Imphal Valley and limiting the mobility of Meiteis, the state's dominant community.

The segregation extends to relief camps, with those in the hills mainly managed by local organizations, NGOs, churches, or politicians without substantial state assistance, facing challenges like inadequate infrastructure, overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, limited medical access, and insufficient nutrition. In contrast, relief camps in the valley, managed by local



clubs and philanthropic groups, receive varying degrees of state support, although issues like overcrowding and infrastructure deficiencies persist.

Education in Manipur remains in crisis, with the government facilitating the admission of displaced Meitei students into schools and colleges near relief camps, ensuring their continued education. However, the education of Kuki students, both in relief camps and in the hills, face numerous challenges.

The report also delves into the historical backdrop, with Kukis alleging decades of discrimination by the Meitei-dominated state, while Meiteis blame the conflict on government efforts to curb illegal activities and assert their status as the original inhabitants of Manipur. Economic and ethnic disparities between the hill and valley regions are highlighted, exacerbated by policies favoring the valley's development.

The report also criticizes the BJP regime for exploiting historical differences to advance its political agenda and calls for political solutions based on justice and reconciliation to achieve lasting peace in Manipur. It emphasizes the need to restore peace and normalcy and hold the state government accountable for a dignified resolution to the conflict.

# NEW LAMBULANE WELFARE COMMITTEE RESPONSE

## KOIRENG-LED UNLF STATEMENT

The New Lambulane Welfare Committee on Monday issued a clarification on propose rebuttal to press release of Rev. S. Prim Vaiphei and Mr Hejang Kipgen of New Lambulane by the Koireng led UNLF.

The committee stat that the UNLF (surrendered Pambei group) and Arambai Tengol (AT) occupying deserted houses, especially those along the 1st & 2nd streets is indeed a fact. Occupied houses are shared by the two groups with red marking "U" for UNLF (Pambei) and "AT" for Arambai Tenggol.

It is regretted that the press release failed to mention the specific UNLF (Pambei) group and hence the reaction from UNLF (Koireng) faction which has nothing to do with it, the Committee said.

It is also learnt that rampant looting of properties has taken place right under the noses of central paramilitary and state forces in violation of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directive that was delivered on the 25th of September 2023.

It is incumbent upon the concerned authorities to implement the Supreme Court's order and evict illegal occupants of deserted houses immediately in order to avoid Contempt of Court, the Committee urged.



It may be noted that Koireng led UNLF, in response to a press release dated February 22, 2024, issued by Rev. S Prim Vaiphei and Hejang Kipgen regarding alleged property takeovers in New Lambulane, categorically refuted any involvement in such actions. The organization asserts that it is not associated with any property grabbing cases as claimed by the individuals.



**Some people think that being a leader means killing people and beating people, but that is not the way. Even the fallen heroes would not approve of that.**

*– Robert Mugabe*



# SECURITY FORCES FOILS MEITEI MILITANTS, AT'S ATTEMPT TO LAUNCH AN ATTACK ON SAJAL KUKI VILLAGE

Fresh tension erupted in New Keithelmanbi area of Kangpokpi District this afternoon when Meitei armed militants and the Arambai Tenggol reportedly attempted to launch an attack on the Kuki-Zo-inhabited villages in the fringe areas.

It is reported that at around 6:30 PM, huge numbers of armed Meitei militants including the infamous Arambai Tenggol combatants were spotted climbing the Waroiching hills purportedly to launch an attack on the Kuki-Zo villages of Sajal, Ichum Keirap, Ichum Kom, Lhunkhojang, Aigejang, etc.

Acting promptly to thwart the imminent danger, the Gorkha Regiment and the Assam Rifles who were mending the buffer zones fired several rounds of



bullets in the air to prevent the attack thereby compelling the armed Meitei militants and the Arambai Tenggol to fall back.

However, the area remains in a tense situation and everyone remains alert, said one of the villagers from the area.

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## THREE ARRESTED WITH TWO LOADED SLR RIFLES IN IMPHAL

Based on specific intelligence, a joint team of the central forces and Manipur police launched a frisking operation and arrested three persons with the recovery of two sophisticated weapons and ammunition.

The arrests and seizures were made at Keishampat junction, the heart of Imphal city on Saturday night, the officials said on Sunday.

