

Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



JAMKHO THANG @ JACOB TOUTHANG (37 YEARS)

H/O MARY LAMNEICHONG

ADDRESS: T. CHANGVAIPHAI, LAMKA

DATE OF DEATH: 27TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: SUONGDO, LAMKA

CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOT DEAD 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.

ITLF CRITICIZES COCOMI'S DEMAND FOR REMOVAL OF ASSAM RIFLES AMID MANIPUR CONFLICT

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) has responded sharply to the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity's (COCOMI) recent demand for the removal of the Assam Rifles from the state. The call for the paramilitary force's removal comes amidst ongoing ethnic tensions and violence in Manipur, primarily affecting the minority Kuki-Zo tribes.

The ITLF accused the Meitei community, which forms the majority in the region, of targeting the Assam Rifles due to the force's extensive knowledge and experience in local geopolitics. According to the ITLF, the Assam Rifles' impartiality has hindered the Meitei's attempts to marginalize the Kuki-Zo tribes using state machinery.

One of the key incidents highlighting the conflict occurred on June 2, 2023, in Sugnu. An Assam Rifles truck reportedly blocked the entrance to a police station to prevent Meitei police commandos from leading mobs to attack tribal villages. Drone footage obtained by the ITLF allegedly shows police vehicles leading groups as they torched Kuki-Zo homes in Sugnu. Survivors from the surrounding villages have recounted similar experiences, claiming Meitei mobs were led by police and members of the Arambai Tenggol.

COCOMI's accusations against the Assam Rifles, claiming they acted against Meitei interests in Sugnu and Serou, have been deemed contradictory by the ITLF. The majority of the villages burned in these areas belonged to the Kuki-Zo community, and the once-cosmopolitan town of Sugnu is now reportedly under complete Meitei control.

Despite facing hardships from the Assam Rifles, such as weapon confiscations and bunker destructions in Kuki-Zo areas, the ITLF continues to support all central security forces, including the Assam Rifles, for their non-partisan approach. The Assam Rifles, with their permanent bases and extensive experience, are viewed as the most capable force to enforce peace in the conflict-ridden state.



Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)
Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

File No: ITLF-PR-202498

Tuesday, 30 July 2024

PRESS RELEASE

During the course of the Manipur ethnic conflict, it has become well established that the Meitei community targets anyone who does not tow the majority community line—from filing FIRs against academics to threatening and assaulting rights activists from within their own community. One of their perennial targets is the Assam Rifles. This is because India's oldest paramilitary force has the most in-depth knowledge and experience among central security forces in Manipur. It has a deep understanding of local geopolitics and how to deal with communities on the ground. This has interfered with the communal designs of the majority Meiteis and their attempt to wipe out minority Kuki-Zo tribes using state machinery.

Assam Rifles has also been the only central force that has stood up to Meitei police commandos when the latter abandoned any pretense of professionalism by openly leading their community in killing Kuki-Zo tribals and burning villages. This was shown in Sugnu when an Assam Rifles truck blocked the entrance to the police station on June 2, 2023, because it had become the norm for Meitei policemen to head out and lead Meitei mobs in attacking tribal villages. Drone footages obtained by ITLF clearly shows police gypsies leading mobs as they torch tribal houses in Sugnu town. In the villages surrounding Sugnu and Serou areas, tribals who survived attacks and fled to Lamka town say Meitei mobs were led by the police and Arambai Tenggol.

The recent press release by COCOMI, which accused the Assam Rifles of acting against Meitei interest in Sugnu and Serou, is particularly odd considering the vast majority of villages burned in the area belonged to the Kuki-Zo community, and all Kuki-Zo tribals have been driven out of the once-cosmopolitan Sugnu, leaving the town to be completely controlled by Meiteis.

Although Kuki-Zo volunteers guarding their land and families have suffered at the hands of the Assam Rifles—more weapons have been confiscated from tribal-dominated areas, more bunkers destroyed, and more people have been apprehended in Kuki-Zo areas compared to Meitei areas—we still support all central security forces, including the Assam Rifles, as they are non-partisan.

