

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



M LETMINTHANG HAOKIP (34 YEARS)

S/O LHUNLIM HAOKIP

ADDRESS: PHAICHAMBUNG, TENGNOUPAL

DATE OF INCIDENT: 4TH AUGUST, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: UNKNOWN

CAUSE OF DEATH: MISSING SINCE 4TH AUGUST, 2023 AROUND 8:30 AM



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 11.09.2024



199
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.

DEMAND FOR UT INTENSIFIES AMID RECURRING FALSE PROPAGANDA AS COTU LAUNCHES TOTAL SHUTDOWN

Following a massive protest rally on Thursday, the Kuki-Zo community in Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi District, initiated a two-day total shutdown, denouncing the persistent false propaganda campaigns that have overshadowed the region since the outbreak of violence on May 3, 2023.

The shutdown, organized by the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), began at 6:00 a.m. this morning, bringing all types of businesses and private institutions, including schools, to a halt. Vehicular movement, except for exempted services, was completely restricted, with volunteers—predominantly Kuki-Zo women—monitoring key areas, including the National Highway 2 at Kangpokpi District Headquarters and Gamgiphai.

Exemptions for medical services, airport operations, religious activities, and media were closely monitored, requiring valid documentation for passage.

The Kuki-Zo women articulated their strong condemnation of what they describe as “recurring ethnocentric propaganda” perpetuated by the Meitei-dominated state government, a narrative they believe is designed to marginalize their community.

One protest leader emphasized, “The persistent falsehoods labelling the Kuki-Zo community as outsiders have reached an intolerable point. We are not immigrants; we are indigenous to this land.”

The uproar was further fueled by recent claims from the Chief Minister’s Office alleging that 900 Kuki militants had infiltrated Manipur from Myanmar.

The Kuki-Zo women leader stated that both the Director General of Police (DGP) and the state’s Security Advisor have publicly refuted and clarified the false propaganda regarding the influx of 900 Kuki militants into Manipur, which the state’s Security Advisor had earlier claimed was 100% correct.

“This is not just about politics; it’s about survival,” the



protest leader declared, questioning, “How much longer are we to endure these fabrications that only serve to strengthen the majoritarian rule and vilify our community?”

The shutdown highlights the Kuki-Zo women’s call for complete separation from the current governance structure of Manipur.

Advocating for a Union Territory with legislature, they argue that the rule of law has collapsed under a system dominated by armed militias and biased governance.

“Without a separate administration, the Kuki-Zo people are left with no guarantee of safety, security, or justice. We are denied our rightful place in a land where we have lived for generations,” she lamented, encapsulating the sentiment of the gathered crowd.

This protest marks the beginning of a series of demonstrations aimed at peaceful yet resolute self-determination, with organizers emphasizing that the leadership of Kuki-Zo women reflects the community’s strength and resilience in the face of adversity.

As tensions between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities remain high, the demand for a separate administration continues to grow, with reconciliation appearing increasingly distant.

KUKI NATIONAL ARMY DENOUNCES ALLEGATIONS OF ARMS SMUGGLING

The Kuki National Army (KNA) has strongly rejected recent allegations made by the S.P Tengnoupal office regarding the supposed escorting of arms, ammunition, and drugs from Myanmar. The statement, referenced as No. 20/(A)/SP TLP/2024/6684 and labeled "SECRET," claims that KNA cadres are involved in smuggling operations through the Haolenphal and T. Minou areas. The KNA called these allegations baseless and an attempt to tarnish the organization's reputation.

The KNA emphasized its firm commitment against drug and arms smuggling since entering a Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with the Government of India. In a statement, the organization urged the public not to fall victim to what it termed "cheap propaganda" from the current communal government in Manipur.

The KNA also referenced a recent controversial intelligence report allegedly from the Chief Minister's office, which claimed that approximately 900 Kuki militants had entered Manipur from Myanmar. They criticized the government for later retracting this claim due to lack of substantiated evidence, asserting that such misinformation damages the reputation of the Kuki community and undermines the government's credibility.

