#### ISSUE No. 326 SATURDAY | AUGUST 31, 2024



## Thoughous Balcha A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell

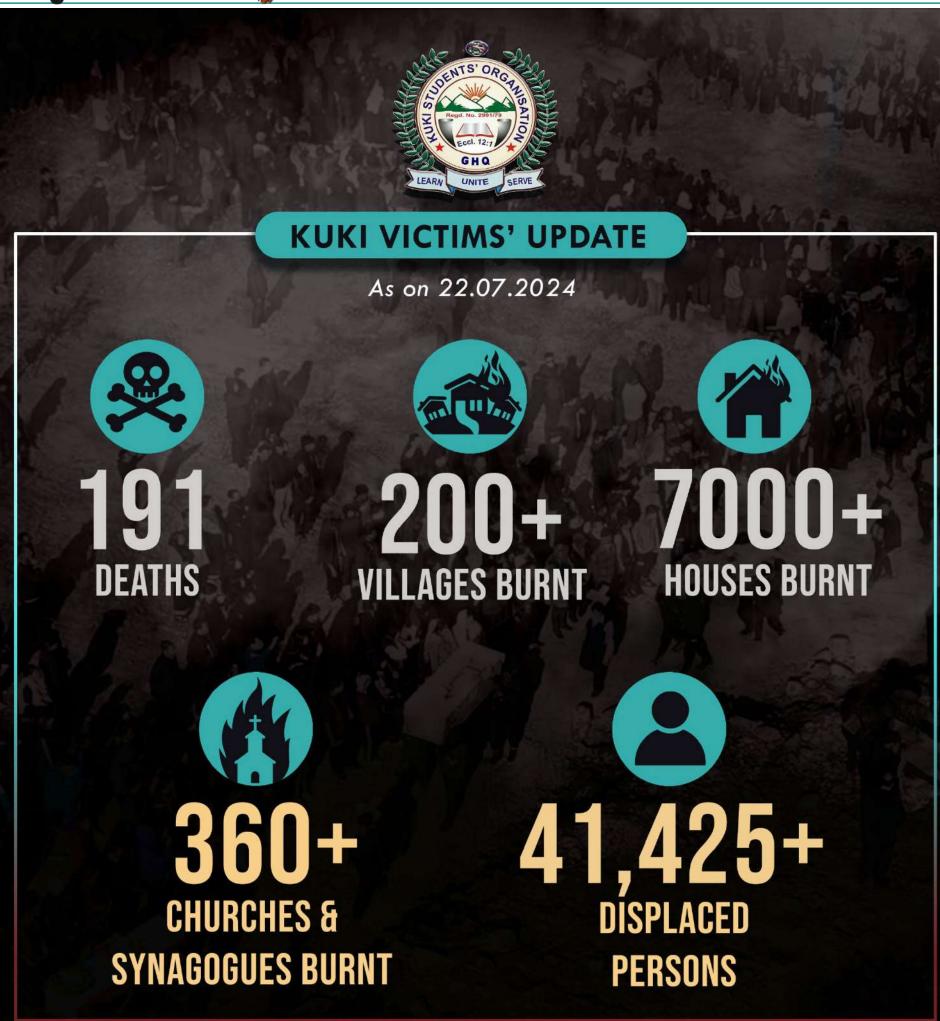


PLOTAL RALLY OF TEARED TAPES: ETHNIC OF SUR AVAILABLE



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### Thingkho Le Malcha



**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.



KSO Media & Documentation Cell ksomediacell@gmail.com —

## THE MANIPUR TAPES: KUKIS TAKE TO STREETS IN CHURACHANDPUR to protest against manipur chief minister's leak audio tape

Thousands of Kukis from Churachandpur took to the streets today to voice their outrage following the leak of an audio tape implicating Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh in ethnic cleansing against the Kuki community. The massive rally began at the Anglo-Kuki War Centenary Gate in Leisang village and proceeded to the Peace Ground in Tuibong, where the main program was held.

