

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



KHAIMANG GUTE (52 YEARS)

S/O NGAMPAO GUTE

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.

KUKI-ZO WOMEN CONTINUE PROTEST AGAINST PROPOSED WITHDRAWAL OF ASSAM RIFLES DEPLOYED IN BUFFER ZONES

In a determined move against the proposed withdrawal of Assam Rifles from the Buffer Zone of Kangvai, situated between the Kuki-dominated Lamka district and Meiteis' Bishnupur districts, the Kuki-Zo women have continued to initiate a robust protest 24x7 in front of the Assam Rifles Post in Churachandpur district.

Under the aegis of Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum Women Wing, hundreds of the Kuki-Zo women hold duty day and night to prevent withdrawal of the Assam Rifles in Kangvai area of Kuki-Zos' Lamka.

The protest, which began last week, reflects the community's deep-seated concerns about security and stability in the area.

Earlier this month, on August 2 and 3, the Kuki-Zo people staged a massive, peaceful demonstration at all the Kuki hill areas urging the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister to reconsider the decision to withdraw Assam Rifles from the Buffer Zones.

The Kuki-Zo community argued that the presence of Assam Rifles is crucial for maintaining peace and security in the region, given the history of ethnic tensions. They have warned that they would escalate their protests if the government proceeds with the removal of Assam Rifles.

In response to these concerns, women from the Kuki-Zo community have taken the lead in the ongoing protests, positioning themselves at the 9 Assam Rifles Post in Kangvai to monitor the movement of the paramilitary forces closely.

The buffer zones, established by the Ministry of Home Affairs in May 2023, have been maintained by the Assam Rifles to separate the warring Meitei and Kuki communities and prevent further violence in the conflict-ridden state.



The protesters said, "The Assam Rifles have been instrumental in stabilising the situation in Manipur's buffer zones. Their removal at this volatile time could undo the progress made towards peace and potentially lead to a resurgence of violence."

The Kuki-Zo community acknowledges the Assam Rifles' long-standing presence in the northeast, emphasising their familiarity with the region's terrain and socio-political dynamics, as well as the trust they have earned from local communities. They fear that the move to withdraw a "non-partisan force like Assam Rifles" could lead to a resurgence of violence.

Earlier, Army has directed the relocation of the two AR battalions from Manipur to Nagaland, where they will relieve two other battalions. Those relieved battalions would be redeployed in J&K. Assam Rifles, despite being a paramilitary force, has a dual control structure, with the Army overseeing operational control and home ministry handling administrative supervision

Currently, the two Assam Rifles battalions are deployed in Manipur's Kangvai along the Churachandpur-Bishnupur border, and Kangchup on the Kangpokpi-Imphal (East) inter-district borders.

KUKI APEX BODY ENDORSES GLOBAL-WIDE RALLY OVER LEAKED AUDIOTAPES INVOLVING N. BIREN SINGH'S PREMEDITATED VIOLENCE

The Kuki Inpi, an apex body of Kuki Tribes, has unequivocally endorsed the global-wide rally organized by the Kuki Inpi and the Kuki Students' Organisation over the audiotapes of N. Biren Singh, the chief minister of Manipur, which exposes his pre-planned ethnic cleansing pogrom against the Kuki-Zo people.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, the Kuki Inpi said the rally, organised to be held on August 31, is a united response to the recent and shocking revelation of a leaked audio recording involving N. Biren Singh.

"The leaked audio, revealing the premeditated and state-sponsored nature of the genocide against our people and the involvement of N. Biren Singh demands a pressing need for collective action and solidarity," it said.

In light of these developments, the Kuki Apex Body stated that it was crucial for all the Kuki-Zo people to come together in a unified voice against the systemic violence perpetrated under the patronage of the Manipur state government.

It called upon all federating units of Kuki Inpi Manipur, and all Kuki-Zo civil society organisations around the globe to lend their full support to the proposed rally and resolutely stand up for their rights and dignity as equal citizens of the country.