The arrested individuals later identified as Naorem Inaotomba Singh (52), Wahengbam Inaocha (47) @ Iriba Meitei, and Wahengbam Homendro Singh (28) @ Naoton are from the Bishnupur District of Manipur.

They were arrested on the charge of unauthorized possession of two self-loading rifles (SLRs) along with two magazines loaded with twenty rounds each.

A case has been registered in this regard for further investigation.



On 24.02.2024, security forces arrested 03 (three) persons namely Naorem Inaotomba Singh (52 yrs) of Bishnupur District, Wahengbam Inaocha (47 yrs) @ Iriba Meitei of Bishnupur District and Wahengbam Homendro Singh (28 yrs) @ Naoton of Bishnupur District at Keishampat Junction, Imphal West District for possession of 02 (two) SLR Rifles along with 2(two) magazines loaded with 20 (twenty) rounds each.

A case has been registered in this regard for further investigation.

10:57 PM · Feb 24, 2024 · 8,886 Views

The police said that efforts are on to retrieve the looted weapons which more than 6,000 arms have been looted from security forces since ethnic violence between the Kuki and Meitei communities erupted in Manipur on May 3, 2023. Of them, 1,500 arms have been recovered from commoners while more than 4,500 arms are still in the open.

Source: [NE Now](#)

# NAGA STUDENTS UNION DELHI URGES PM MODI TO REVOKE FREE MOVEMENT REGIME REVOCATION

The Naga Students Union Delhi (NSUD) has appealed to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi to reconsider the recent revocation of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) and halt the construction of border fencing along the Indo-Myanmar border. In a letter addressed to the Prime Minister, NSUD expressed grave concerns about the implications of the decision on the rights of the Naga people, the socio-economic landscape of the Northeast region, the Act East Policy, and India's international reputation.

The union emphasized that revoking the FMR would not only affect the cultural identity of the Nagas but also violate their Fundamental Rights to Freedom of Movement and Association. NSUD highlighted the importance of meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders, including the Naga people, to address their legitimate concerns and aspirations.

Regarding the socio-economic implications, NSUD underscored the developmental challenges faced by the northeastern border states and warned that the imposition of border fencing and restriction of movements would exacerbate these challenges, leading to increased poverty and unemployment.

Furthermore, NSUD argued that the decision contradicts India's Act East Policy which aims to promote economic integration and cultural exchange with Southeast Asian countries. The move could hinder regional cooperation and integration efforts, undermining India's credibility as a responsible global actor committed to upholding human rights and fostering good neighborly relations.



Office of the  
**NAGA STUDENTS' UNION, DELHI**

Motto : Strength in Unity

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Ref: NSUD/EC/Memo-FMR/01/2024

Dated: 26.02.2024

## MEMORANDUM

To,

Shri Narendra Modi  
Honourable Prime Minister of India  
Government of India,  
New Delhi.



**Subject: Withdrawal of the Revocation of Free Movement Regime and Cease Border Fencing in Indo-Myanmar.**

Hon'ble Prime Minister,

The Naga Students' Union Delhi (NSUD) expresses deep concern about the Home Ministry's recent move to revoke the Free Movement Regime (FMR) and initiate border fencing along the Indo-Myanmar border. The decision will have far-reaching implications, particularly for the rights of the Naga people, the socio-economic fabric of the Northeast region, the Act East Policy, and India's international image. The NSUD implores you to revoke the decision and take appropriate action cogitating the following concerns:

### ***Impact on the Rights of the Naga People:***

The Naga people have a rich cultural heritage and a unique historical background. The Free Movement Regime has been a crucial aspect of their livelihood and social interaction, allowing Naga to maintain ties with their brethren across the border in Myanmar. Revoking this regime not only undermines their cultural identity but also infringes upon their fundamental rights to freedom of movement and association. The Naga people have long aspired for self-determination and peace in the region. However, the imposition of border fencing and restrictions on movement only exacerbates their grievances and hampers the prospects for a peaceful resolution of the Naga issue. We also invoke the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in addressing this issue so that there is a humane and inclusive approach to

NSUD urged the government to reconsider its decision in light of these concerns while emphasizing the importance of maintaining India's international image and commitment to regional stability and cooperation.



# ABDUCTED MEITEI JOURNALIST FOUND IN DMU CAMPUS OCCUPIED BY UNLF PAMBEI GROUP

A 39 year old reporter of Image TV Kumar Nongthombam who was brutally assaulted and abducted by heavily armed assailants on the midnight of February 23 was found inside the Dhanamanjuri University Campus.

