

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



JANGPAO TOUTHANG (42 YEARS)

S/O JANGHEM TOUTHANG

ADDRESS: KHOKEN, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF DEATH: 9TH JUNE, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: KHOKEN, SADAR HILLS

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY MEITEI MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 22.07.2024



191
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.

CENTRE YET TO LIST VIOLATION OF GROUND RULES BY KUKI-ZO INSURGENT GROUPS: SENIOR LEADER OF KUKI NATIONAL ORGANISATION

The Union Home Ministry is yet to list and convey the violations of ground rules committed by Kuki-Zo insurgent groups, Dr. Seilen Haokip, spokesperson and senior leader of the Kuki National Organisation (KNO), said in an interview with The Hindu.

He said the Kuki-Zo-Hmar groups were not “secessionists.” Their demand for a political solution of a separate administration in Manipur was within the framework of the Constitution, and they should not be labelled “anti-India”, he said.

“Pre May-3, our demand was for autonomous territorial councils within Manipur but that has been thrown out of the window by the events that started on May 3 (2023). There is a paradigm shift in our demands, taking into consideration the ground realities. In May, our MLAs submitted a representation to the Home Minister that we want separate administration (SA). In July, August, and September, we concluded that SA is now being defined as Union Territory with legislature. We have defined SA as UT, we will be like Delhi,” he said.

SoO agreement

Earlier this year, the Manipur Assembly passed a resolution abrogating the suspension of operations (SoO) pact with the United People’s Front (UPF) and the KNO — umbrella organisations of 25 insurgent groups — blaming the groups for instigating violence in the State.

The tripartite agreement that was signed between the Manipur government, the Home Ministry, and the insurgent groups in 2008 is under review following the refusal of the State government to extend the pact in February.



Dr. Haokip said the reasons for reviewing the ground rules had not been revealed to them. “There are seven camps each with KNO and UPF. The approved list of cadres are 2,200. The weapons (with cadres) are mostly automatic,” he said.

“The State is proposing a new mechanism to deal with the ground rules violation allegations. When things were normal, these matters would be dealt by a joint monitoring group, chaired by Home Ministry, with participants from the State. Since May 3 (2023), these meetings have not taken place. There is no mechanism to deal with these ground rules violations. The violations have not been listed, itemised yet, it is not revealed to us yet, because the platform is not there,” he said.

Dr. Haokip, who held talks with A.K. Mishra, adviser (northeast), Home Ministry, in Delhi last week said Home Minister Amit Shah wanted “SoO for peace” and by unilaterally abrogating the pact, the State government was acting against peace.

“The ongoing dialogue (for political settlement) was disrupted by events that started on May 3, 2023.

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SoO has to be in place so that talks can continue. Centre wants to talk, for which SoO has to be extended. The State did not send its representative (on February 29, to extend the tripartite pact). The State should be a party to that. They should not contradict the Home Minister's appeal for peace and SoO is for peace, especially when the grounds of withdrawing unilaterally is ground rules violation," Mr. Haokip said.

Arms looted

Manipur has been affected by ethnic violence between the tribal Kuki-Zo people and the Meitei people since May 3, 2023. At least 226 people have been killed and more than 60,000 people displaced so far.

Mr. Haokip said it was true that police armouries were looted in the hills but it was minimal compared with the valley.

"At the most 200 weapons would have been looted in the hills, in the valley it is 4,000 and ammunition

above six lakh. In war, your life depends on your weapons. We are there to defend ourselves with our hundreds of weapons. Most have been returned to the police," he claimed.

"Who has violated the ground rules more? Ours is peanuts compared to the State's violations. The entire constitutional asset of the State is being utilised (against us), that is, compared to our little guy extorting money from someone to buy paan or cigarettes because the State is not disbursing the stipend which the Centre gives; cadres have not been paid for two years now. These cadres have wives and children. Children have to go to school. And they want us to be in camps. Camps were established in 2008, count the years. The infrastructure has collapsed. We have numerous times appealed during meetings to repair and refurbish, nothing is done. Stipends are not paid, what are they going to eat? A hungry man is an angry man, they commit petty crimes," Mr. Haokip said. (The Hindu)

THE MANIPUR TAPES: GLOBAL PROTESTS PLANNED IN RESPONSE TO LEAKED AUDIO TAPES INVOLVING MANIPUR CHIEF MINISTER

Various Kuki Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) worldwide are mobilizing for a series of protests on August 31, 2024, following the release of a controversial audio tape allegedly implicating Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in the ongoing violence against the Kuki-Zo community.