The Assam Rifles, in particular, are still the most able and experienced force to enforce peace in the conflict-ridden state. Unlike many other central forces, which are deployed temporarily because of the conflict, Assam Rifles has permanent bases in the state, which makes it better equipped to deal with any role that is required. Perhaps it is being targeted because it is not

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The ITLF also criticized the Manipur Police, particularly the commandos, for allegedly supporting the Meitei community and acting against the Kuki-Zo tribes. The organization urged the union government to disregard COCOMI's demands, accusing the Meitei community of seeking to control the deployment of central security forces after already dominating state institutions.

The ITLF further condemned the tactic of using Meitei women to obstruct security forces while men engaged in the destruction of tribal villages. They called on the central government to recognize and address the biased actions of the state government and its police forces in the ongoing conflict.

CM N BIREN SINGH SPEAKS ONLY OF BEATING, KILLING AND VIOLENCE: ALFRED K ARTHUR, OUTER MANIPUR MP

In a scathing parliamentary address, Outer Manipur Congress MP Alfred Arthur criticized Chief Minister N Biren Singh, alleging that his speeches are filled with violent rhetoric. Arthur's remarks came during a discussion on the budget for the fiscal year 2024-25, highlighting the ongoing turmoil in Manipur.

"Every day, the words that come out from his mouth are that of beating, killing, and violence. What is this? Is this my country?" said Arthur, expressing deep concern over the state of affairs in Manipur. He questioned the absence of Union ministers in the state post-2023, asking Prime Minister Narendra Modi why no central representatives have been present to address the crisis.

Arthur's speech continued, "If he [PM Modi] is a true person, he is intelligent... but the people in Manipur have not got food to eat. Whom to ask? Whom to say? My family sacrificed their lives not to see this day. We are all Indians."

Addressing the parliament, Arthur detailed the dire economic and social conditions in Manipur. "Manipur has the lowest per capita income and the highest inflation. How do you expect a state that is lowest in income and paying the highest prices to survive? You already have a conflict, and now, unprecedented floods have hit us – the worst in 35 years," he stated, criticizing the Finance Minister's budget as anti-people.

Arthur also reminisced about his family's contributions to the nation, particularly his grand uncle, Major Bob Rowling, who played a significant role in the nation's history. "Today you are burning my state. Did he ever think that this nation would let go of his own people, whom he so fondly called



his people and his nation?" he questioned.

He further highlighted the plight of the Manipur people, especially those displaced by the conflict. "Can you not even hear the cries of the women and children who cannot go back to their homes in one state, a small state with a 30 lakh population? My people have borne this conflict for 15 months."

Arthur urged the government to replace Chief Minister N Biren Singh to restore peace in Manipur. "Is it so difficult to replace one man and bring peace to our area?" he asked, emphasizing that the NDA government has failed to address the state's crisis effectively.

He called for greater inclusion of the Northeast in the national tourism map to create job opportunities and reduce dependency on other regions for survival. "Our youngsters are jobless in the Northeast. Had tourism been encouraged in the Northeast, our people wouldn't have to look to the rest of the country for survival." (IndiaTodayNE)

KUKI MLAs TO SKIP MANIPUR ASSEMBLY SESSION

The 10 Kuki MLAs are set to skip the 13-day-long Manipur Assembly session which will start on Wednesday.

These MLAs on two earlier occasions have skipped the assembly session. There were two sessions of the assembly since May 3 when ethnic violence broke out in Manipur.

One of the 10 MLAs, the BJP's Paoliental Haokip, who was elected from Saikot Assembly constituency in tribal-dominated Churachandpur District said that they would not attend the session this time too.

"When my people can't set foot in Imphal, how can I attend an Assembly held in the state capital," Haokip remarked.

Of the 10 tribal MLAs, seven are from the ruling BJP, two belong to the Kuki People's Alliance and one is an Independent. The 10 tribal MLAs belonging to the Kuki-Zo are demanding a separate administration or a Union Territory for tribals in Manipur.

Manipur Chief Minister, N Biren Singh last week said that he had requested the 10 MLAs to attend the Assembly session.

The opposition Congress is likely to raise recent Jiribam District violence.