In light of these developments, the KNA has called for a thorough investigation into the motives behind the allegations and urged the S.P Tengnoupal to refrain



CLARIFICATION
The 27th September 2024

The false allegation made by S.P Tengnoupal office No. 20/(A) /SP – TLP/2024/6684 "SECRET" IN LIEU OF MSG FORM, under the caption ; 'KNA cadre will be escorting Arms and Ammunitions and Drugs from Myanmar through Haolenphai and T. Minou area' is baseless and connoted story just to tarnish the image of KNA.

The KNA had firm stand against smuggling of Drugs including Arms and Ammunitions since it came under SoO with the government of India. The Organization appeal the general public not to be misled by cheap propaganda of the present communal Manipur government and its machineries. Mention may be made the recent 'leaked' intelligence report coming from CM's office claiming 900 odd Kuki militants had entered Manipur from Myanmar which misled the entire nation and the U – turned made by this same government due to lack of substantiated evidence 'on ground' is to tarnish the image of the minority Kuki community and mockery to the present government itself. The entire nation in general and the Kuki community in particular will be very happy if competent authority investigate the motives behind this false and dangerous propaganda by the present communal state government and appropriate actions initiated as per relevant law of the country.

The Kuki National Army appeal to the S.P Tengnoupal not to propagate unconfirmed sources in the future and if any untoward incidents happen because of this false and baseless report, S.P Tengnoupal will be held responsible.

Sd/-
Stephen Kuki
Under Secretary
Deptt. of Information & Publicity
KNO/KNA

from spreading unverified information in the future. The KNA warned that any negative consequences arising from these claims would hold the S.P Tengnoupal accountable.



You cannot make a revolution in white gloves.

- Vladimir Lenin

SCHOOLS CLOSED IN LAMKA AMID SECURITY CONCERNS

In response to a directive from the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), all educational institutions in Lamka town remained closed today as part of a three-day shutdown that began this morning. The closure is aimed at protesting recent claims made by State Security Advisor Kuldiep Singh regarding the entry of 900 trained militants into Manipur, purportedly intending to attack Kuki villages on September 28.

Despite the school closures, business establishments across the district continued to operate as usual. The ITLF has expressed serious concerns about a planned attack on Kuki-Zo areas, viewing the security advisor's statements as a potential pretext for violence against these communities. The Manipur government later clarified that any such threats were "remote" and unsubstantiated.

The ITLF's advisory includes restrictions on travel outside Kuki-Zo areas, a border closure from September 26 to 29, and a total shutdown on September 28, with the



exception of emergency services. Residents are urged to remain vigilant, and medical teams have been placed on standby.

This escalation follows previous incidents in which violence erupted shortly after government announcements concerning militant activity, raising alarm among the Kuki-Zo community.



Kham Khan Suan Hausing
@kksuanh



My 2 cents @NewsX on the deliberate misinformation campaign to malign the Kukis as a threat to 'national security'. Now that the CM's office inverted its own ghost story its earlier claim of drone bomb & rocket attacks are anything but to deflect attention on #ManipurTapes



14:21 · 27 Sept 24 · 1,650 Views



Harmeet Kaur K
@iamharmeetK

Follow

Manipur: The House of a Kuki Priest the Last to Vacate Imphal Demolished

The failure to protect KukiZo properties is a direct violation of the Supreme Court's order. KukiZo homes are still being destroyed in Imphal under a broad daylight. What will it take for the govt. to act? @manipur_police Where are you now? This is New Lambulane right at the heart of Imphal. @NIA_India @CBIHeadquarters @jeegujja @SamKhongsai_ @haokipkim128 @RavinderKapur2 #MeiteiAtrocities #MeiteiWarCrimes #ProtectKukZoProperties



10:16 · 27 Sept 24 · 2,018 Views

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INDIAN CHURCH LEADERS SLAM MANIPUR TRANS ACTIVIST'S DEMAND

A controversial transgender activist has given a 10-day deadline to sack 10 indigenous Christian lawmakers who are elected members of the state assembly in India's strife-torn Manipur state.

Malem Thongam told media people in the state capital Imphal on Sept. 26 that she had written to Chief Minister N Biren Singh demanding the ouster of the legislators, all of whom belong to the Kuki-Zo tribal community.