The audio tapes, revealed in a three-part series by The Wire, reportedly feature Singh discussing the violence in Manipur and justifying the harrowing act of parading two Kuki women naked by a Meitei mob. This revelation has sparked outrage and calls for accountability among Kuki-Zo communities globally.



In response, a global rally has been planned. Demonstrations will take place in various Indian cities and internationally, including Singapore and Malaysia. The Kuki Students' Organization (KSO)

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Churachandpur has announced a significant rally in Lamka town, urging all residents to participate. The rally is seen as a direct response to the leaked tapes, which are viewed as evidence of Singh's complicity in the violence and a breach of law.

KSO Churachandpur's public notice emphasized the importance of this demonstration, stating that all businesses and government offices in the Churachandpur district will be closed on the day of the rally. The notice appeals to educational institutions, private organizations, and the general public to join in expressing solidarity and concern.

The Zomi Students' Federation also issued a statement confirming the global scale of the protests and outlining the need for a comprehensive memorandum to be drafted. This memorandum will address the Prime Minister of India, calling for decisive action against Singh and the current state administration. The first part of The Wire's series reveals that Chief Minister N. Biren Singh admitted to initiating operations against the Kuki community, claiming responsibility for the actions. The audio also discloses that Singh ordered the covert use of bombs against the Kuki community, despite a directive from Amit Shah to avoid such tactics. Singh reportedly informed Shah that the bombs were being used discreetly.

In the recording, a voice identified as Singh's mentions protecting Meitei "village guards" who had seized thousands of firearms from the state police's armory, avoiding arrest. The voice questions why no arrests have been made regarding the stolen weapons and suggests that if arrests were to occur, Singh would be the first to be detained for the weapon seizures.

Following the release of a video showing the assault on two women in July 2023, there was widespread

national outrage. Several Meitei civil society groups, including the prominent women's organization Meira Paibi, condemned the act, targeting the homes of those depicted in the video and demanding severe punishment from the government.

In the second series, the voice alleged to be Singh's downplays the crime against the two Kuki women and criticizes Meitei civil society groups for not publicly claiming credit for saving them from the mob. The recording includes remarks about the failure to proudly acknowledge their role in rescuing and aiding the victims.

The third series features a clip where Singh purportedly discusses his role in initiating the conflict. The recording, translated into English from Meiteilon, includes Singh explaining how he began operations related to land issues involving reserved and protected forest areas. He reflects on the ongoing violence and mentions the lack of growth in Naga villages compared to Kuki expansion in specific areas. Singh also notes the under-representation of his people in the Secretariat due to quotas favoring other groups.

The leaked audio has been provided to the Commission of Inquiry set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is investigating the violence in Manipur that has persisted since May 3, 2023. The Wire's report highlights that the 48-minute recording, claimed to be made at Singh's official residence, implicates him in the violence, leading to heightened calls for justice and separate administrative set-up for the Kuki-Zo community.

BJP CONFIRMS IMMINENT SOLUTION FOR FRONTIER NAGALAND TERRITORY DEMAND, HIGHLIGHTS CENTRE'S COMMITMENT

The BJP's Nagaland unit is confident that the Centre will soon provide an 'amicable solution' to the demand for a separate Frontier Nagaland Territory comprising the eastern districts of the state.

People in these eastern districts did not vote in the Lok Sabha elections and Urban Local Body polls following a call by the Eastern Nagaland Peoples' Organisation (ENPO) to press for their demand.

The ENPO has been demanding that the territory be carved out of Nagaland, alleging that the region has been neglected for decades in all aspects.

Addressing a press conference in Dimapur on Monday, state BJP president Benjamin Yepthomi said the Centre under the leadership of PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah assured that it was the responsibility of the NDA government to provide an amicable solution to the demand, which was more than a decade old.

'The solution concerning the ENPO issue is not far from now and it will be resolved very soon. The concern of ENPO is deep-rooted, genuine and legitimate,' he said, adding that their longstanding issues deserve a quick resolution.



Yepthomi said the party's state leadership will travel across Nagaland during the upcoming membership drive to connect directly with the people.

The BJP is committed to ensuring that the membership process is transparent and focused on genuine participation rather than mere numbers, he said. The drive will start on September 2 in the state, he added.

During the state-wide tour, the party will highlight the numerous initiatives undertaken by the NDA government at the Centre, he said.

'Our focus is on raising awareness about these achievements and inviting people to join us in our country's journey towards Viksit Bharat,' Yepthomi said. (IndiaTodayNE)



Injustice in the end produces independence.