"Together, we can make a meaningful impact and advance the principles of justice and equality for the Kuki-Zo people," said the Kuki Inpi Manipur.

Mention may be made that The Wire's three-part 'Manipur Tapes' series on an audio file provided to the Commission of Inquiry set up by the Ministry of Home Affairs to inquire into the Manipur violence has garnered reactions from several politicians, political parties and bodies.



The file, claimed to be a recording of chief minister, N. Biren Singh, would be evidence of official complicity in the ongoing civil war that has been raging in Manipur since May 3, 2023.

Congress MP Jairam Ramesh had called the reports shocking. "This needs to be thoroughly and properly investigated," he wrote.

Rashtriya Janata Dal MP Manoj Jha wrote multiple posts on X. "Thanks [Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty] for uncovering the 'cover-up'... Let us hope 'Delhi' finally wakes up to acknowledge...," Jha wrote.

He also quoted operative parts from the reports in a post: "Biren ji!", "Haan sir!" "Arre! Tum bomb marta hai?" [laughter in the background].

Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh had also consistently posted on the piece, adding the audio clips to his posts. "Listen to how Manipur CM is inciting people against a community," he wrote, with a link to an audio tape.

"I raised the issue of Manipur violence in the House and I was suspended for 11 months," he wrote, in

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another post mentioning the 30-second video clip recorded on May 4, featuring two Kuki-Zo women being paraded naked and being groped by a sizeable mob of men belonging to the Meitei community in Kangpokpi district. Singh called the purported 'bomb' exchange an "explosive" revelation.

The Trinamool Congress had posted through its official handle that the alleged revelation is a "crime committed by CM Biren Singh."

"Audio tapes reveal that [BJP]-led State Administration

in strife-torn Manipur:

Authorised the use of mortar bombs
Shielded looters of arms
Facilitated politically-motivated arrests
Deepened the divide between
Meitei and Kuki communities

"This isn't just a failure – it's a CRIME committed by CM [Biren Singh] and HM [Amit Shah] who kept him in power!

TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: AUGUST 28, 2023

A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON AUGUST 28, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

At around 8:00 PM, an incident unfolded in the Torbung Area of Kuki-Zo territory. Manipur Police Commandos attempted to enter the territory, triggering a response from local Village Volunteers who were prepared with firearms to deter their progress. The situation escalated when central security forces present in the area intervened, preventing the commandos from

advancing further into the Kuki-Zo territory.

Amid the intervention, gunshots were heard, and explosive devices were reportedly deployed. Fortunately, no casualties were reported on the Kuki-Zo side.



**Only if we understand, will we care.
Only if we care, will we help. Only if we
help shall all be saved.**

- Jane Goodall

TNL SEEK NHRC AID IN AFSPA, FMR WITHDRAWAL IN NAGA AREAS

The Tangkhul Naga Long (TNL), the apex body of the Tangkhul Naga tribe in Manipur, has appealed to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India for decisive intervention in removing the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) and reversing the Centre's decision to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) from Naga-inhabited areas. The TNL has raised concerns about the moral, constitutional, and civilizational untenability of these actions.

In a memorandum recently submitted to NHRC Acting Chairperson Vijaya Bharati Sayani, TNL President Sword Vashum highlighted the historical and ongoing issues faced by the Naga people due to AFSPA. He described the Act as a "Colonial Relic" that has remained in place since India's Independence, continuing to oppress the Naga population for over six decades.

"For a centuries-old civilization and in any democratic country, such a draconian law to control and deal with their own populace is, to say the least, an unmitigated slur, most appropriately, a curse on the democratic credentials and civilization of India," said Vashum, who served as an IAAS officer before being elected as the 42nd President of TNL on May 22, 2024.

Vashum questioned the sincerity of the Government of India, stating, "Do we Nagas have to live, ever believing that the entire intent and will of the Government of India is to lock us up in the prison of fear, injustice, and prejudice? Would you dare imagine having your own people locked up even for a year in such a prison? Surely not! If so, why these double standards?"