Thongam further threatened to commit self-immolation in front of the chief minister's house if he failed to fulfill the demand.

"This ultimatum from Malem Thongam seems to be an attempt to divert the attention," said a Church leader from the troubled northeastern state, bordering civil war-hit Myanmar.

Thongam's interaction with the media came on the day the Manipur government issued a clarification on alleged infiltration by Kuki militants who were purportedly planning an attack on Meitei people on Sept. 28.

The news sparked widespread alarm last week but the government clarified on Sept. 26 that "while the information about the infiltration had been received and investigated from multiple sources, the verification process did not reveal any concrete evidence to substantiate these claims."

Thongam is known as a government sympathizer and belongs to the Meitei community like the chief minister who is from the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Church leader who did not want to reveal his name due to security reasons said, "Maybe the government wants to divert the attention of the media and the people" after its false claim was exposed.



The government's claim that "900 highly trained Kuki militants armed with sophisticated weapons" were entering the state from Myanmar was also denied by the Indian army, he added.

The false alarm caused the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) to issue a four-day travel advisory for the Kuki-Zo tribal people, who mostly live in the hilly region, fearing a retaliatory attack from the rival Meitei gangs.

The tribal people were cautioned against traveling out of their areas until Sept. 29. The ITLF also asked schools, institutions, and other offices to shut down and put its "village volunteers" on high alert.

The Church leader said the government desperately wanted an issue "to save its face after the major fiasco."

Meanwhile, Thongam claimed the indigenous tribal legislators were violating the Indian constitution by supporting the Kuki militants.

She was forced to take "this extreme step" as the government refused to take action against the Kuki-Zo legislators, Thongam claimed.

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“If the activist was sincere, she should have asked for the removal of the chief minister who is unable to contain the violence even after 16 months,” the Church leader said.

He said the demand has no legal standing as the elected representatives of the people cannot be removed just because someone was demanding it.

Thongam tried to stage a protest on Sept. 26 at Lamlong Bazar in Imphal East but police prevented her from it.

The hilly state, bordering civil war hit Myanmar in Southeast Asia, has been on the boil since May 3 last year.

Tribal Christians, who make up 41 percent of the 3.2 million people in Manipur, are against the move by the state government to confer tribal status on the Meitei

community, who account for 53 percent and stay in the valleys.

This would enable them to avail benefits under India’s affirmative action policy which is currently reserved for tribal people. The Meitei could also buy land in the tribals’ hilly region.

The unprecedented violence since then has claimed over 220 lives and displaced more than 60,000 people, most of them Christians.

Over 11,000 houses and more than 360 churches and Church-run institutions have been set on fire.

The Catholic Church has a diocese in the troubled state, based in Imphal and headed by Archbishop Linus Neli. (UCA News)

ARSON ATTACK ON KUMBI SDC OFFICE IN BISHNUPUR DISTRICT

Unknown assailants torched the office of the Sub-Deputy Commissioner (SDC) at Kumbi in Manipur’s Bishnupur district on Thursday night. The incident occurred around 9 PM, causing significant damage to the building and its contents.

According to reports, the fire destroyed the offices, the main door, windows, and several land records. Local residents alerted the Kumbi police station, and officers promptly arrived to extinguish the flames and prevent further damage.

The motive behind the arson remains unclear, and police have launched an investigation to identify and apprehend the perpetrators. A case has been registered in connection with the incident. M Premchandra, the sitting MLA from the Kumbi Assembly constituency in Manipur, and local women vigilantes (Meira Paibis) have issued an ultimatum to the arsonists to surrender to the police, MLA, or Meira Paibis by October 2, 2024.



Premchandra strongly condemned the attack on public property, especially during the ongoing ethnic crisis in the state.

No group or individual has claimed responsibility for the arson as of yet. (NENow)





NEWS ANALYSIS

Be Hell on Kuldeep Singh and CMO: MHA Must Fix Immediate Accountability for Unsubstantiated Intel Input

It was terribly mischievous and untenable that the State's Security Adviser, Mr. Kuldeep Singh, in collusion with the Meitei's communal Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, incited potential violence by peddling false intelligence against the Kuki-Zo people.