— Voltaire

BOMB CULTURE CONTINUES IN IMPHAL; THREE PROSCRIBED MEITEI MILITANTS ARRESTED FOR EXTORTIONS, FIVE OTHERS LINKED TO FACTIONAL FIRING INCIDENT

In a clear case of complete breakdown of law and order situation in the Meiteis' valley of Imphal, suspected Meitei militants targeted the residences of three Board of Directors of the Salai Group of Companies with bombs last evening.

The attacks occurred at different locations, with varying outcomes. The first incident took place at the residence of Deepa Anand Akoijam in Kwakeithel Akham Leikai around 11 pm. The bomb exploded at the gate, causing damage to properties but no injuries. Subsequent attacks occurred at the residences of Mayengbam Tolenjao Mangang and Yumlembam Dolendro.

Bombs were thrown at Mangang's home in Lamboikhongkhong near Samusang around midnight and at Dolendro's residence in Lalambung Takhellambam Leikai at around 9 pm. This series of attacks follows previous incidents involving the Board Members of Salai Group.

Meanwhile, security forces have arrested three cadres of the proscribed outfit Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL) from the Changangei Uchekon area in Imphal West District. The arrested individuals have been identified as Oinam Milan Singh (52), Yumnam Ranbir Singh (51), and Khaidem Dhanabir Meitei (24). They were reportedly involved in extortion activities in and around the Imphal area, targeting local businesses and residents.

On the other hand, the security forces arrested five individuals involved in a factional clash incident of KCP (Ibungo) and KCP (Noyon) outfits at Koutruk, Imphal West, during the intervening night of Saturday.



The arrested individuals have been identified as Pukhrambam Binit alias Amar Meitei (19), Longjam Momocha alias Vishal Meitei (34), Thokchom Loyasana alias Yaiphaba (41), Wangkhem Dilip Meitei (45), and Ningthoujam Ibomcha Meitei (40), according to a statement issued by the police.

The exchange of fire resulted in injuries to three individuals - Pukhrambam Amar (22) of Mayang Langjing sustained a gunshot wound to his right knee, Moirangthem Alex (30) of Langthabal was injured in his left hand, and Laishram Gopen (39) from Tentha in Thoubal District also sustained injuries.

The chaotic situation of Imphal valley demands immediate re-imposition of AFSPA.



FEATURED ARTICLE

A Year Before Kolkata, the Supreme Court Took Over Manipur Rape Cases. Did This Result in Justice?

Rokibuz Zaman

On July 19 last year, a video of two Kuki women being paraded naked and assaulted by a mob of Meitei men led to nationwide outrage as it revealed how women in Manipur had faced sexual violence as the state slipped into a civil war-like situation.

A day after the video surfaced, the Supreme Court took suo motu cognizance of the case, calling it “deeply disturbing” – just as it intervened a few days ago in the rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata’s RG Kar Medical College. The 31-year-old medical professional’s death on August 9 has sparked massive protests in the capital of West Bengal.

In subsequent hearings last year, the court went on to order investigation into 17 cases of sexual violence against women and children in Manipur by the Central Bureau of Investigation and said that the investigations would be “monitored by this court”.

Scroll had reported on several of these cases, including the assault on four Kuki women, as well as the alleged rape of a Meitei woman.

The court appointed Dattatray Padsalgikar, former director general of police, Maharashtra, to supervise the special investigative teams or SITs of the CBI formed to probe these cases. The court also constituted a committee headed by former judge Gita Mittal to

inquire into the nature of violence against women in Manipur since ethnic clashes broke out between the majority Meitei and Kuki-Zo tribes on May 3, 2023.

A year later, however, lawyers representing several of the women and their families told Scroll, very little progress has been made in these cases despite the Supreme Court’s intervention. A chargesheet has been filed in one case, while there have been no arrests in several other cases. Many of them have not received any update from the SITs or the CBI about the probe.

Scroll contacted Padsalgikar, the former Maharashtra director-general of police supervising the SITs in these cases, asking for a status update. He declined to comment. We also emailed queries to Justice Mittal, who heads the three-member committee formed to probe cases of sexual violence in Manipur. The story will be updated if she responds.

The viral video

On May 4, a day after ethnic clashes erupted between Meiteis and Kukis in Manipur, two women from B Phainom village in Kangpokpi district fled their homes, afraid of approaching Meitei mobs.

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On the way, the mob caught up with the 44-year-old woman and her 21-year-old neighbour. The younger woman's father and son were allegedly lynched. Then the mob set on the women, stripped them, and paraded them, even while they were recording their assault.

The video of this violence became viral two months later, prompting the Supreme Court to act. Days after the Supreme Court took up the case, the Manipur police arrested seven "main accused" and handed them over to the CBI.