It is learned that Kumar was residing in a rented room in Wangkhei, Imphal East. As per reports, he was brutally assaulted in his room before being forcibly taken away and was later discovered by members of All Manipur Working Journalist Union within an office building inside the DM University campus.

Here is it worth mentioning that the AMSU head office is situated at DM University campus and the office has been occupied by the Meitei insurgent outfit the UNLF (Pambei) group and the AMSU faction on December 6, 2023.

Though the groups or individuals who assaulted the journalist have not been identified. The fact that the reporter was discovered by AMWJU members within DM university speculates the involvement of the Meitei insurgent groups in assaulting the reporter.

Meanwhile, the valley based media house has ceased their publication on Monday and it is likely to continue. The move to the cease publication is believed to be in response to the brutal assault and abduction.

There is no specific statement or press release from the journalist union regarding the decision to cease the publication. However, the decision comes in the wake of a joint emergency meeting held by the organisations and editors on Sunday night.



A general body meeting of the journalists was again conducted on Monday but the meeting adjourned without any decision. Later the meeting resumed in the evening and it was undergoing till this report was filed.

This daily newsletter on its Sunday issue has published a report and analysis with the title “has the valley based insurgent groups taken control of student bodies in the valley and the media houses?”

With all new developments in the valley such as the abduction of journalists, the UNLF Pambei group with AMSU faction group occupying AMSU office and the UNLF Pambei group assaulting general secretary and vice president of AMSU, it will not be an exaggeration or a wild assumption to say that the the valley based insurgent group has really taken control of the students bodies and media houses in valley.



OPINION

## A Lesson from the Past: What did the Anglo-Kuki War Teach Us?

The Anglo-Kuki War, 1917-1919 was one of the lengthiest and deadliest anti-colonial wars against the British. It was also a major Tribal Revolt during World War I. The preparation for the war began as early as in March 1917 but the assault started in October 1917 and continued till May 2019. Many people assumed that the Kukis were defeated in the war, but in reality, they were not defeated even in a single battle. This is mainly because the rebel Kukis applied guerrilla warfare where “hit-and-run” was the main tactic.

In many cases, the rebel Kukis would ambush the British soldiers, kill or maim as many as they can, and then disappear deep into the jungle. In some cases, they laid traps using boulders, giant wooden logs, hidden pits with sharp wooden or bamboo sticks fixed at the bottom, and nets with sharp bamboo or wooden sticks, etc. in unsuspecting locations and narrow roads where there are no diversion route.

However the military strength of the rebel Kukis lay mainly in the guns and gunpowder they produced on their own. Without relying on any resources from abroad except parts or raw materials required to ensemble guns and manufacture gun-powder, the Kukis were able to sustain the fight against the British using traditional as well as acquired skills in producing arms and ammunition locally. The main weaponries used by them were muzzle loading guns and country-made

cannons [locally called **Thihnang** and **Pumpi**].

One reason why the Kuki rebels needed to fight the British through guerrilla warfare was due to the more advanced weaponries possessed and war tactics used by the British including .303 and other semi-automatic rifles and mortars, not to forget the unlimited supply it received from the government exchequer. The kind of military strength and logistic support the British officers have at their disposal was not a match for the Kukis who depended mostly on indigenous technology and skills. Moreover, the Kukis were better prepared to fight in their own hills as they were familiar with the landscape and terrain where they could attack the unsuspecting advancing troops and escape into the jungle leaving no chance for the alien soldiers to trace them.

Before the war began, there were War Councils where the Kuki chiefs came together, decided the course of action, and performed rituals such as “**Sathin-Salung neh**”, “**Thal-long a twidon**”, “**Sel-mei tan**”, “**Kihanlah**”, etc. [“**Sathin-Salung neh**”: the act of eating livers and lungs of animal to show unwavering commitment towards a cause; “**Thal-long a twidon**”: the act of drinking from

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*Contd.*

the barrel of a gun to show that they will not retreat even at the point of death; **“Sel-mei tan”**: cutting the tails of Mithun as a sign of being the rightful authority, chiefship, or show of valour and courage; **“Kihanlah”**: Kukis way of performing war cry as an act of taking a vow, building confidence and dispelling fear, if any]. In the process, commanders for each division (hills or areas) were also decided. Here, most of the leaders so appointed were naturally the powerful chiefs of the respective areas but some of them such as Enjakhup were common men chosen purely on merit because of their personality and experience as a former military man in the British government. This shows that the Kuki chiefs, who possessed self-sacrificing nature and deep sense of patriotism, were usually “born leaders” and “organisers” of such rebellion but it was not the monopoly of the hereditary chiefs to lead a war front.

