

# Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell

**NENKHOLOUN  
KUM 18**

# AWAITING JUSTICE



## **NENKHOLOUN VAIPHEI (18 Y)**

S/O SOITINKAM VAIPHEI

ADDRESS: B. PHAINOM, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF DEATH: 3RD MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: TOUBUL

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY RADICAL MEITEI MILITANTS



## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 23.04.2024



**176**  
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.

# MEITEI MILITANTS PERSIST WITH ATTACKS IN KUKI AREAS EVEN DURING THE NATION'S GRANDEST DEMOCRATIC FESTIVAL

This afternoon, as the Home Ministry redirected central security forces from buffer zones, the armed Meitei militants, including the Arambai Tenggol, UNLF and other Meiteis' proscribed outfits, bolstered by state support, launched a fierce assault on Kuki villages in the Konghom area near Sinam Kom, sparking chaos in Kangpokpi District.

This is the third consecutive day of their incessant attack on the Kukis' ancestral land after the conclusion of the first phase of Lok Sabha polls on April 19 in Manipur. Firing incidents in Kangpokpi District persist without a pause after the fresh attack on the Kuki areas by Meitei militants and the Arambai Tenggol on April 23.

Following the two days of assault on the Kukis in Phaileng-Luwangsanggol region, Meitei militants and Arambai Tenggol carried out yet another ruthless attack in the Konghom area near Sinam Kom and P. Khonomphai village today around 4:40 PM.

Precisely at 8:44 PM, the region was rocked by another onslaught as Meitei militants and the Arambai Tenggol unleashed a relentless attack, a situation that persisted deep into the night.

As usual, the Meitei media houses based in Imphal falsely reported the firing incident as 'the Kuki militants attacking Meitei areas', deliberately spreading lies and misinformation to the world. The fact of the matter is that the firing occurred in and around the Kuki village of Thingsat, near Sinam Kom Village located in the hills of Saikul Sub-division which is approximately 20 KMs away from the nearest Meitei locality. The Kuki village volunteers guarding their ancestral land only retaliated against the Meitei aggression.



From 11 AM in the morning till now, the village is under attack by Meitei Militants abetted by the Manipur police commandos. False reports from today's incident once again reaffirmed that the valley-based newspapers have lost all credibility and ethics of journalism, since the 3rd of May, 2023.

The Meitei militants and Arambai Tenggol persisted in violating the buffer zones, disturbing the tranquility of the Kuki-Zo regions with their incessant attacks, even during the nation's grandest democratic festival. Their renewed attacks on the Kuki areas began after the conclusion of the elections in Inner Manipur Parliamentary seat, for which they were accused of deeply involving in violent and undemocratic practices during the polls.

In today's gun firing incident, a Kuki village guard sustained a minor bullet injury on his leg and was evacuated to Kangpokpi district hospital for the necessary medical treatment.

# KUKI WOMEN STRONGLY URGE HOME MINISTRY TO SECURE BUFFER ZONES WITH CENTRAL FORCES

Upon learning that the Home Ministry has reportedly decided to divert central security forces from buffer zones to highway patrols, a throng of impassioned Kuki women flooded the streets of Gamgiphai, demanding a swift reversal of the ministry's stance.

On further inquiry, it was found that there was no official notification letter from the Home Ministry. However, the Kuki women indicated that certain district officials verbally communicated the decision made by the Home Ministry.

One of the Kuki women leader underscored the pivotal role played by central security forces in upholding safety and tranquility in the buffer zones while voicing her perplexity, with palpable concern, regarding Home Minister Amit Shah's abrupt choice to withdraw these crucial forces.

She also passionately underscored the horrific treatment inflicted upon the Kuki people and lamented on the glaring absence of any CBI or NIA investigations into these atrocities.

She then went on to ask why the Home Minister had chosen to withdraw central security forces from buffer zones despite the ongoing infliction of gruesome, inhumane treatment upon the Kuki populace.

In clear defiance of the alleged decision by the Home Ministry, the Kuki women voiced their refusal to accept it and urged the Ministry to reconsider its stance.

The Kuki women also chanted slogan, such as, "Don't withdraw central security forces from buffer zones", "We want Separate Administration", etc.