After the first hearing in July, the court heard all the cases related to Manipur violence again on August 7, 2023 when it noted the "tardy pace" of investigation by the Manipur police and the significant delays between the incidents of heinous crime and the recording of zero FIRs.

Eighteen days later, it asked the chief justice of the Gauhati High Court to nominate judicial officers from Assam, suggesting that it wanted the trial to be held outside Manipur.

Since then, the case has been listed at least 13 times for hearing before the Supreme Court. But there has been no substantive hearing on the sexual assault case, said a lawyer, who is representing the women in the video.

Last year on October 16, the Central Bureau of Investigation filed a chargesheet against the six men and one underage boy accused of stripping, parading and gang-raping the women.

"The chargesheet has been filed but the trial has not started," advocate Nizam Pasha, who also represents the Kuki victims seen in the video, told Scroll. "On this [sexual assault viral video], no hearing has taken place for a long time. They are not updating us on the status of the case."

The chargesheet revealed that the N Biren Singh government had not granted sanction to prosecute the accused under Section 153A, which is invoked in

cases of promoting enmity among different groups on the grounds of race. A government sanction is required in the cases under this broadly-worded provision as a safeguard against misuse.

It also revealed that no other arrests have been made in the case.

One of the main reasons the trial has not proceeded is that the Supreme Court has not decided its location, the lawyer said. The Supreme Court had said that all pre-trial procedures will take place under the jurisdiction and supervision of the Gauhati High Court, according to the lawyer. All the case records were transferred to the CBI judge in Guwahati.

"The next step is that the case has to go for trial," the lawyer said. "But the trial is itself in limbo as the court has not listed the matter for a hearing on the location of the trial. That's where it is stuck."

Manipur chief secretary Vineet Joshi on August 1 last year submitted in an affidavit that the investigation in the viral video case should be completed at the earliest and the trial should also be conducted in a time-bound manner "which must take place outside of Manipur".

Joshi urged the Supreme Court that "the entire case including trial be ordered to be transferred by Supreme Court in any state out of Manipur." "The power to transfer the case/trial outside any state is only with this [Supreme] court," the chief secretary had said. He also asked the court's directions "to conclude the trial within a period of six months from the date of the filing of chargesheet by the CBI".

However, 10 months after the chargesheet was filed by the CBI, the trial has not started.

Surprisingly, on March 11 this year, the Supreme

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Court sought a status report on whether any chargesheet has been filed in the 17 cases. It then directed the central agencies and the state of Manipur to file an updated status report within a period of two weeks.

Since then, there has been no update on the case, as evident in the court orders Scroll has seen. The most recent hearing was on August 5, when the court extended the tenure of the Justice Gita Mittal committee by another six months.

Alleged rape-murder of two Kuki women in Imphal
On May 4, 2023, around 5 pm, a large number of Meitei mobs had started attacking Kukis near a mill in Imphal, according to a police complaint.

Two Kuki women were attacked by one such mob.

According to a first information report lodged by the father of one of the woman, a mob of 100 people “raped, gruesomely tortured and murdered” his daughter and her friend.

The two women – one a 23-year-old woman, and the other a 24-year-old – were both employees at a car wash in the area.

The complainant said the mob included members of radical Meitei groups like Meitei Leepun, Aramboi Tenggol as well as other Meitei youth organisations.

On August 7, 2023, the Supreme Court had transferred the case to the CBI for investigation and prosecution.

A status report, filed by the Manipur government last year in August, had said that 37 witnesses have been examined in the case and the “investigation is in full swing”.

But advocate Vrinda Grover, who represents the families of two young women, said they have absolutely no information on the progress of the case. “The parents don’t know if any arrest has been made or if the chargesheet has been filed,” she told Scroll.

Grover added: “I have been told by the families of the two women that the CBI visited them once and recorded the statement of the mother of one woman victim and the father of the other victim in October- November 2023. Since then, they have no idea about the status of the case.”

Over a year later, she added, “their right to justice stands jeopardised.”

Rape, assault of 19-year-old Kuki woman

On May 15, last year, when the violence in Imphal had abated somewhat, a 19-year-old Kuki woman stepped out to draw some money from an ATM.

Since the violence had broken out, she had taken shelter in a Muslim household in Imphal’s New Checkon, waiting for the situation to improve so that she could travel to Kanpokpi district where the rest of her family had escaped.

That day, she was abducted by a gang of men, forced into a car, assaulted in three different locations across Imphal, before she escaped, as Scroll had reported. She had recounted to Scroll that Meitei women were part of the mob that assaulted her, and had egged the men on.

In a status report filed in the Supreme Court by Vineet Joshi, the state chief secretary, on August 1, 2023, had said that 20 witnesses were examined but the place of occurrence of rape was not yet established and the accused persons are still unidentified. “Efforts are afoot to identify the culprits and to cause [sic] arrest,” the chief secretary had said.