While reading the Anglo-Kuki War, many tend to focus on the role of the chiefs alone. But the contribution of the womenfolk was not lesser. They were the driving force behind the menfolk who were in the battlefield by taking care of the dependants (children, elderly, and the sick) including those injured. The women were also responsible for preparing ingredients required for pounding gun-powders and in manufacturing guns. Even naang (tender bamboo splits mean for binding) or khaopi (wild rope), sharpened bamboo and wooden sticks, and other materials needed for laying traps, etc. were often arranged by the womenfolk. They also took the responsibility of cooking and arranging lunch-packs and tobaccos which the fighters who were on ambush sometimes for days together were fond of.

However, despite their best efforts, the Kuki chiefs had to finally submit to the colonial government, not out of fear or defeat, but compulsion necessitated by lack of food supply and other essential items needed to sustain the war particularly to feed their dependants. This was the result of various factors ingeniously applied by the British of which one of the most important was the warfare on the economic front.

Perhaps the British initially thought that the Kuki tribals wouldn't sustain the “rebellion” for long. But they soon

realised that they had miscalculated the strength of the Kuki rebels, and hence changed the strategy in the second phase. As they couldn't subdue the Kukis in the first year, they focuses on destroying their villages and huts, seeds and crops, cattle and other domesticated animals, water sources and road-connections, and such other essential items required for a living in the “hostile” villages. They also ruined their jhum fields by burning them before it was the right time to do. So, after the end of the second year, as the wild foods and those harvests usually left in jhum fields were exhausted, the Kukis were left with practically nothing to survive on for another year.

Moreover, as the Kukis from the “hostile” villages had been living in the jungles for years, epidemics and diseases overwhelmed them. To make their condition worse, they were no longer able to prepare enough medicines and preform medical treatment for the sick and injured. Pregnant and lactating women and the new-born children were also struggling to survive under the cold and rain in the jungle. Over and above, they felt worst of in the spiritual realm as they were unable to perform fitting funeral rituals for the deaths! It shouldn't be forgotten that one of the reasons why the Kukis refused to go to France as part of the “labour corps” was the fear that they might not be able to perform death rituals in case they died beyond the sea. According to the Kukis' beliefs, if necessary rituals are not performed for a dead body, the soul will not be able to cross the **“mithi-kho”** (village of the deaths), but would remain in perpetual servitude in in the life after death.

All these factors, and many more, compelled the Kuki chiefs to surrender to the authority after nearly three years of revolt. During this whole period, they were neither exhausted nor demoralised to endure the sufferings due to the war. In fact, the will to fight was as strong as it was in the beginning. Yet

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they couldn't also ignore the plights of the innocent women, children and the elderly. Above all these, the inducements offered by the government such as reconstruction of villages; supply of food for free, or with minimal taxes for a year; distribution of seeds for agriculture; leniency for surrendered chiefs, and the like, were too tempting to refuse.

However, the surrender spree did not take place before the government lost a huge amount of money and a good number of soldiers and coolies in its attempt to suppress the rebellion. The military operations with "continuous active service in mountainous country" was carried out by the combined forces of Assam and Burma Military Police involving 6234 combatants, 696 non-combatants, 7650 transport carriers among others. It was the "largest series of military operations" in the eastern frontier of India, eclipsed only by the World War II in the region in 1944. These whole operations cost a staggering rupees 28 lakhs to the government exchequer!

Moreover, casualties on the British troops include 60 deaths (including a British officer), 142 wounded (including 3 British officers), and 97 death due to diseases. Interestingly, only seven coolies were killed by the rebels, a figure which could have been higher had the targets included them, though many more died of diseases. The total number of deaths (most of which were due to epidemic and diseases) was 393. On the other hand, official estimates of Kukis killed during the operations stands at 120 though the figure was much less from the Kukis' version.