Meanwhile, the Committee on Tribal Unity, or the CoTU, Sadar Hills also backed the Kuki women's call for the Home Ministry to review its decision to deploy central forces from buffer zones to highway patrols.

Ng. Lun Kipgen, Coordinator of CoTU's Media Cell while strongly condemning the recent bomb blast at a minor bridge near Saparmeina by unknown miscreants, asserted

that it is crucial to note the dire situation facing the minority tribal Kuki community who have endured oppression and subjugation and are at the brink of complete annihilation under the biased state administration led by majoritarian Meitei leadership.

He stated that the Home Ministry's decision to deploy Central Security Forces for Election Duty against this backdrop is both insensitive and ill-timed.

He also pointed out that the creation of "buffer zones" and the deployment of Central security forces in the border regions between the Kuki community in the Hills and the Meitei community in the valley served as a crucial mechanism to quell tensions and prevent the escalation of conflicts between these two adversarial groups.

He further commended the Central security forces who have been able to fulfill their mandate by maintaining neutrality in discharging their duty.

However, the decision of the Home Ministry to delegate some of these forces from the buffer zones to man the Asian Highways/ NH 2 with regards to the recent blast is uncalled for and will nullify the principle objective of deterring further escalation of conflict between the two warring communities, he added.

He then said that the Committee appealed to the Central Government to reconsider the situation when unabated firing is still going on and to contain the state of Manipur from teetering towards talibanization.

He also said that in view of the present volatile situations and the unresolved cases of the killing of two Kuki Village Volunteers at Phailengmol, who were butchered in the most inhumane manner by the secessionist Meitei terrorist and Arambal Tenggol, the Committee is constrained to extend shutting down of all government offices in Sadar Hills Kangpokpi until further notice.

# LS POLL: 76.06 % VOTER TURNOUT TILL 5 PM IN PHASE 2; CONGRESS REQUESTS FOR RE-POLL IN 17 POLLING STATIONS

The voting for the second phase of Lok Sabha elections 2024 in thirteen Assembly Segments of Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency concluded today with an overall voter turnout of 76.06 percent recorded at 5 PM.

Good turnouts were reported in places such as Mao, Karong, Tengenoupal, and Tadubi, with over 80 percent turnout recorded at 5 PM. Despite some disruptions in Ukhrul, overall polling went smoothly.

Voting started from 7 AM till 4 PM at various polling stations across the 13 Assembly Segments namely Jiribam, Tengenoupal, Phungyar, Ukhrul, Chingai, Karong, Mao, Tadubi, Tamei, Tamenglong, Nungba, Tipaimukh and Thanlon, spread across 8 districts namely, Ukhrul, Kamjong, Tamenglong, Noney, Senapati, Jiribam, Pherzawl and Tengenoupal districts.

Disturbances at three polling stations during the second and final phase of polling process in Ukhrul, Manipur, for the II-Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency, was reported in the evening, resulting in damage to Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and polling materials.

According to a report by the police, approximately 70-80 unknown miscreants forcefully entered these polling stations between 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm. These individuals proceeded to destroy the EVMs and other essential polling materials at each location.

Meanwhile, the Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) has requested the Chief Electoral Officer Manipur for re-poll in 17 polling stations under 44-Ukhrul (ST) Assembly Constituency.

MPCC in the letter to CEO Manipur alleged that as many as 17 polling stations of 44-Ukhrul (ST) Assembly Constituency were interfered with, stating that these polling stations, "experienced booth capturing, rigging



of polls, and forced voting, with the Polling Agents of Shri Alfred Kanngam S. Arthur, the Indian National Congress (INC) candidate, reportedly being denied entry or participation in the polling process." Manipur Congress also alleged that the Polling Officials and Security Personnel on duty did nothing against the unknown armed miscreants.

Additionally, in another letter to the CEO, Congress party stated that EVM Machine of Polling Station No. 43/19 - Shingkap, Shingkap Govt. High School was destroyed by unknown armed miscreants. Whereas, "the Polling Station No. 43/46 - Nambashi Khullen, Nambashi Kullen Govt. High School was booth captured, rigging of poll and force voted/cast of votes and refused to sit the Polling Agents of Shri Alfred Kanngam S. Arthur, INC Candidate."