In a U-turn, Manipur's Security Adviser Kuldeep Singh and Director-General of Police (DGP) Rajiv Singh said in a joint statement on Wednesday (September 25, 2024) that the intelligence regarding the infiltration of 900 trained Kuki militants from Myanmar to carry out attacks on the Meitei people on September 28 "could not be substantiated on the ground."

"There is no basis currently to believe in any such input," the officers said in a joint statement. The information was initially sent by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's office on September 16 to the Security Adviser and DGP, after which a high alert was issued across the state.

Earlier, Mr. Kuldeep Singh had purposefully spread false information, stating that the government had intelligence inputs regarding the entry of "900 Kuki militants" on September 28, and "unless proven wrong, it is 100% correct."

By spreading such unsubstantiated intelligence, simply to malign or vilify the minority Kuki-Zo people, Kuldeep Singh has diminished the credibility of his intelligence agencies and undermined the trust in his position.

The purported intelligence about "900 Kuki militants from Myanmar" has now been exposed as a misinformation campaign designed to divert attention from the leaked audio tape involving N. Biren Singh.

Are N. Biren Singh and Kuldeep Singh playing with fire? What is really happening inside the Chief Minister's Office and the Security Adviser's Office?

This unsubstantiated intelligence, which promotes a fabricated narrative to selectively target one particular group, reveals that Kuldeep Singh, as head of security in Manipur, has compromised his integrity and rendered his role partisan.

Is this how a government operates in a sensitive region engulfed in a long-running ethnic conflict?

The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, should take cognizance of this matter and hold N. Biren Singh's Secretary, N. Goffery, and Security Adviser Kuldeep Singh accountable for the mischievous intelligence inputs, especially on such sensitive issues. Action must be taken against them for harming the reputation of the Kuki community.

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Since the beginning of the state-sponsored ethnic pogrom against the Kuki-Zo people, security intelligence reports from the communal Manipur Police and the Chief Minister's Office seem to be drawn from thin air rather than being based on facts. The Meitei-led government has lost all credibility, relying solely on lies and false narratives. It is shameful that the Indian government allows N. Biren Singh to make a mockery of the Central Security forces and intelligence agencies.

The only thing Biren Singh has been consistent with is fueling panic at intervals, instigating and provoking the Meitei people against the Kukis. His intention is to defame, malign, discriminate against, and further marginalize the already persecuted Kuki-Zo tribes.

The baseless "intelligence" has now been exposed as part of a political agenda aimed at discrediting the Kuki community. The Security Adviser must take full responsibility for any resulting violence or resign immediately. He should also issue a public apology for the harm caused to Kuki-Zo sentiments and for tarnishing their image in national media. In his