Jiribam witnessed a wave of violence after the killing of 59-year-old farmer Soibam Saratkumar Singh on June 6, leading to 900 tribals belonging to the Kuki-Zo communities taking shelter at the homes of relatives and friends in two villages in Cachar District of southern Assam, while around 1,000 people, mostly belonging to the Meitei community, are now sheltered in seven relief camps in Jiribam.

Since May 3 last year, Manipur has been hit by unprecedented ethnic violence between the Chin-Kuki-Zos and the Meiteis that has claimed the lives of at least 220 people, left over a 1000 injured and displaced over 60,000 people of both communities. (The Economic Times)

GAUHATI HIGH COURT ORDERS EXPEDITED REPORT ON DEATHS OF HMAR YOUTHS IN 'FAKE ENCOUNTER'

The Gauhati high court has instructed the Assam government to hasten the chemical analysis report and finalize the investigation into the deaths of three Hmar youths, allegedly killed in an "extrajudicial killing" by Assam police on July 17.

The directive came from a division bench comprising Justice Kalyan Rai Surana and Justice Soumitra Saikia, who also ordered the preservation of the bodies of the deceased until August 02.

The Assam government must submit its final report before the next hearing, scheduled for August 02.

"The court is of the view that since the post-mortem report's opinion on the cause of death is pending until the chemical analysis report of viscera from the Directorate of Forensic Science (DFS), Assam, Kahilipara, is received, it is appropriate to direct the State to expedite this report and prepare the final cause of death report," the court stated.

The three deceased individuals, identified as Lallungawi Hmar (21), Lalbiekkung Hmar (33) and K Joshua Lalrinsang (35), were killed in an encounter with Assam police in the Bhubah Hills under the Lakhipur police station in Cachar district of Assam on July 17.

Their families filed an FIR on July 19, demanding an investigation into the incident, asserting that the men were not militants and their deaths were staged.



A writ petition was subsequently filed by Siemthang Hmar, Lalthavel Hmar and Lalchunghnung, claiming the youths were arrested on July 16 from Ganganagar Part-VI, Krishnapur Road, and were 'extra judicially' executed after being taken from Kachudharam police station on July 17.

The petitioners' counsel called for the post-mortem examinations to be conducted by doctors from outside Assam.

The families of the deceased have sought an independent investigation by a senior police officer from outside Assam.

The killings sparked outrage among various Hmar civil society organizations and student bodies, who condemned the incidents as "fake encounters" orchestrated by Assam police. (NE Now News)



You can jail a Revolutionary, but you can't jail the Revolution.

- Huey Newton

52-YEAR-OLD NEPALI POLITICIAN KHARGA TAMANG TORTURED BY MEITEI LEEPUN LEADER, HOSPITALIZED IN GUWAHATI

In a serious case of continuous attack on the minority communities, a Nepali politician was beaten black and blue by the Meitei radicalised armed group in Imphal, accusing him wrongly of siding with the Kuki-Zo community.

A 52-year old Kharga Tamang, a Nepali politician, who had contested the 2017 Manipur Legislative Assembly Election, was tortured by the self-styled Commander-in-Chief of Meitei Leepun, Pramot Singh, and sustained serious injuries. The incident occurred a few days back in his residence at Langgol, Imphal-West district. Sources said that Kharga Tamang is currently undergoing medical treatment at a hospital in Guwahati, and his private vehicle is also still in the custody of the Meitei radicals.

In the 2017 Election, the Bharatiya Janata Party's Nemcha Kipgen got a total of 13,485 votes, while independent candidate Kharga Tamang got 11,188 votes, securing second position.

In the wake of the state-sponsored ethnic cleansing pogrom perpetrated by the Meiteis against the Kukis, the minority communities continue to face the brunt of the Meiteis' atrocities.

Mention may be made that in a heart-wrenching incident that had sent shockwaves through the minority community, Mirangir Chiru, a resident of Kangchup Chiru in Manipur, was also tortured to death by the proscribed underground outfit Kangleipak Communist Party-People's War Group (KCP-PWG) at Kangchup Chingkhong in Imphal West district on July 15, 2024, accusing him baselessly of spying for the Kukis.