Reportedly, NSCN-IM cadres showed up armed at Viewland East Part No. 47 to take away the Polling Agent of Indian National Congress (INC). However, it was reported that the womenfolk present at the Booth resisted and prevented it. The NSCN cadres also went to Phungreitang East No. 44/45 Ukhrul town to arrest a vocal INC voter.

# MEITEI INDIVIDUAL SUSTAINS INJURY TRYING TO REPRODUCE KUKI-MADE IMPROVISED-PIPE-MORTAR; 'PUMPI'

With relentless moves by the Meiteis to put the blame on the Kukis for every minor and major happenings in the State, the Meiteis are still struggling to explore every possible means to dominate their narratives on their media outlets including social media platforms to portray the Kukis as the oppressor in the current state conflict.

In the latest development within the Meitei valley, a Meitei individual sustained a mortar blast injury while attempting to copy and build the Kukis' technology of making Improvised-Pipe-Mortar known indigenously as "Pumpi". The incident occurred yesterday at Langgol, Imphal, a locality once occupied by the Kukis before the state-sponsored ethnic violence began on May 3, 2023.

The injured individual was identified as Potsangbam Bikramjit, who is currently undergoing treatment at Shija Hospital, Imphal.

It was also reported that a metal pipe was found alongside containing explosives, and was safely detonated by a bomb detection and disposal squad.

Meanwhile, the Meiteis and their media houses have been claiming that the explosive devices were placed or abandoned by the Kukis, which is an utterly false and baseless allegation. The Kukis were in fact forced and hurried to abandon the valley areas as a result of the Meiteis' ethnic cleansing campaign since May 3, 2023.

Had the Kukis pre-planned the ongoing violence, they would have vacated their quarters and residential areas in the valley days before May 3, 2023. However, there were many incidents wherein Kukis were tortured,



killed and their properties destroyed on May 3 and on the following days of last year.

It is to be noted that "Pumpi" can be built only by a selected section of experts from the Kuki populace and no ordinary people have been taught the technical know-how of making/ building the Improvised explosive. Therefore, any attempt to reproduce the Kuki made Pumpi by any other community could result in a catastrophe similar to this one incident.

It is pertinent to mention that in several instances of the past, a few Meiteis had also sustained injuries in their attempts to reproduce the Kuki-made Pumpi.

Since the Arambai Tenggol, Meitei Leepun and Meitei militants are receiving every help in the form of weapons, ammunition and explosives including 51mm mortars from the Meitei government to annihilate the Kukis, the Kukis were compelled to utilise their traditional knowledge and technical know-how to make and build home-made weapons like Pumpi as means to defend their land and people against the Meitei aggression.

# KUKI INPI DESIGNATES MAY 3 AS “KUKI-ZO AWAKENING DAY”

The Kuki Inpi Manipur has issued a public advisory note, announcing the designation of May 3 as “Kuki-Zo Awakening Day”. The decision follows a recent meeting of the executive members of the organisation.

The decision was made through an executive resolution dated April 26, 2024.

The Kuki Inpi Manipur urged all concerned bodies, authorities of the Kuki-Zo people, and the general public to observe May 3, 2024, under the theme “Kuki-Zo Awakening Day”.

“May 3, 2024, marks the first year of the ethnic genocide of the Kuki-Zo people by the majority meiteis. It will be remembered as a day of great awakening for the Kuki-Zo people from the ruins of the systemic persecution and



oppression of our people under the Manipur State Government towards revolutionary transformation of our land and our society”, the Kuki Inpi said.

**LAUNCHING SOON**

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.

# NSCN CADRES ALLEGEDLY SEIZE CONTROL OF BOOTH, 'VOTE FOR PUBLIC' IN UKHRUL

Amidst the ongoing Lok Sabha elections in Manipur's Ukhrul district, chaos ensued as armed miscreants, suspected to be cadres of the NSCN (IM), obstructed voters from entering polling centers. The disturbing incident unfolded at the 44/50 K.K. Leishi Phanit Junior High School, designated as an all-woman polling station. According to sources, the cadres seized control of the booth and proceeded to cast votes on behalf of the public. Subsequently, angered locals reacted by destroying the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) in protest.