The public rally was flagged-off by Henlianthang Thanglet, president of the Vaiphei Peoples' Council (VPC). Protesters, including members from various tribal and student organizations such as Hmar Inpui, Kuki Inpi, United Zou Organization, Gangte Tribe Union, Simte Tribe Council, Thadou Tribe Council, Mizo People Convention Manipur Unit and Mate Tribe Union, gathered in large numbers, chanting slogans demanding accountability from Chief Minister Singh.

At the Peace Ground, leaders from various Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) delivered speeches emphasizing the urgent need for a separate administration for the Kukis. The rally also featured a solemn one-minute condolence service to honor the victims of alleged state-sponsored ethnic violence.

Various student organizations from Churachandpur have formally submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office through the Deputy Commissioner of Churachandpur. The memorandum outlines several urgent demands in response to recent developments involving Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and the ongoing violence against the Kuki-Zo community.

The student bodies are calling for the immediate arrest and trial of N. Biren Singh following the release of an audio recording in which he allegedly boasts about orchestrating violence against the Kuki-Zo community and ordering attacks on their villages. This revelation has intensified accusations that the Manipur government, dominated by the Meetei community, is complicit in the ethnic persecution of the Kuki-Zo people, who have faced significant violence since May 3, 2023.

In their memorandum, the student bodies have outlined the following key demands:



1. Immediate Arrest and Trial of N. Biren Singh: The memorandum demands that the Chief Minister be arrested and subjected to a criminal investigation under the Supreme Court's supervision. The investigation should include all ministers and officials implicated in the violence against the Kuki-Zo community.

2. Strengthening of Buffer Zones: The student bodies call for the reinforcement of buffer zones currently monitored by the Assam Rifles. Despite criticism from the Meetei community, the Assam Rifles have been crucial in maintaining peace and preventing further violence. The memorandum stresses the need for continued and enhanced deployment to protect Kuki-Zo villages from secessionist militants.

3. Interim Administration for Kuki-Zo Areas: With Imphal effectively cut off from Kuki-Zo regions, the memorandum demands the establishment of an interim central administration. This body would oversee essential services and infrastructure development in Kuki-Zo areas, addressing critical shortages in medical care, education, and connectivity.

4. Formation of a Union Territory for Kuki-Zo Tribals: The memorandum calls for the creation of a Union Territory with its own legislature for the Kuki-Zo community. The student bodies argue that the current situation—marked by severe discrimination and violence—necessitates a separate administration to ensure the safety and development of the Kuki-Zo people.







## KUKI-ZO COMMUNITY PROTESTS AT JANTAR MANTAR, DEMANDS Action Against Manipur CM

A significant protest took place today at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi, as part of a nationwide rally organized by the Kuki Inpi and the Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO). The demonstration, which lasted from 2 pm to 5 pm, was aimed at highlighting issues facing the Kuki-Zo community.

The rally featured several prominent speakers, including Mang Khongsai and Seiboi Touthang, Home Secretary and General Secretary of KSO-GHQ, respectively. Other notable speakers were Benjamin Mate from Semang Kuki Inpi, Ngaineikim Haokip, President of the Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights (KWoHR), Chochong Haokip from the Kuki-Zo Women's Forum in Delhi, Janghhaolun Haokip of Kuki Inpi Manipur, and Paojakhup Guite, President of the Kuki Students' Organisation in Delhi & NCR.

The event was compered by Thangminlal Doungel, Vice President of KSOD & NCR, and Nenghoichong Chongloi. It concluded peacefully with a vote of thanks from Seilenmang Haokip, General Secretary of KSOD & NCR.

Key issues raised during the rally included the recent release of a controversial audio tape. Seiboi Touthang, General Secretary of KSO-GHQ, criticized the Chief Minister of Manipur, challenging him to a public debate and accusing him of being more involved in drug activities than the Kuki poppy planters. He claimed that the Chief Minister declined the debate due to a lack of understanding of the historical context between the Kukis and Meiteis.

Mang Khongsai, Secretary of Home Affairs KSO-GHQ, highlighted the importance of the viral audio tape and expressed gratitude to The Wire for making a translated version publicly available. He urged protesters to leverage the tape to advance their political objectives.

Ngaineikim Haokip, President of the Kuki Women Organization for Human Rights, emphasized the desire for peace among Kuki women but insisted that negotiations should not be made with those responsible for sexual violence against them. She condemned the



assaults on Kuki women as acts motivated by their ethnicity rather than their gender.

