

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



THANGGOULEN LHOUVUM (16 YEARS)

S/O HAV. (RETD.) HEGIN LHOUVUM

ADDRESS: M CHAHNOU, MOREH WARD NO. 9, TENGNOUPAL

DATE OF INCIDENT: 5TH AUGUST, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: GUWAHATI

CAUSE OF DEATH: SUCCUMBED TO INJURY BY MEITEI POLICE CDO'S ATTACK



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.

TENGNOUNPAL KUKI CSOs URGE FOR POLICE COMMANDOS WITHDRAWAL AND POLITICAL SOLUTION DURING CHIEF SECRETARY'S VISIT

During a recent visit to the border town of Moreh, various Kuki Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) voiced their concerns to the Chief Secretary of Manipur, urging immediate action to address ongoing unrest in the region.

The Hill Tribal Council, Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal, Kuki Chief Association, and Kuki Students' Organization presented a list of grievances, emphasizing the need for lasting peace in Tegnoupal District. They expressed gratitude for the Chief Secretary's visit while highlighting pressing issues affecting their community.

Key demands include:

Immediate Withdrawal of Police Commandos: The CSOs reiterated their call for the total removal of Police Commandos from the district, citing a history of alleged atrocities, including the recent killings of two Kuki youths and other violent incidents since May 3, 2023. They claim that the presence of commandos poses a threat to their safety and well-being.

Separate Administration for Kukis: The organizations called for a political solution that recognizes the rights of the Kuki people, including the demand for a Union Territory with legislative powers under Article 239(A)



of the Indian Constitution. They voiced concerns over violence and discrimination faced by the Kuki community at the hands of the majority Meitei population.

Opposition to Resettlement Policies: The CSOs strongly rejected any resettlement policies imposed by the Meitei community, asserting that such measures would not be accepted and would lead to further conflict.

The CSOs emphasized the urgency of these demands to restore peace and stability in the region, appealing for swift governmental action to address their grievances.

MANIPUR EXTENDS AFSPA FOR ANOTHER SIX MONTHS

The Manipur government has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) for another six months with effect from Tuesday in the ethnic violence-hit northeastern state excluding areas under the jurisdiction of 19 police stations.

In a notification, commissioner (home) N Ashok Kumar said the state government has decided to maintain the status quo citing violent activities of extremist/insurgent groups, the overall law and order situation,



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and the capability of the state machinery. It said the government analysed the law-and-order situation and that it is not expedient to have a detailed assessment on the ground.

The notification said the security agencies were preoccupied with the maintenance of law and order. "Further it will be premature to arrive at any conclusion or decision on such a sensitive matter without detailed assessment thereby not appropriate to review the 'Disturbed Area' status of the state at the moment," said the notification dated September 26.

The AFSPA, which has been in effect in Manipur since the early 1980s, is modelled on the colonial-era ordinance. It grants special powers to the forces to

maintain public order in "disturbed areas". It has faced much scrutiny for granting sweeping powers to the forces.

The AFSPA prohibits prosecutions without the go-ahead from the Union government if the allegations are linked to duty. A prior sanction from the Union government is needed for any legal proceedings against the armed forces operating in areas where the AFSPA is implemented

The AFSPA was revoked from the Imphal municipality area in 2004, areas under 15 police stations across six districts in April 2022, and four police stations from April 2023. (HT)

YUNG AUNG-LED NSCN (K) RAISES CONCERNS OVER POTENTIAL CEASEFIRE BETWEEN MYANMAR AND NSCN-ANGMAI

The Yung Aung-led National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN-K) has voiced doubts about a possible ceasefire agreement between the Myanmar government and the NSCN-Angmai group

In a press statement issued on Saturday, the NSCN-K questioned the legitimacy of such a deal, alleging that the two factions have been closely collaborating in recent times.

The NSCN-K asserted that any agreement between Myanmar and NSCN-Angmai would not represent the true political aspirations of the Naga people. They criticized NSCN-Angmai, claiming the group lacks a clear political vision and cannot represent the broader Naga community. According to NSCN-K, any such agreement would only be relevant to the two parties involved and would not impact the larger Naga cause.

Additionally, the NSCN-K condemned Myanmar's engagement with NSCN-Angmai, accusing the government of legitimizing a group that threatens the unity and stability of the eastern Naga regions.



The group accused NSCN-Angmai of misleading people, undermining Naga territory, and exploiting its resources.

The NSCN-K urged Myanmar to refrain from using NSCN-Angmai to destabilize the political and security environment in the Naga regions. They warned against repeating "India's strategy of dividing the Nagas," labeling it a potential "big mistake." The group reaffirmed its claim to represent the Naga people's aspirations and advised Myanmar not to involve the Naga community in its internal conflicts. (TOS)

TANGKHUL APEX BODY DIRECTS TANGKHUL NAGAS NOT TO COOPERATE WITH BORDER FENCING WORK

In a decisive move, the Tangkhul Naga Long, the apex Tangkhul body, has instructed headmen and village elders of Tangkhul villages situated along the Indo-Myanmar borders that no cooperation whatsoever of any kind be extended to any organization/authorities, who are involved in any activity/activities connected with the border fencings.