Similar instances of disruptions were reported from three other polling booths in Ukhrul district headquarters, namely 44/36 Ukhrul Model High School, 44/41 Ukhrul D1 Greenland Primary School, and 44/47 VPH Primary School.

A circulating video on social media captured miscreants, purportedly affiliated with NSCN (IM), summoning polling agents and confiscating EVMs. The unsettling incident occurred at the polling booth in VPH Primary School within the Viewland East I area.



The electoral process for the remaining 13 segments of the Outer Manipur constituency was underway during these disturbances. Currently held by Lorho Phoze of the Naga People's Front, this time the NPF, as a constituent of the BJP-led NDA, has fielded Kachui Timothy Zimik, who is facing competition from Congress' Alfred K Arthur.

Official figures indicate a voter turnout of 76.06% recorded by 5 pm.

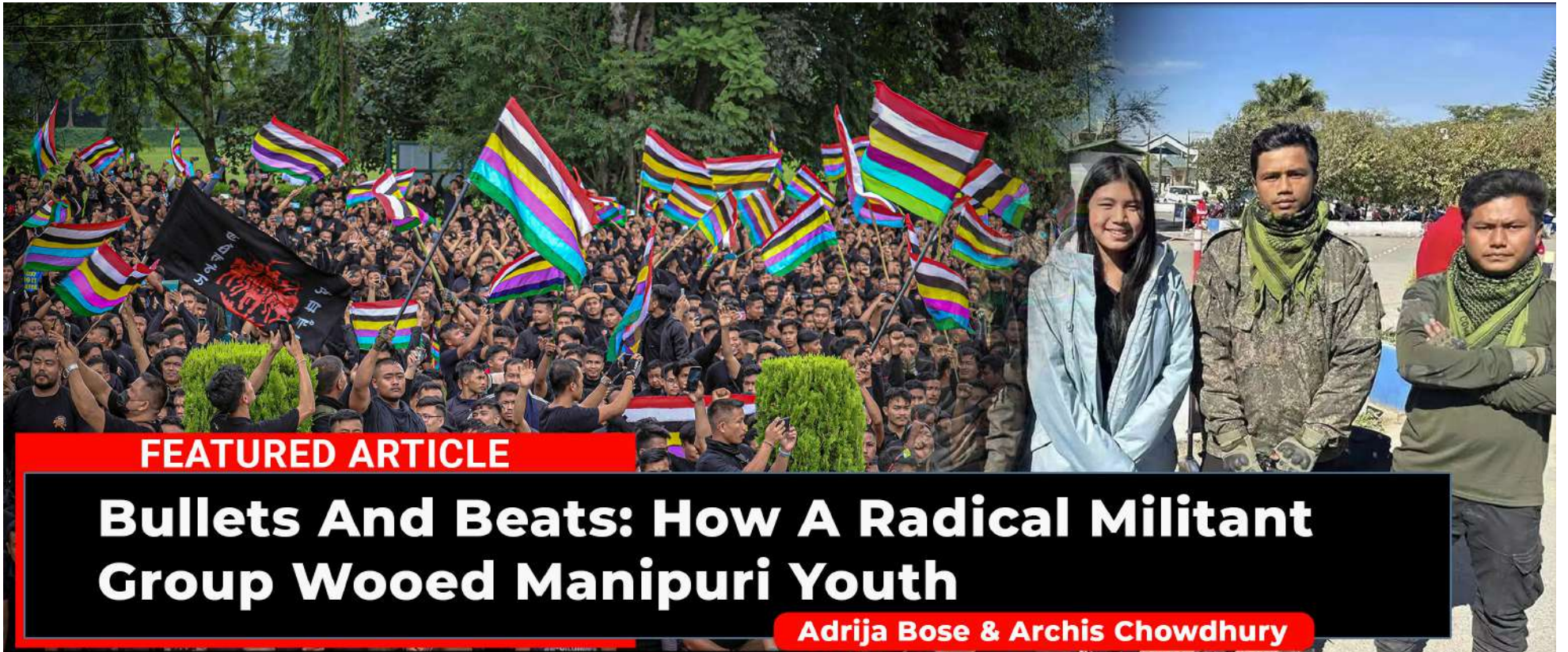
Source: [East Mojo](#)