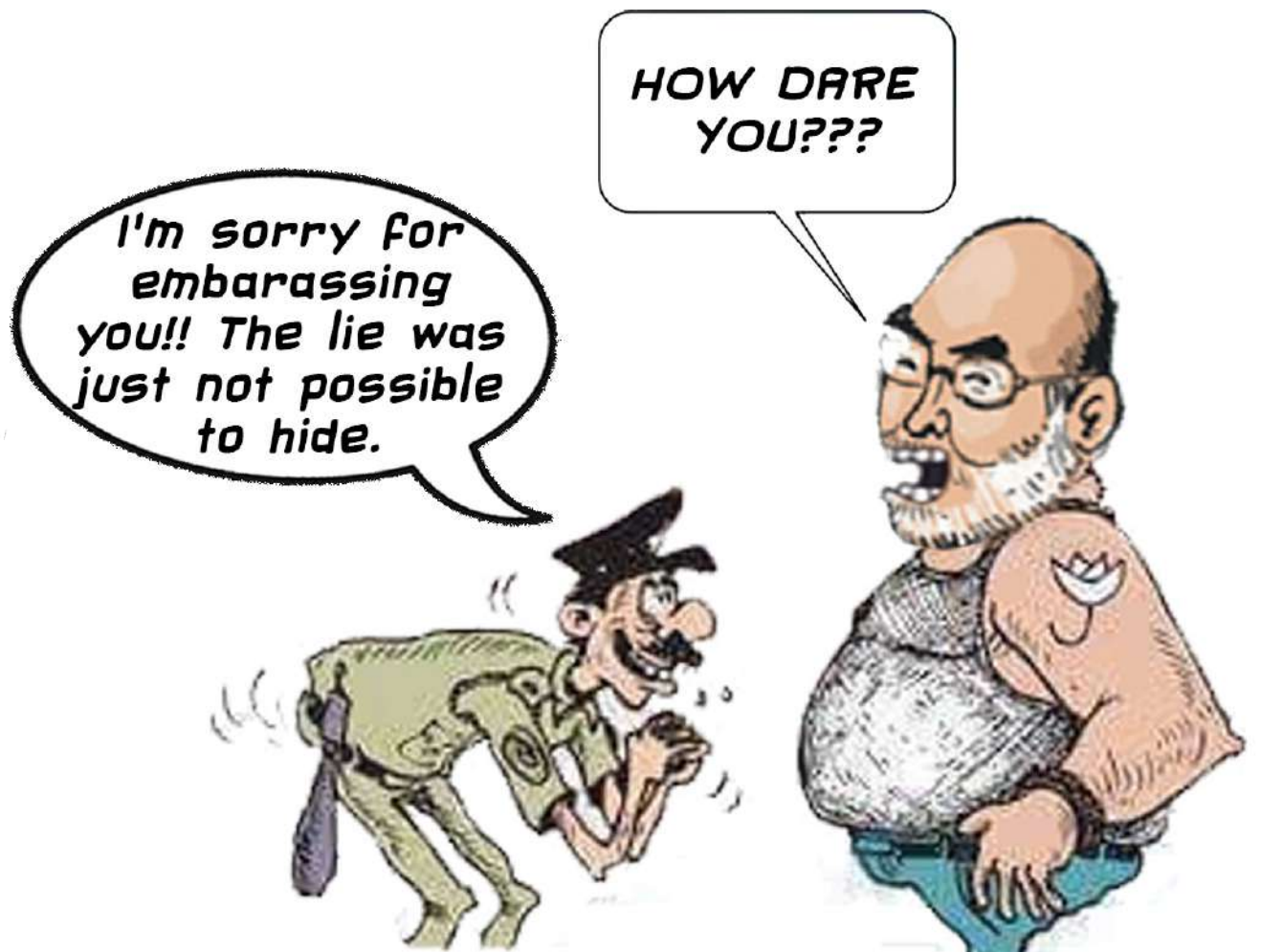
capacity as state security adviser, he must cease perpetuating the false narrative of Biren Singh and his associates.

As a consequence of these fake intelligence reports, the so-called 'IMA LEIBAK KANBA LUP,' a Meitei civil organization, has openly called for genocide against the Kuki people. This is a direct result of Biren Singh's hate-filled agenda. One can now infer that the "intelligence" that Kuldeep Singh and Biren Singh allegedly had was never meant for security purposes but was instead intended to "preemptively strike the Kuki-Zo" with lethal weapons like MMGs. This is a serious national security issue, and the Union Home Ministry should investigate this warmongering organization.