In that regard, the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), the apex body of Kuki Tribes, had strongly condemned the brutal



murder of Mirangir Chiru, a resident of Kangchup Chiru village in Kangpokpi district. The murder, KIM had said, allegedly carried out by the Meitei militants had already shocked the community.

A disturbing video that circulated on social media showed Mr. Chiru being tortured and interrogated by his captors. The video suggests that he was accused of being an informer for the Kuki-Zo tribal community and forced to confess under duress to taking Rs. 20,000 as a service charge from the Kuki-Zo.

Mr. Marangir, a former leader of the Kangchup Tribal Youth Organisation—the apex body of Kuki and Naga Tribal Youth Organizations in the Kangchup area—a theologian, and a devout Christian, had no connection to the ongoing Kuki-Zo and Meitei conflict.

KIM had asserted that the accusations against the victim by the Meitei militants were baseless and had served only as a cover for their inhumane and disingenuous acts.

AATSU SEEKS PRESIDENTIAL INTERVENTION FOR PROBE INTO ALLEGED EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS OF HMAR YOUTHS IN CACHAR

The All Assam Tribal Students' Union (AATSU) on Monday sought intervention of the President of India to institute a proper investigation into the killings of three Hmar youths in an encounter in Cachar district recently and take strong action against the police personnel who were involved in the killings. The student body sent a memorandum to the President of India through the Kokrajhar District Commissioner on Monday.

In their memorandum to the President of India Draupadi Murmu, the president of the AATSU Hareswar Brahma and secretary Deba Kr. Pegu said on July 16, Assam Police illegally detained three Hmar youths, identified as Lallungawi Hmar (21) s/o- Lalremsang Hmar and Lalbiekkung Hmar (33), s/o- Lal Thavel Hmar, both from K. Bethel Bhubankhal Dilkush under Lakhipur PS Assam; and K. Joshua Lalrinsang (35) s/o- Tianghmingthang, Senvonl Lailak, Tipaimukh of Chaurachandpur subdivision of Manipur at Kabuganj-Anjur Road in Cachar district and killed them in a fake encounter.

They said the Cachar Superintendent of Police later, reported that the three youths died in a cross-fire on July 17 during a militant encounter at Bhuban Hills which they believe to be a fake, raising serious concerns about the circumstances of their deaths, accusing the police of failing to adhere to the safety protocols.

It highlighted the footage showing the youths were unarmed and cooperating peacefully during their arrest, contradicting the police's claims of them being involved in the militant attack. They also said the Assam police committed gross human rights violations and attempting to cover up the "extrajudicial killings" which sums up to atrocities towards the tribals by the authority which is attracting the Prevention of Atrocities (SC & ST) Act, 1989.



The AATSU demanded a Supreme Court-monitored SIT to investigate the deaths of the three innocent Hmar youths from the Hmar community as there has been a gross violation of human rights, fundamental rights and the constitutional protection guaranteed to the people by a section of the Assam police.

The demands include, appointment of an external IGP-rank officer to investigate the case impartially, arrest and prosecution of those police personnel involved, as depicted in the circulated videos, compensation of Rs. 1 crore to each family of the deceased and provide with one government job in each victim's family.

The AATSU demanded immediate decision to investigate the extrajudicial killings of innocent Hmar youths in the name of encounter with the militants. The copy of memorandum was also sent to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India and the National Human Rights Commission for their information and necessary action. (The Sentinels)



Manipur Police
@manipur_police

THE BUZZ SOCIAL MEDIA

In another incident on 29.07.2024, Manipur Police arrested 02 (two) cadres of proscribed outfit RPF/PLA from Imphal West District. They have been identified as i. Wahengbam Tombi Singh (47 yrs.) @ Ibetombi @ Chaothoi and ii. Thoudam Hemchandra Singh (42 yrs.) @ Ingo. They were involved in extortion activities from educational institutions and private businesses. From their possession the following items were recovered: i.04 (four) mobile phones, 01 (one) wallet, Rs. 13,520 (thirteen thousand five hundred and twenty) in cash and 01 (one) four-wheeler vehicle.