**You cannot buy the revolution. You cannot make the revolution. You can only be the revolution. It is in your spirit, or it is nowhere.**

— Ursula K. Le Guin



**FEATURED ARTICLE**

## Bullets And Beats: How A Radical Militant Group Wooed Manipuri Youth

**Adrija Bose & Archis Chowdhury**

Dylan, a young activist, was driving through the peripheries of Imphal, when he spotted his 18-year-old cousin dressed in black attire, holding a gun. The 18-year-old had joined the forces of Arambai Tenggol. Dylan was shocked even as his young cousin walked up to him to seek blessings.

The term Arambai refers to “poisoned darts” used by warriors, and Tenggol refers to a troop or platoon in Meitei language. Arambai Tenggol incites various reactions among the locals in Manipur’s capital city: fear, enthusiasm, hatred, and anger. However, through visuals of guns combined with peppy music on social media - the militant group has captured the minds of the youth.

“They portray a sense of bravado and hypermasculinity. The young people who join the militant group feel that they are defending their motherland,” a local leader said.

### Rising From A Conflict

For nearly a year since May 3, 2023, the state has been witnessing violence between the Meitei community in the valley, and the Kuki-Zo community in the hills. According to the government, the conflict has claimed 219 lives, and displaced 60,000 people. Many would

term it a civil war.

During this time, not much is known of what transpires in the state, as it only makes headlines in cases of escalation of violence. Simultaneously, graphic videos, purporting to show violence from the conflict, have sporadically circulated on the internet without any verification or reporting.

Amid this violence has risen a group of radicalised armed militants - the Arambai Tenggol - which started off as a Meitei “socio-cultural organisation” just a few years before. “This (Arambai Tenggol) group had been raised with the blessings of the chief minister. The group was allowed to loot arms from the state armouries,” a paramilitary force officer was quoted by The Telegraph in its July 2023 report.

Immediately after the violence struck on May 3, the internet was completely shut down in Manipur. From May to December the state saw the year’s longest internet ban. Decode had reported on how the internet blockade led to misinformation, which resulted in sustained violence in the coming months.

*Contd.*

*Contd.*

During this time, the Arambai Tenggol grew increasingly powerful and influential.

They have been accused of threatening and attacking not just the Kuki-Zo community, but also noted personalities of the Meitei community. Lawyer Victor Khaba was threatened a few months ago for defending Dr Kham Khan Suan Hausing, a political science professor who belongs to the Kuki-Zo community for an interview on Manipur that led to charges against him. Khaba had to withdraw from the case eventually.

In December, renowned Manipuri singer and lyricist, Akhu Chingangbam was allegedly abducted by the group from his home in east of Imphal to an undisclosed location; he was released a couple of hours later.

In January, at Kangla Fort in Imphal, the armed group administered oaths to 37 MLAs and two MPs from Manipur to unite and protect the state.

As the internet ban was lifted, the radicalised militant group was quick to use social media to spread its influence, and radicalise more young Meiteis in the process.

### **Flexing With Guns On Social Media**

“You would find videos of Arambai Tenggol militants flashing their guns on videos that would then be made viral on social media and messaging apps. This would send a message to these Meitei youths that they too can have a gun and become protectors,” a resident of Imphal, who wanted to remain anonymous, told Decode.

As we took a dive into social media using a range of keywords, we found platforms like Facebook and YouTube riddled with content promoting the militant group through a blend of videos of flashy guns, and cool military outfits.

A video posted on Facebook on November 4, 2023, showed children training with homemade ‘gas guns’ to prepare to fight alongside the Arambai Tenggol. The caption of the video stated, “Children themselves

identified as children of Arambai Tenggol. Even 8 to 9-year-old children want to fight against the Kukis by making gas guns themselves. The strength of Arambai Tenggol is so strong that children are mad about them.”

Prominent members of Arambai Tenggol, like Mapari Mangang, would post images with guns and in flashy looking military outfits, drawing admiration from the militant group’s supporters in comments.