He further argued that the total untenability of AFSPA is evident in the government's contradictory actions. Despite acknowledging that the Naga issue is political and worthy of a political solution, the government continues to use AFSPA as a tool of control, even as a ceasefire has been in place for decades. "Self-contradiction of absurd proportion!" Vashum exclaimed.

Vashum also condemned the selective application of AFSPA, pointing out that while the law has been lifted in the Imphal Valley—where the epicenter of violence is located—it remains in effect in Naga-inhabited areas. He accused the government of harboring an "incurable

prejudice" against the Nagas and of seeing "ghosts where none exist."

The TNL urged the NHRC to advocate for the removal of AFSPA from Naga-inhabited areas, arguing that this would restore the democratic, moral, and constitutional integrity of India. "Only then can we Nagas be certain that the Government of India and the Indian people have, at long last, recognized the God-given identity and honor of the Nagas," the memorandum stated.

The TNL also expressed its deep concern over the Government of India's decision to scrap the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the Indo-Myanmar border, a move ostensibly intended to contain the fallout from the ongoing Meitei-Zo Kuki conflict. Vashum described the FMR's removal as an "utterly inhuman and arbitrary" action that continues the colonial legacy of dividing Naga-inhabited areas between India and Myanmar.

"Not content with how much we Nagas have had to suffer unimaginable trauma of physical and emotional separations as a legacy of the British colonial saga, GOI has now decided to double down on the colonial legacy by erecting fencing walls to put an end to our Blood Relationship. This is simply a naked attempt to destroy our identity and existence as a people and therefore, we shall not accept it. Overt and covert attempt to snuff out blood relationship is the most brutal violation of human rights," he said.

He further argued that such actions amount to the "most brutal violation of human rights" and called on the Indian government to extend basic human compassion to the Naga people.

Vashum expressed hope that, despite the challenges, the Nagas are not giving up because they trust the NHRC to deliver justice. "'Before your august body, we say here and now, we Nagas are not wild animals that we should be fenced off and segregated into your sanctuaries," maintained Vashum," he declared.

SECURITY FORCES ARREST 5 MILITANTS IN MAJOR CRACKDOWN; ARMS AND VEHICLES SEIZED

In a series of coordinated operations, security forces and police in Manipur have successfully apprehended several cadres from proscribed militant outfits and made significant seizures.

On August 26, security forces arrested two militants belonging to the banned outfit KYKL at Wangjing Heirok crossing under Thoubal District. Police identified the arrested persons as Narengbam Gobin Sing (37) and Moirangmayum Romantic alias Prem (27) reportedly in possession of one 9mm pistol along with a magazine, one SMG carbine along with a magazine, a mobile phone along with a SIM card, five live rounds of ammunition and one four-wheeled vehicle registered in the name of one dwelling at Sangaiyumpham under Thoubal District.

One Kojiam Uperjit Singh, aged about 29 years and working as a cadre under the proscribed outfit KCP (Taibangnganba), was arrested by a team of Manipur Police from Elangkhanpokpi in Kakching District on the intervening night of August 26 and 27.



In another similar operation, police conducted a massive search operation in Bishnupur District after arresting four cadres of KCP (PWG) on August 26, 2024. They recovered a shelter house of KCP (PWG) in the Kamong area and recovered six four-wheeler vehicles along with combat dress, boots, belts, sleeping bags, blankets, bulletproof vests, helmets, and cooking utensils. The operations to trace the remaining militants are continuing.

-India Today NE



Hansraj Meena @HansrajMeena

"बस अब बहुत हुआ, मैं निराश और भयभीत हूँ।"

#NeverForget #Manipur

Translated from Hindi by Google

"Enough is enough, I'm frustrated and scared."