5:47 · 30 Jul 24 · 1,614 Views



Gaurav Gogoi @GauravGogoiAsm · 12m

Our second MP from Manipur Alfred Arthur makes a necessary and powerful intervention on Manipur inside the Parliament. Congress will continue to raise the issues of Manipur and the Northeast inside the House. This speech is a much watch.



Ukhru Times @ukhrultimes · 4h

#UTVideo: Member of Parliament Alfred Kan-ngam Shangshakwoshi Arthur from the Outer Manipur Parliamentary Constituency, in his debut speech, slammed the #UnionBudget for ignoring #Manipur despite the ongoing #violence and the worst flood t...



TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: JULY 30, 2023

A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON JULY 30, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

In an unwavering display of determination, the women of Tengnoupal persisted in their demand for the withdrawal of Manipur police commandos dispatched as reinforcements to Moreh. Their protest, marked by incredible resilience, transcended even the boundaries of day and night, as they chose to sleep on the road, barring the entry of external forces.

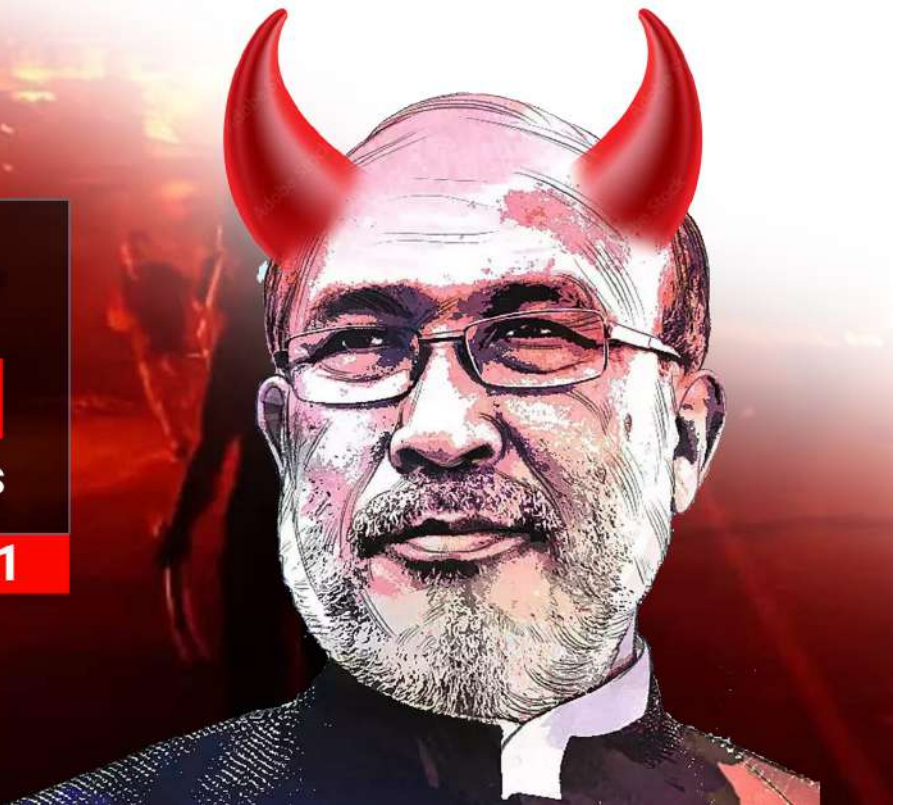
This steadfast commitment to their cause persisted, undeterred even on a Sunday. Gathering in significant numbers, the women observed a fasting prayer, their voices raised in songs of praise that echoed through the air. Their unity and dedication continue to serve as a potent symbol of their unwavering pursuit of justice and their resolve to see their demands met.



FEATURED ARTICLE

**THE ROLE OF
N. BIREN SINGH**
IN THE ETHNIC-CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST THE KUKIS

PART-1



The Chief Minister of Manipur N Biren Singh has been incessantly accused of orchestrating the violence and directly responsible for all the mayhem that is engulfing the state of Manipur. During his first tenure he was christened as the “People’s CM” for his relentless effort to bring peace and harmony in the strife-torn state. But in the later part a palpable change was seen in his policies and attitudes towards the hill people.