They also found clever ways to hide the presence of firearms in public posts.

Arambai Tenggol members Mangang and Salam Nongban Kongyanba, an MMA fighter and another prominent member, were found editing out firearms in images and replacing them with objects like pens and text art, while posting on Facebook. We also found Mangang using generative AI to create an ‘anime art’ version of a photo of him in the woods holding a gun.

Not knowing the local language also made it impossible for fact-checkers outside the state, and for platforms, to even figure out what’s going in these Facebook groups. Decode reached out to Meta to enquire about its guidelines on images with guns on its platforms, and the article will be updated upon receiving a response.

### **Radical Lyrics And Lively Music**

Long before the conflict began, Manipur had seen the rise of a vibrant rock and folk-rock music culture, which had been often used as an expression of dissent.

The Arambai Tenggol liberally used the region’s repertoire of music to make their videos appealing, and strengthen their online presence. Many of

*Contd.*

*Contd.*

their short videos and WhatsApp status updates were images and clips of its cadres marching, or posing with guns, coupled with rock music, or Lo-Fi beats.

“They started co-opting many folk, folk-fusion Meitei songs about camaraderie and brotherhood into their videos. Certain lesser known songs would become popular because they were featured in Arambai Tenggol videos,” Dylan added. “Songs, monologue and visuals have been used to evoke fighting spirit.”

Some anthems of the group would turn into music videos of high production value - with diverse range of shots, tight editing, and vibrant costumes.

In the backdrop of a partition-led deadlock between the Meiteis and the Kuki-Zo, as radicalism spread through the Meitei youth, award-winning Meitei singer Jayenta Loukrakpam, known by his stage name Tapta, resorted to vitriolic lyrics, attacking the Kuki-Zo community with songs containing strong elements of hate.

Kukiland - a series of songs by Tapta - not only put the onus entirely on the Kuki-Zo for the conflict in Manipur, but also suggested ethnic cleansing as the only way to achieve peace. “We will never have peace until every Kuki is killed,” the lyrics of one of their songs titled Immigrants (chin-Kuki) stated. The song was later taken down by YouTube, but Tapta’s songs became a hit among supporters of Arambai Tenggol.

The group was also propped up by child environmental activist Licypriya Kangujam, who had addressed world leaders at the 25th UN Climate Conference in 2019. She posted a photo on Facebook, where she could be seen posing with members of the Arambai Tenggol.

“I take all the love. I will come back stronger. Long live Arambai Tenggol, long live Kangleipak, long live Meitei,” the caption of the post read.

Many young Meiteis, especially young boys between 18-25, started joining the group, taking the number of cadres to around 65,000 by the time the general

elections began. Only a portion of them, however, would be part of its armed operations.

### **Polling Day Fiasco**

On the eve of election, a voice recording of Robin Mangang Khwairakpam, one of the top leaders of Arambai Tenggol, got leaked on WhatsApp. In the audio, he is heard urging people to vote for the BJP. As the clip got viral, Robin put out a Facebook post stating, “I wouldn’t spare the one who is using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to defame me and cast a bad picture of the Arambai Tenggol.”

However, following a backlash, he deleted the post. “Robin is from Sekmai and his voice has a Sekmai accent and hence people trolled him saying that this must be a very advanced AI,” Dylan remarked.

Robin claimed the voice wasn’t his. However, his gun wielding group members were deployed across polling booths in the valley on 19 April, the first phase of voting in the conflict ridden state.

In one of the polling booths in Kyamgei, a group of armed men prevented the locals from voting. When asked why they are there, they responded, “you have to talk to our leader.” In Khongman Zone 5, locals alleged that the Arambai Tenggol members had casted over 200 votes on their behalf. In retaliation, the angry locals broke the EVM machine.

“The Arambai Tenggol is voting for the BJP and taking away our fundamental right,” one of the residents of Khongman said.

From local residents to activists to even police officials - everyone allege that the Arambai Tenggol is backed by the Manipur chief minister Biren Singh. Back in 2022, Leishemba Sanajaoba, Rajya Sabha MP and Manipur’s titular king had shared

*Contd.*

*Contd.*

a Facebook live of Arambai Tenggol members taking oath at his residence.