#NeverForget #Manipur



19:57 · 28 Aug 24 · 17.5K Views



M. Nageswara Rao IPS (Retired) @MNageswarRaoIPS

Follow

This saying in Telugu, "తల్లికి అన్నం పెట్టడం చేతగానోడు పిన్నమ్మకు గాజులు చేయిస్తాడు" which means a fellow who is incapable of even feeding his own mother promises to gift gold bangles to his maternal aunt (mausi), aptly applies to Modi.

#Manipur has been burning for nearly 2 years. Genocidal war is raging on #BangladeshHindus in our neighbourhood. But Modi is incapable of handling let alone resolving them. Yet, he wants to end Russia-Ukraine War.



9:02 · 28 Aug 24 · 5,558 Views





OPINION

Beyond Spiritualism: The Need for the Professionalisation of Politics

It's been more than a year since the ethnic cleansing war was waged upon the Kuki by the Meitei in Manipur. Despite the unprecedented cataclysmic event that has befallen us we have managed to survive and are still hopeful of a favourable political solution in the form of what we call 'Separate Administration' in one form or the other. By now it is clear without an iota of doubt the state government's complicity in the violence and the wilful disregard of the central government in ignoring what is happening. This is objectionable and unacceptable in a democratic country beyond measure. But this is our sad reality. There is only little we can do about them. Now that the initial violence has subsided; with more space to breathe, think and analyse dispassionately let us look within ourselves to find a way to win this complex political game. I opined that; we stop the over-spiritualisation of politics but rather move towards professionalisation of politics.

We over-spiritualise politics: Why?

One of the major reasons for the failures of our politics as I see is due to the over conflation of spirituality and politics. Spirituality here I mean what we generally call (Lhagao thu/Pathen Thu) in normal parlance. We have over-spiritualised everything including politics. This is

why we see every problem and solution through the lens of spiritualism. Due to this conflation, we have misdiagnosed our political problem and subsequently, our hope for any political solutions is misplaced. Therefore, it is time to professionalise politics like any other field if we wish to see progress, and development and achieve our political goals.

In retrospect, we can see that at the incipient stage of the escalation of violence and until now our first social and political reflex was to pray and urge others to do the same-leaders and commoners alike. There are a lot of us who consider this war as something akin to what G.K. Chesterton called 'God's megaphone to rouse our spiritually deaf society'. Hence our solution has always been to set right with God and then the political solution will ensue. This appears to be a deep-seated systematic model imprinted in the mind of our society and in our leaders. But I suppose it is wrongly conceived taking into consideration the complexity and sophistication of the modern political game. This creates a huge chasm between our political aspiration, strategy and our current situation.

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But I must admit, it was indeed a great comfort as a believer to see people lining along the highway, kneeling and praying to God though I am doubtful of its efficacy to keep that as the sole strategy in politics. Fortunately, or unfortunately, not only the common populace but even our top leaders have subscribed to this framework of analysing and diagnosing political problems through the lens of spirituality. The belief that the Kuki are 'Manmasi, the lost tribe of Israel', political leaders divinely anointed, political destiny divinely appointed, and political success divinely guaranteed are rampant and deeply engrained in our feeble minds. It might still be fresh in many people's memory of the 'Nampi Maicham' held on 10 March 2011 at Old Mission Compound, Songpi under the self-style spiritual leadership of Nu Parchi and Nu Mawii of which the clamour of hope it roused which now fades with each passing day. Until today, social media is occasionally flooded with criticism of leaders in religious places engaging in spiritual activity while the nation is at the peak of violence and war. A situation that merits deeper contemplation.