A police official posted at Imphal told Scroll that the Manipur police had made one arrest last year and the case was handed over to CBI. “The case is with the CBI now and there are no more details,” said the official, who did not want to be identified.

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Status: No information

On May 4, two Kuki women were dragged out of their Nightingale Nursing Institute Hostel in Imphal by a Meitei mob, thrashed and “left to die” by the side of the road outside their hostel.

In June last year, the two women had recounted their experience to Scroll – how two Meitei women were among the mob who entered the hostel looking for Kuki women. Though they initially pretended to be Nagas, their identity cards had revealed their identity.

One of the women, a 19-year-old first-year student, was flown to Delhi and admitted to the intensive care unit of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences’s trauma centre for her injuries.

No arrests have been made in the case, a Manipur police official told Scroll.

Similarly, a first information report had been filed at a police station in Bishnupur district in Manipur’s Imphal valley on August 9 last year, by a Meitei woman who alleged sexual violence during the clashes.

In the FIR, she had said she was sexually assaulted by a mob in Churachandpur district on May 3, the day ethnic clashes had broken out between the Meitei and Kuki communities.

Months later, in October, she had told Scroll how she and her sister were escaping from approaching Kuki mobs with their children that day, when she had fallen on the way – and been attacked by a group of men.

She said she had not confided to anyone about the assault, till she went to the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute of Medical Sciences in August to seek treatment. A doctor who examined her convinced her to file an FIR.

On September 2, Manipur police transferred the case to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

No arrest has been made in this case, two senior Manipur police officials said.

Statutory violations

A Delhi-based advocate, who has been representing the Kuki-Zo victims, said that the state’s failure to update the families about the cases violates the statutory provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989.

In cases of sexual assault and violence against women from Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste communities, the state has to formulate a scheme so that the victims, their dependents or associated organizations, are given timely information on the status of the investigation, and provided a copy of the chargesheet free of cost, once it has been filed, the advocate said.

“Even if we assume that the SIT and the CBI are functioning very well and they might have filed chargesheets which we don’t know, they clearly have not provided any information to any of the victims,” the advocate said. “So, it’s a clear statutory violation, even if we ignore the moral obligation the state has towards the victims.”

Advocate Grover pointed out that as the Supreme Court took suo motu cognisance of how “women’s bodies were targeted in the conflict” in Manipur, the “hopes and expectations” of the affected people were raised, that justice will be done and perpetrators held accountable.

“A year has since passed, and Manipur remains troubled. It is a challenge and a responsibility to develop mechanisms to ensure that the initial suo motu has a clear, substantive and time-bound follow-up,” she added. “So that the victims’ families, most of whom live very far from Delhi and many of whom are still in relief camps, don’t lose hope or give up on justice.”

Published by: [Scroll](#)

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



Gaurav Gogoi
@GauravGogoiAsm

What is about the Chief Minister of Manipur that Home Minister Amit Shah finds irreplaceable ?
Meanwhile Prime Minister Modi visits Ukraine but is allergic to travelling to Manipur.



Siddharth @svaradarajan · 2d

Manipur Tapes: CM's Brother, Arambai Tenggol Founder's Threats To 'Traitors' Who Leaked Tapes to 'Enemy' Contradict Biren's 'Doctored' Claim | @sangbarooahpish reports

thewire.in/government/man...

9:43 · 25 Aug 24 · 9,714 Views



Bpar @B7801011010

Somewhere in Manipur. The atrocities that we hear are 10%. The reality of cruelty is more than imagination.



20:51 · 26 Aug 24 · 10.4K Views



SELF-MANIFESTED
BIREN'S
COMPLICITY



THE MANIPUR TAPES



THE TRAITOR'S TALE

~ Diana Phiamphu

In shadows cast by virtue's light,
A figure stands, forsaken, blight.
Unbridled spirit, wild and free
A curse to all who call him "we."

The kin he scorns, the kin he spurns,
To distant goals his heart now burns.
For glory's gleam, for power's kiss,
He walks a path where honor's miss.

Outcast from the land of birth,
His name is smeared, his worth is dearth.
In family's eyes, a traitor's mark,
He weaves betrayal in the dark.

Bootlicker to the enemy's creed,
He feeds his hunger,
sows the seed Of discord in the sacred soil,
His people's dreams, he'll spoil.

For personal gain, he's cast his vow,
On treachery's altar, he bows.
For such a soul, no peace is due.
Cursed and belittled, this is his fate,
An outcast's tale, a traitor's state.