Giving the devil his due during the early part of his chief ministership he had taken lots of pains to solve some of the biggest problems that the state was enmeshed with; mostly the hangover of the previous government. The day he took over the mantle of the Chief Minister he made an important announcement- to bridge the hill valley divide. At the drop of the hat he announced a reconciliation policy with the slogan “Go to the Hills”. He visited all district headquarters of the hill districts along with economic packages for its development. The lingering 139-day economic blockade launched by the UNC was put to rest. The Churachandpur conflict that lasted for nearly two years was resolved. Cabinet meetings were held in all the hill districts on rotation basis. Hill leader’s day, a day reserve for the hill people to meet him in matters relating to governance and their many grievances, was observed every month.

All these noble intention caught the imagination of the hill people who began to shed their earlier inhibitions and became responsive.

But the same man who had worked so hard to bring amity between the hill people and the valley surprised everyone when he began to swerve from his earlier conciliatory works. Yes, his first tenure was not at all hunky dory as he had to face lots of political maneuverings with dissidence after dissidence to unseat him. Had not the political bosses in Delhi stood unwavering with him he would have been in political oblivion long back.

Here are some of dubious activities of N Biren Singh that may have direct or indirect consequences with the present violence-

1. Calling Kukis jungles, refugees- In response to one Khupjangam Haokip in his face book page the CM called the Kukis jungles and refugees. This post was later removed and the CM office came out with an excuse that his face book was hacked. In reality it was a “Freudian slip”. The CM’s post open a floodgate of incessant tirade and invectives

Contd.

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against the kuki community with the Meiteis branding them as refugees, illegal immigrants and foreigners who should be thrown out of Manipur which eventually got ossified into his government policy whose ultimate result is the present conflict.

2. Arbitrary arrest of commenters on social medias- The CM who is an ardent enthusiast of social media was intolerant when it comes to negative comments criticizing his works or those who went to the extent of personal vilification on him. A massive crackdown was launched on those commenters. They were arrested, forced to apologize or thrown to jail. Even journalists, lawyers and activists were not spared. But the crackdown had its flipside as he became unpopular with the masses. Majority of the victims came from the Kuki-Zo community.

The Manipur police, the cybercrime department targeted only the Kuki-Zo commenters and ignored

the Meiteis. Extremely unpleasant comments calling for annihilation, incitement of rape against, blasphemous comments against the Christian faith but nothing was done even after FIR was file to the concern authority. When asked, the police said they were instructed from the highest authority (inferring to the CM) not to arrest Meitei netizens. This emboldened the Meitei netizens who unceasingly carried out vicious, profane, contemptuous and despicable attacks against the Kuki-Zo communities till today. Even celebrities in the form of popular Actress, Hijam Bala, Miss India 2nd runners-up Stella Luwang, Licypriya Kangujam' a climate activist, Robert Naorem international designer jump the bandwagon of fake propaganda and hate crimes.

To be contd.

- An Excerpt from The Indelible Trauma



THE HYPOCRITE'S FLOP SHOW





LITTLE DO THEY **KNOW**

Momoi Khongsai

The pain of a person that longs for a place that doesn't exist anymore.

It eats you up wondering wat if?.

Friends thinking you are still the same you were once but little do they know that you had to toughened up, not by choice.

Thinking about the place that sits abandoned next to the adorned crowded place makes my heart grief, I cannot help but imprecate the people behind the horrifying and humanity-less gesture.

Little do they know the sorrow and grief I felt can only be mended after seeing that now abandoned place once more and bidding it a heartfelt goodbye. Little do they know the little memories that's stuck from the time I was brought in this orb till I was forced to fled with gunshots behind my back and swarm of people committing arson.

Little do they know the incident made a deep impression, I'd save myself from darkness with words i did strive though unsure I'd survive.

I had lost hope, for the first time I wanted to give up, to die , because suddenly every was too much and there was no solution in sight.

I thought to myself "die before you die", if I depart at least i should take some with me.

I was lost to the core where carnage had become an option to the mind.

Little do they know the horrifying story beautifully told is a reality for some, for those souls in despair. And little would they know for they have never been in my shoe.