Though unpleasant this predicament is, our natural inclination and first resort to spirituality is understandable. Christianity has taken sway more than necessary in our social and political life. There is an imbalance in spiritual and political education. Our spiritual (religious) education and intelligence have far outweighed our political education and intelligence. To have a closer look, on average there are seven church services in a week, beyond that we have family devotion, bible studies, fasting prayer, bible competition, retreat, bible camp, conference, and a host of other spiritual activities. In all of these events, we are taught from the bible or inferences being drawn from the Bible. Even the most illiterate one in any village knows a lot more about the Bible, Jewish history, culture, and religion than we know about our history, society and politics for we all subscribe to the Judeo-Christian faith. But I must admit that reaching this level of indoctrination

by any measure is not an easy feat. Spirituality now serves as the bedrock of our cognitive-framework in almost every aspect of our lives.

Professionalise politics while keeping spirituality at its place:

We have invested an enormous amount of our mind, energy, time, resources, organisation and discussion on spiritual matters. While our investment in spirituality is plausible, we need to also think of the implication it has on our society and politics. The noble impact of spirituality in our society is indeed enormous. But we need not use this framework everywhere. We need to see the political problem as a technical problem that requires a technical solution. If we can look at it this way, we will see that politics requires technical skills, knowledge, and expertise to solve the problem. Our political history as I see it is one replete with the death of many political opportunities and the wastage of political resources due to misdiagnoses of political problems due to the absence of political professionals. Political skills will generate possibilities and outcomes even in a complex situation. We need artful, skilful politicians, who are clear on the goal, with proper strategy, skills of negotiation, mobilization etc, especially in such a time as this.

Just to make an example out of someone in our current situation, Pu Paolienlal Haokip MLA from Saikot constituency seems to be the de-facto spokesperson for all of the politicians. This is due to his clear political vision, commitment to his people, his level of articulation, and his knack for understanding and providing suitable responses to complicated issues to his political issues and rivals. He has the knowledge and skills if not all