“This is a resolute decision taken in this behalf by the Tangkhul Naga Long. All the headmen/village authorities of all villages situated within the Tangkhul Naga Inhabited areas are directed to ensure strict compliance with the decision taken as above failing which strict penalty would be imposed,” read the directive.

It may be noted here that on September 18, The Indian Express reported that the central government has decided to temporarily halt fencing work in Kuki-dominated areas of Manipur. According to sources, a meeting with senior officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) concluded that fencing in Kuki-populated hill regions will be delayed, with work continuing in other areas along the border.



Kuki-Zo organizations in the past have voiced strong opposition to the border fencing, arguing that it undermines the ‘Free Movement Regime’ (FMR), which permits residents living within 16 kilometers of the border on either side to cross without a visa and remain for up to two weeks.

The Indo-Myanmar border stretches across five Manipur districts—Churachandpur, Chandel, Kamjong, Tengnoupal, and Ukhrul—covering 398 kilometers.

MAN ARRESTED WITH HEROIN WORTH ₹9.66 CRORE AT KHUZAMA CHECKPOINT

Excise officials in Kohima have seized heroin valued at ₹9.66 crore during a routine inspection at the Khuzama Inter-State Check Gate on Sunday. The drugs, concealed in 161 soap cases, weighed approximately 1.6 kg and were hidden in a secret compartment within the backrest of an Assam-registered vehicle.

Deputy Commissioner of Excise (Zonal) Venezolu Dawhuo reported that the vehicle was stopped at around 8:30 am by the duty team. Upon inspection, they discovered the contraband. The driver, K.H. Pavei, a resident of Phaibung Khullen, Senapati district, Manipur, was arrested on the spot.

A case has been filed under the NDPS Act, 1985,



and further investigations are in progress. The successful operation was led by a team of excise officers, including Kezhasolie AIE, Khesangmew AIE, Khrovotso H/C, and others, who have been praised for their swift action.

‘FIRST FOCUS ON MANIPUR’: MALLIKARJUN KHARGE HITS BACK AT AMIT SHAH’S CRITICISM OF CONG CHIEF’S REMARK ON MODI

A war of words erupted between Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Union Home Minister Amit Shah after the former’s remarks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A day after Shah slammed Kharge for “dragging PM Modi” into his personal health issues, the Congress chief asked the home minister to focus on issues like Manipur and caste-based census.

Addressing a public meeting in Jammu on Sunday, Mallikarjun Kharge said that he won’t die before PM Modi is removed from power. Shah described these remarks by Kharge as “absolutely distasteful and disgraceful”.

Hitting back at the home minister, Mallikarjun Kharge posted on X, “Home Minister Amit Shah should focus on serious issues like Manipur, census and caste census.” He added, “Your government’s own survey says that 92% of the employees cleaning urban sewers and septic tanks come from SC, ST, OBC categories.”

Asserting that Congress is committed to a caste census, Kharge said, “The BJP is against caste census because then it will be known by which work SC, ST, OBC, EWS and all other categories are earning their livelihood. What is their economic and social status? What kind of targeted benefits of government schemes should they get?”

“We will get it done,” he said

Kharge, while addressing a rally in Jammu on Sunday, had fallen ill after he suffered a “syncopal attack”. He took a brief break and resumed speaking, saying that



despite his age, he won’t die before PM Modi is removed from power.

“I wanted to talk but due to dizziness, I sat down. Please pardon me. I am 83 years old. I am not going to die so early. I will stay alive till PM Modi is removed from power,” the Congress president said.

Hitting out at Kharge, Amit Shah posted on X, “Yesterday, the Congress President Shri Mallikarjun Kharge Ji has outperformed himself, his leaders and his party in being absolutely distasteful and disgraceful in his speech. In a bitter display of spite, he unnecessarily dragged PM Modi into his personal health matters by saying that he would die only after removing PM Modi from power.”

“As for the health of Mr. Kharge Ji, Modi Ji prays, I pray and we all pray that he lives a long, healthy life. May he continue to live for many years and may he live to see the creation of a Viksit Bharat by 2047,” the union minister said.



Indian army soldier Thanglenlal Lhungdim had insisted that his parents flee their village in violence-wracked Manipur and stay with him nearly 1,500 kilometers away in bustling Kolkata.

But the couple returned home in a fateful decision that cost Lhungdim's 46-year-old mother her life in this remote northeastern pocket of the country torn apart by bloody ethnic conflict.