“We used to feed them, give them money and shelter because they portrayed themselves as defenders of our land,” said a local resident who identified himself as a RSS worker. “But now they are not even letting us vote,” he added.

The Election Commission later ordered repolling in 11 constituencies, many of them after Arambai Tenggol themselves demanded it.

### **“Our Hands Are Cut, So We Can’t Vote”**

About 10 days ago, a graphic video went viral on social media. It showed two dead bodies being chopped up. Some of these videos were viral with the caption ‘Kuki saa’ which translates to “Kuki meat”. It was added with a laughing emoji.

The videos reached Somi, a 34-year-old teacher who lives in Churachandpur, also known as Lamka. She didn’t realise that one of the men in the video was her own cousin Kamlensat Lunkim, till at least 24 hours later.

“The police have still not found the bodies. No one has been arrested even though we know who killed my brother,” she said.

The two men whose bodies were desecrated by the Arambai Tenggol were 25-year-old Lunkim and 23-year-old Kamminlal Lupheng. In Kangpokpi, their hometown, the locals abstained from voting as a sign of protest. They pasted photos of hands on the walls with the caption, “our hands are cut, so we can’t vote”.

While activists and locals allege that the police doesn’t take any action against the militant group because they are hand in gloves with the security forces, a top police official denied the claims. “We have been arresting them, but we also realise they have a lot of support from the people. So we have to be careful,” a police officer told Decode.

### **The Trolling Of Arambai Tenggol**

Arambai Tenggol had garnered massive support among the Meitei community during the conflict, by positioning themselves as protectors. However, as the same group stood outside polling booths with guns on April 19, preventing their very supporters from voting, a feeling of betrayal swept the Meiteis in Imphal valley.

The anger and resentment they generated turned the tides of support against them, that was equally visible on social media.

“It would be impossible to imagine the Meitei people speaking against the Arambai Tenggol on social media, but after what they did during the first phase of polling you will see frequent trolling,” Dylan pointed out.

In the evening of April 19, following the vote booth capturing fiasco, Laishram Robason, Arambai Tenggol’s control room operator, put out a notice stating Arambai Tenggol is asking the ECI for repolling at Bamom Kampu, Iroisemba, and Khongman Zone 4, where “unfortunate incidents” occurred. On the day of polling Decode had witnessed the polling booth at Khongman Zone 4 being shut down after locals complained of Arambai Tenggol members denying them entry.

The notice drew flak from many, with the majority of users reacting with the laughing emoji.

“It’s to late...AT doesn’t have gut’s that they aren’t gonna involved in any political party in this election. Now AT are playing around with the people of Manipur..(sic)’ read one of the top comments. Another user trolled the group, saying, “Is it an application? Or a notice? Or an order? Please let the people know in public interest.”

*Contd.*

**Contd.**

Cartoonist Laishram Bipin Singh started posting cartoons mocking the Arambai Tenggol for their activities on April 19.

One of the cartoons showed two armed men dressed in AT uniform holding a family hostage. One of the men is shown as saying, “Woi.. Even if we were the ones yesterday you have to clarify that it was not us. Don’t you see whatever we are doing is for our motherland!!!” The other is then shown as saying, “Do you have proof? Do you wanna eat a bullet?”

Yet another cartoon showed Arambai Tenggol militants intimidating voters. In this cartoon, a woman voter is shown as thinking, “Aren’t you the ones we donated to by collecting from every nook and cranny?” The cartoon also showed a militant calling Manipur’s CM Biren Singh, saying, “Father (biren) don’t worry we are rocking it.”

These cartoons drew wide response and comments from people, mocking the militant group, the ruling party BJP, and its CM Biren Singh.

Some of the comments used BJP’s lotus symbol along with AT’s, and called it BJP Tenggol (BJP Platoon).

**Desperation In The Relief Camps**

While the militant group has left the residents of Manipur with a sense of disappointment and anger, in some quarters Arambai Tenggol is still seen as the “last hope” in the state that has been in turmoil for far too long.