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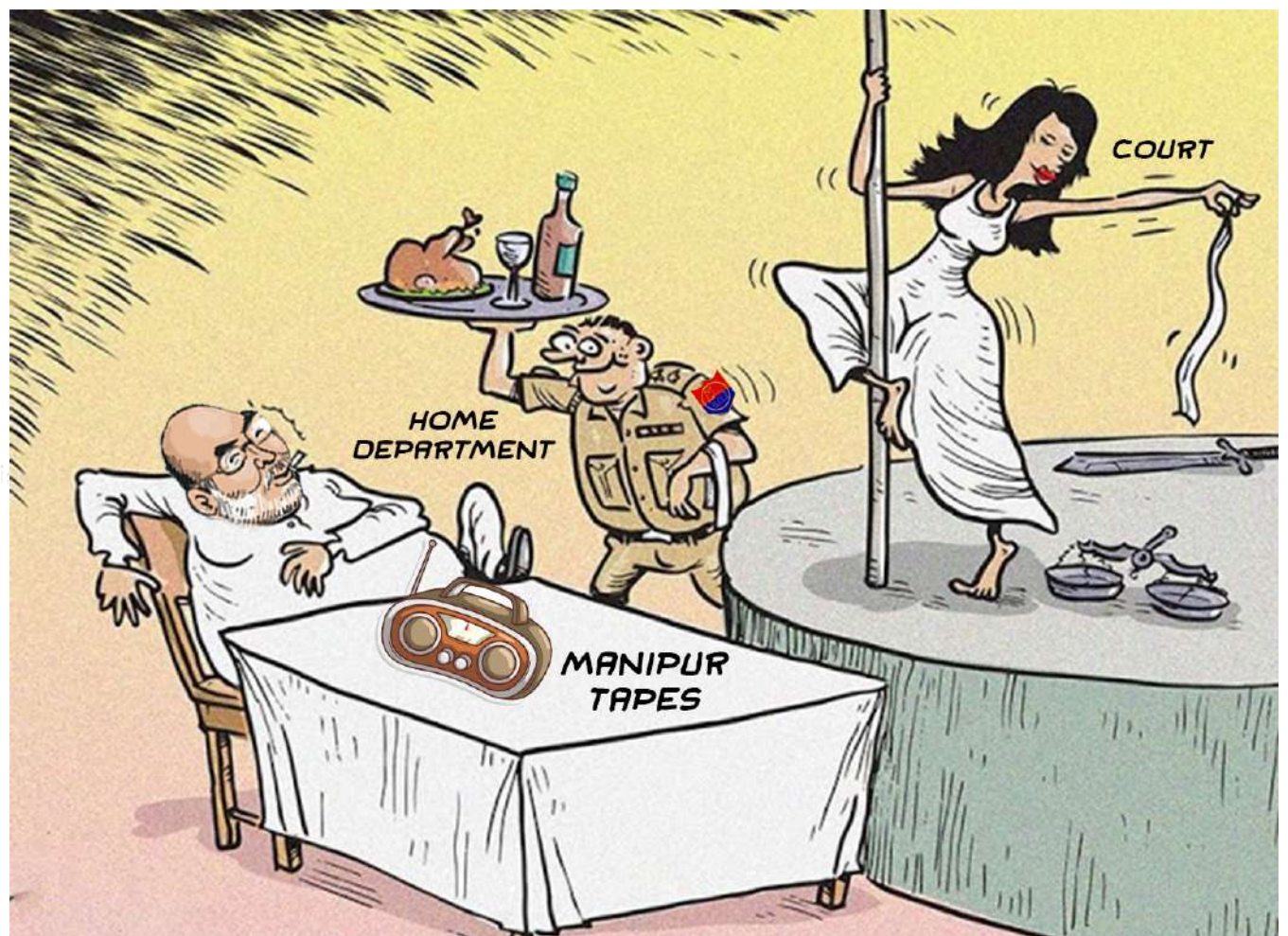
to navigate these muddy waters of Manipur politics. We are all indeed happy to have him. Another aspiring politician that we can look up to is Dr. Lamtinhang Haokip. His famous Facebook post warning of imminent threat and danger in Manipur will forever be known as Cassandra's prophecy for our society. We can only imagine and wonder how things could have turned out had we paid heed and responded to those well-informed warnings. They might not necessarily be the ideal for all of us but at this juncture, they are the type of political players we need to elect or select. Sadly, until today we have leaders who still look and believe in spiritual signs, symbols and prophecy to understand our political problems and for political solutions. Therefore, we need to move beyond spiritualism towards seeing and practising politics as a distinct field, an art form that requires specific knowledge, skills, and mindset. We need political professionals to head politics and the mass not to be spiritual bigots. The general

mindset (philosophy/narrative) of the people also have to change. We need to change the way we diagnose political problems at all levels. For this, we need to invest as much if not more in terms of time, resources, energy, and mind as we do for the spiritual subject matters.

We need more space for a dispassionate discourse to understand our political problems, organise political conferences, generate ideas, develop strategy, skills, the art of narrative building, and rebuttal allegations without fear of any reprisal. By any stretch of imagination, we will all know by now that this conflict is not the end game, but the beginning of a protracted political battle. To achieve our political aspiration, with due respect our old ideas, leaders, strategies and institutions must give way to the rising new ones. Let's professionalise politics.



THE MANIPUR TAPES PARTY





IN THE LAND OF MY PEOPLE

- Dr Chinkholal Thangsing

Where My People Speak the Truth Without Fear
and Live Together in Peace and Harmony.

Where the Kuki Zo Brethren Tribes
begin to actually begin to speak up the truth
without fear and with their head held high

Where their land is free from hatred and corruption
but filled with Love and understanding.

Where their land is not been broken up into fragments
By narrow ethnic, clan fanaticism,
minor petty domestic bamboo fences and mud walls.

Where words of peace and reconciliation come out
from the depths of truth from the core of their heart.

Where they all tirelessly strive and stretches their arms
raise in unison towards perfect unison
crying for oneness long overdue.

Where the clear stream of reason is not lost
but recovered and they imbibe the truth without selfishness
they hold on for too long.

Where their mind is led forward by the mighty hands
of the Almighty they all professed to have worship.