Months later, Lhungdim travelled a grueling 80 hours to reach his mother's funeral in Manipur, a state on the border with Myanmar.

"I am the eldest, I cannot break down. You've no idea what is going through my head," the 30-year-old told Nikkei Asia, laying flowers by a portrait of his beloved mother at her grave. "As an army man, I've been protecting my country, but I couldn't protect my own mother."

His mother Nengjakhhol -- shot dead by insurgents this month in a fresh spasm of violence -- is buried at a graveyard filled with victims of a conflict that has dragged on for more than a year and killed about 230 people, with tens of thousands more displaced by the fighting.

Manipur's violence stems from conflict between

the region's Hindu majority Meitei people and the minority Christian Kuki-Zo, with the two communities divided by a buffer zone patrolled by federal security forces. The Kuki-Zo control hills surrounding the Meitei-controlled Imphal Valley.

The state capital Imphal has witnessed brutal scenes including public lynchings, sexual assault and widespread arson of property, including churches.

The state government, controlled by lawmakers in India's ruling Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, has been accused of siding with the majority Meitei, while Meitei-aligned militias have faced claims of committing extra-judicial killings.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has yet to visit the strife-torn region since fresh conflict broke out in May last year.

The U.S. State Department's annual human rights report this year pointed to "significant" rights abuses in Manipur, a study rejected by India's foreign ministry as "deeply biased."

In mid-September, India's government said it was

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pushing to resolve the conflict while internet and mobile data services were restored after a brief shutdown.

“We hope that we will be able to bring the situation (in Manipur) under control,” Home Minister Amit Shah told reporters. But “if both (ethnic groups) do not come to an understanding, there won’t be a resolution to the matter.”

Longstanding tensions between the groups over land claims and job opportunities soared when a court recommended that the majority Meitei, who make up over half the population, be granted status rights like those given to Kuki-Zo, a group accounting for less than 20% of Manipur’s people.

The intense fighting has severed easy travel for Kuki-Zo living in Imphal, forcing them to take circuitous routes to reach their hillside villages -- a challenge that slowed Thanglenlal’s trip to attend his mother’s funeral this month.

About 30 Meitei insurgents had surrounded the family’s village, launching a bomb-and-gunfire attack, according to authorities. Security personnel guarding the village of 80 residents returned fire but it took four hours to drive away the men who had set fire to whatever they could.

Nengjakhol’s husband noticed his wife was missing and a search operation was launched. He later found her

face down dead with bullet and shrapnel wounds.

When Nikkei Asia visited the remote village inaccessible by vehicle, all of the Kuki-Zo residents had fled.

The fresh violence began at the start of September, with the killing of 31-year-old N. Surbala in the Meitei village of Koutruk, a scene of frequent gun battles. The woman’s daughter and seven other residents were injured in the attack by Kuki-Zo insurgents.

In Moirang, a small Meitei town about 45 km outside Imphal, a homemade bomb killed a 70-year-old priest this month when it crashed into a compound that is home to Mairembam Kelvin, the great-grandson of Manipur’s first chief minister.

While Modi’s government has said it’s making strides in reducing violence, Kelvin has no trust in the state or central governments’ ability to end the civil war.

“Are we being ignored because we are a small state in the northeast?” he asked. “Don’t our fellow Indians care about us?”

Published by [Nikkei Asia](#)



The hopeless don’t revolt, because revolution is an act of hope.

- Peter Kropotkin

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

Ambalica Singh
@Iam_amby

The moment Khuraijam Athouba comes back to India he should be arrested. He should be asked as to why he took these issues to the UN and not with the Govt of India. All his statements are incorrect. The 900 #Kuki militants crossing India is incorrect, it is the centre of narcoterrorism is incorrect. He took all these false informations to the UN to make India look bad. (Courtesy: News9)

#Manipur
#ManipurCrisis
@RavinderKapur2



21:02 · 30 Sept 24 · 975 Views

Ravinder Kapur.
@RavinderKapur2

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Manipur: Gladiator-like Horror in Imphal, Inner Manipur

On Nov. 7th, 2023, a Kuki Christian family was forcibly taken from the protection of the armed forces by Meiteis, leading to an unspeakable tragedy. In broad daylight, in the heart of Manipur's capital, they were surrounded, paraded like common criminals, and brutally hacked to death. Despite the public nature of the atrocity, neither the Manipur Police nor central armed forces intervened to save them. One of the victims remains missing and untraceable to this day.