Regarding livestock and properties destroyed or looted, the official record says 576 mithuns (possibly much higher than this) along with a large number of cattle, goats, pigs, fowls, etc. Moreover, 126 Kuki villages were completely burnt down, 16 declared permanently barren or deserted, and 140 coerced to surrender. No official estimate was available on the amount of food-grains and other materials such as rice, root crops, vegetables, oilseeds, cotton, beans, etc., systematically destroyed or looted from the village granaries and "hidden stores"

in the jungles. Considering the tiny population size of the Kukis then, the amount of properties destroyed was unimaginable.

To condense the long history short, there are many lessons we can learn from the Anglo-Kuki War to sustain the ongoing ethnic cleansing campaign perpetrated by the dominant community to crush the Kukis, but the following two questions are worth pondering over at the moment:

First, are we in a position to sustain the war effort economically beyond three years as our forefathers did?

Second, are our leaders in a position to decline anything other than separation from the "hegemony of majoritarian politics" if the state offers us a condition so tempting?

Let us not forget the last-hour agreement signed following the 123-days agitation for Sadar Hills district in 2011 which many of us fondly remembered as the "mid-night agreement". During the course of that agitation, three precious lives were lost in an unfortunate incident, and huge amounts of money and resources were pooled-in, not to forget the invaluable contributions of those injured in police actions, volunteers on duty, hunger strikers, and donors and well-wishers in and around the world.

In this ongoing ethnic war, the brave Kuki warriors in the frontlines will not retreat even in the face of death. As Pu Paolienlal once tweeted, "**Every Kuki will give their lives to be free from the hegemony of majoritarian politics,**" but we are all human being with emotions. Therefore, unless our frontline warriors are shown the minimal moral as well as material support needed for a soldier, they can lose the spirit to bear heat and cold under incriminating weather.

By the way, how's the josh, Dear Leaders!



**THE BUZZ** SOCIAL MEDIA

Makepeace Sithou  
@makesyoucakes

Internet continues to be suspended in cipur. Again, only in a Kuki Zo dominated district of Manipur. Anti constitutional and anti minority.

The ethno fascist wet dream is to have all tribal women stripped naked, SoO abrogated, NRC implemented and internet suspended.



9:04 PM · Feb 25, 2024 · 2,350 Views

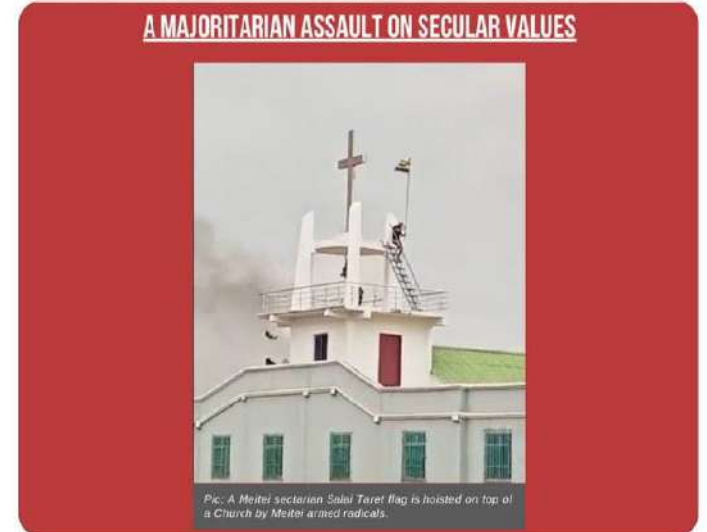


Indian Christian Community  
@ChristianIndia\_

This was the biggest Church of the Tribals in Manipur, located in the heart of Imphal.

It was looted, vandalised and burnt down by the #ArambaiTenggolTerrorists in May 2023. They hoisted their Salai Taret #flag as a symbol of their dominance over the Christian.

@UNHumanRights



Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India and 6 others

1:34 am · 26 Feb 24 · 868 Views



**THE NEGLECTED HUNGER**







## In Your Hand

The last time you saw your woman  
Was also the last time you ever ate from her hand.  
Now in the distant hill, you tread upon.  
Somehow, it all makes sense.  
You love her so much that you have to leave her.  
As much take a bullet and do much harm to keep her safe.

You loved her so much, you leave her.

While others shudder in fear,  
She keeps herself together.  
Waiting for you to come home  
And rest in your safe embrace.  
To feel those lips again,  
To taste all the sufferings he has been through.  
To hold your hand again once more,  
Is almost all her prayers answered.  
Though her home, the fire destroyed,  
But in your hand, she finds her home sweet home.

- Eric Hrahsel