Thanzom(Thangjam) Hemanta, 33, hailing from the border town of Moreh, now resides in a relief camp. Hemanta moved out of Moreh 11 months ago, in May 2024, when violence engulfed the state. Like many others, Hemanta’s house was burnt down.

“I have gotten calls to join militant groups. They usually share a WhatsApp link to join, where the details of meetings are provided,” he said. “Several of my friends

have gone to AT meetings, but aren’t permanent members.”

He cast his vote at the special polling booth set up for displaced people at the YK College. Like many others Decode interviewed, Hemanta was looking for a political change.

Another displaced local, 23-year-old Rojesh from Moreh, currently living in a relief camp in Lamding Senior High School, believes otherwise. Rojesh states that electing Bimol Akoijam of the Congress might improve their situation. “We lost our homes when the BJP was in power. People are sick here now, but we don’t get enough food and medication.”

In an interview to Decode, JNU professor and Congress leader Bimol Akoijam said if he wins the election, he will ensure the youth who have been misguided into picking up arms find their way back. “My job is to awaken people,” he said. “Why is the Indian state unable to control the violence in Manipur? This is complete bullshit,” he said. “The head of the country hasn’t uttered a single word after a whole year of violence,” Akoijam added.

At the nearby Mekola relief camp, 52-year-old Naocha Oinam recalls leaving his home and belongings in Churachandpur, with his family.

“I brushed my teeth only three times in seven days,” Oinam recalls. “We were each given spoonfuls of dal and rice three times a day, and we did not even have plates to eat out of. We would use jackfruit leaves as plates.”

“If I was young, I would pick up arms to fight for us. It hurts us too much to live like this,” he said. Oinam was sceptical of any changes in their situation with regards to the elections. “I don’t think the elections will change anything.”

First published by: [Boom Live](#)

THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA



Hansraj Meena  
@HansrajMeena

Follow

मणिपुर में चल रही तनावपूर्ण स्थिति के बीच सबसे संवेदनशील बफर क्षेत्रों से केंद्रीय सशस्त्र बलों को केंद्र सरकार के द्वारा हटाने का फैसला अनुचित है। सरकार के इस कदम के बाद से कुकी आदिवासियों पर राज्य में फिर से हमले देखे जा रहे हैं। कुकी समुदाय इसका विरोध दर्ज करा रहा है। #Manipur

Translated from Hindi by Google

The decision of the Central Government to withdraw the Central Armed Forces from the most sensitive buffer areas amid the ongoing tense situation in Manipur is unfair. After this move of the government, attacks on Kuki tribals are being seen again in the state. The Kuki community is registering protest against this. #Manipur



7:34 pm · 26 Apr 24 · 12.2K Views



Jairam Ramesh  
@Jairam\_Ramesh

Democracy is under threat.

This video is from TODAY in Ukhrul District, Outer Manipur. Voters are being forced to vote only for the NPF, the BJP's alliance partner, rather than the Congress. The security forces are standing there mutely as our democracy is hijacked.

These are the most important elections of our lifetime



3:18 pm · 26 Apr 24 · 140K Views



THE PSEUDO MEITEI NATIONALISTS



Credit: Laishram Bipin Singh



# *The gods of War*

Seemingly and paradoxical gaffers we are,  
Too diffident to antagonise our nemesis,  
Remember, the Living God waged a war  
To set His people free, says the Sacred Text.  
For peace, war was given.

Does every son need a souvenir of hatred,  
And conflict breed upon us indelible.  
Thousand lives lost, villages incinerated,  
Beheadings ... the inception of our armies,  
Where thou the nation's prayers, promises  
and curses for the adversaries?  
Are we choosing malevolence over evil to hold us in bondage?

A day past, sons of the soil mutilated,  
Body unfound, unclaimed, mortified.  
Now, adult suffrage becomes a cardinal theme.  
Ain't we a pseudo nation,  
Rhetoric foreman and conniving Machiavellians,  
Where lies our loyalty - God, Nation, Vainglory?

Are we ready to be pauparized, deprived  
- rich, poor, men, women and children.  
No freedom #Separate Administration without absolute sacrifice.  
History of liberty is the history of resistance,  
Are We??...

*-Henry D. Summer*