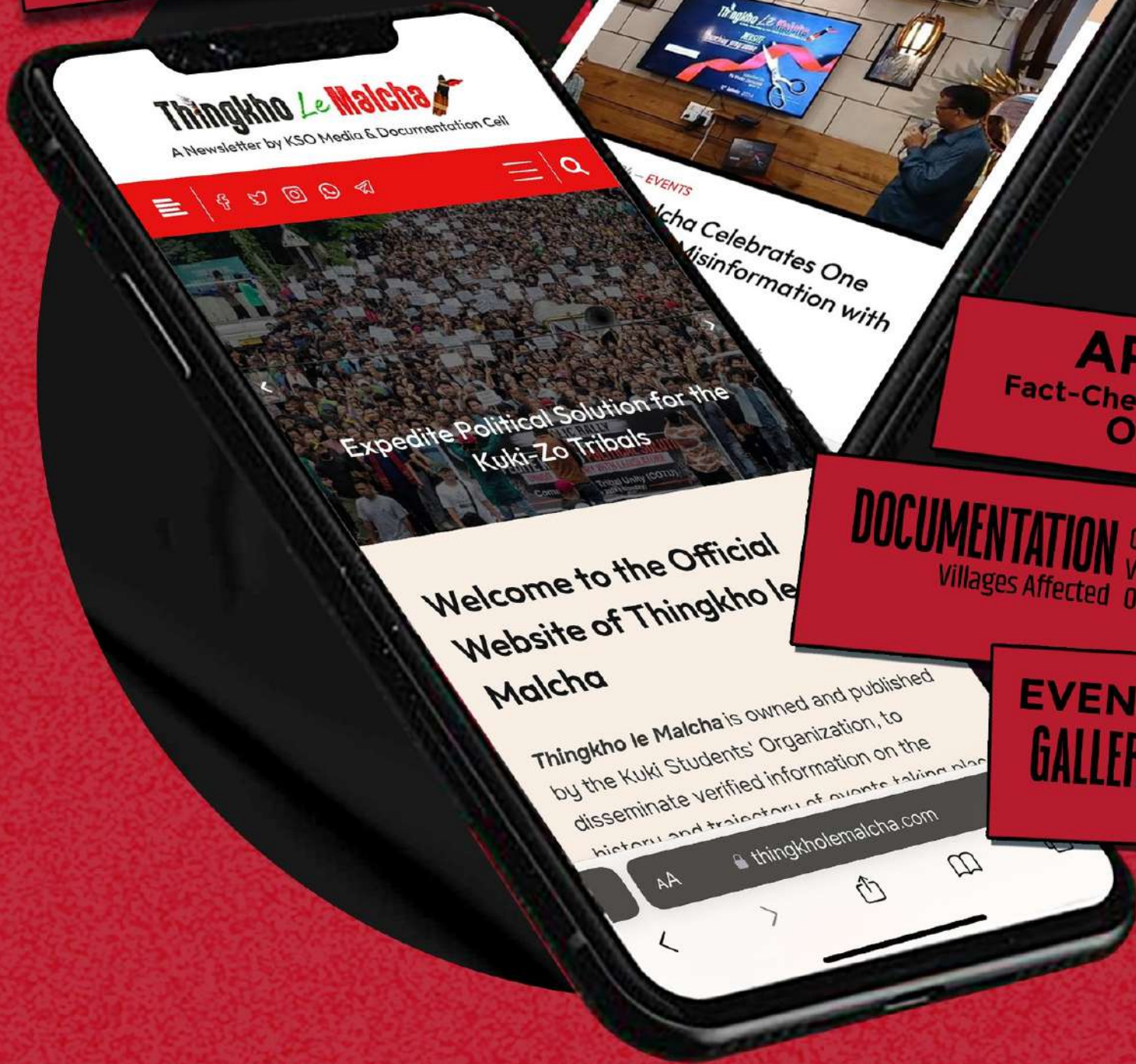
Notably, since the conflict began, the Kukis have been targeted without any concrete evidence. They have had to flee for their lives, subjugated and exploited, and unfairly framed in national media for acts they are unfamiliar with. Justice must prevail!



**THE
REVELATION
OF THE TRUTH
ON 900
MILITANTS
INTRUSION**



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ECHOES OF PAIN

In erstwhile Manipur's hills and valleys side,
A tale of pain, the Kukis cannot hide,
Forced from homes, with tears and fearful sighs,
Their cries echo, through the troubled skies.

Burnt villages, charred and gray,
Lives lost, futures faded away,
Displacement camps, a temporary fate,
People scattered, as fate awaits.

Innocent lives, caught in crossfire's might,
A cycle of violence, a never-ending night,
For peace and calm is a distant dream,
The Kukis suffer, their story unseen.

The rich culture now dimmed by violence,
As voices silenced hopes remain astray,
For the Kukis suffer, day by day.

But we still they hold on to our pride,
The resilience is a beacon inside,
The Kukis will rise, because our story is TRUE.

~ Diana Phiamphu