@manipur_police Where was MP that day?
#MeiteiWarCrimes #MeiteiAtrocities
#ManipurViolence



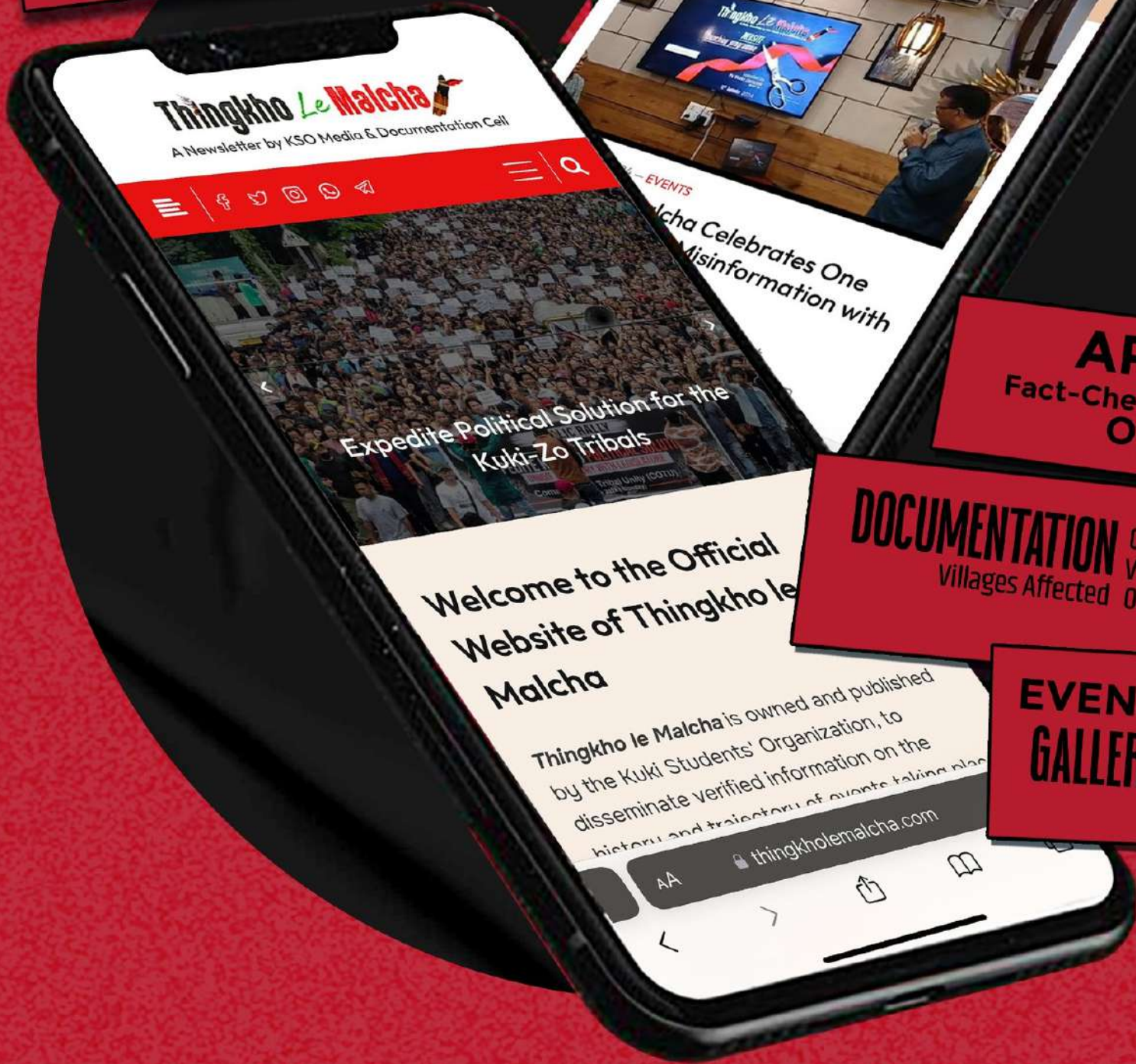
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THE AFSPA EXTENSION IN MANIPUR EXCLUDING VALLEY POLICE STATIONS



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Zalengam's *Lament*

In Manipur's depths, a tale of betrayal old
Where trust is shattered, like broken gold
The State's complicity, a shameful stain
Meitei's advantage, Kuki's anguish,
an endless refrain

Like wolves in sheep's clothing, they crept
With deceitful hearts, our trust they stepped
On the altar of power, our lives were sold
As pawns in their game, our future grew old

Zalengam's hills, once green and serene
Now crimson-stained, with blood unseen
Families shattered, like fallen leaves
Displaced and forlorn, our people's pleas

Yet, amidst the ashes, a spark remains
A flame of resistance, that refuses to wane
For we, the Kuki, are born of the land
Our roots run deep, our spirit expand

Like the phoenix, we rise from the pain
Our hearts unbroken, our wills like iron chains
We'll fight for Zalengam, till dawn's early light
For our ancestors' dreams, we'll hold the fight

Through treacherous terrain, we'll find our way
With every breath, we'll face the fray
For our land, our culture, our identity too
We'll rise, we'll resist, our spirit anew.

~ Lien Gangte