Paojakhup Guite, President of KSO Delhi & NCR, addressed issues related to permissions for various activities and encouraged Kuki youth to excel in civil service and research fields, specifically calling on scholars to document the ongoing violence in their homeland.

The rally was also held at various places across the nation such as Kana area in Chandel district, Tengnoupal, Tamenglong and Jiribam.





### Thingkho Le Malcha

#### KUKI-ZO IN SADAR HILLS KANGPOKPI DEMAND ACTION AGAINST Manipur CM over 'Manipur Tapes,' Call for expedited formation of Union Territory with Legislature

A 7 Km. long massive rally from Keithelmanbi Military Colony to Kangpokpi District Headquarters culminated peacefully without any untoward incidents today in Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District.

The protest rally was part of the Nationwide Rally organized today by the Kuki Students' Organisation against the "Manipur Tapes", which allegedly implicate the Chief Minister in state-sponsored ethnic cleansing against the Kuki-Zo community and to expedite Kuki-Zo Union Territory.

The massive rally in Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District participated by thousands of the Kuki-Zo community across the District, was organized under the aegis of Kuki Students' Organisation Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District, supported and endorsed by various tribe organisations, including Thadou Students' Association, Zillai, Gangte Students' Organisation, CoTU, SAHILCA, etc.

The massive rally began at noon, with thousands of participants marching along National Highway 2 on foot and reaching the District Headquarters at around 2:00 pm. Upon arrival, a memorandum addressed to the Prime Minister was submitted through the District Commissioner (DC) of Kangpokpi, who received it on the National Highway.

All business establishments, and private institutions including schools were closed during the protest rally while Government institutions were partially affected.

The district police monitor the movement of the rally and traffic flow.

The Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO) Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District, in its memorandum submitted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, called for the immediate arrest of Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh over his alleged involvement in the "Manipur Tapes" and



demanded the creation of a Union Territory for the Kuki-Zo tribals. The memorandum also highlighted ongoing ethnic violence and alleged persecution of the Kuki-Zo community by the majority Meetei community since May 3, 2023.

The KSO accused Chief Minister N Biren Singh of openly admitting to leading a violent campaign against the Kuki-Zo community, referencing a recently surfaced audio recording in which the Chief Minister allegedly boasts about orchestrating attacks on Kuki-Zo villages with the support of state forces. The students' body argues that this recording proves the complicity of the Manipur government in the violence against the Kuki-Zo minority.

Key Demands Outlined in the Memorandum:

1. Immediate Arrest of CM N Biren Singh: The KSO demands the immediate arrest and criminal investigation of the Chief Minister, supervised by the Supreme Court of India, and accountability for all ministers and officials involved in the violence against the Kuki-Zo community.

2. Strengthening of Buffer Zones: The KSO *Contd.* 







#### Contd.

emphasized the crucial role of the Assam Rifles in maintaining peace and protecting vulnerable areas. They urged the government to reinforce the presence of this neutral force, expressing concerns that other central armed police forces are not adequately equipped to manage the situation.

3. Interim Administration for Kuki-Zo Areas: Highlighting the dire administrative and infrastructural conditions in Kuki-Zo areas, which remain cut off from Manipur's capital, Imphal, the KSO proposed an interim central administration to address immediate needs and prevent further lawlessness.

4. Formation of Union Territory with Legislature: The KSO asserted that the current situation demonstrates the inability of the Kuki-Zo and Meetei communities to coexist peacefully. They demanded the creation of a separate Union Territory with its own legislature to ensure the security and developmental needs of the Kuki-Zo people.

The memorandum concludes with a plea for Prime Minister Modi's immediate intervention, stating that these measures are essential for the safety and future of the Kuki-Zo community amid ongoing ethnic violence and persecution.

In connection with the rally and memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister, KSO Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District General Secretary, K. Shongreng urged the Centre Government to expedite the genuine demands of the community stating that these measures are essential for the safety and future of the Kuki-Zo community.







The significant protest by the Kuki Zo tribals from Manipur at Jantar Mantar today has not received adequate media coverage. Ignoring their struggle and demand for justice is not only unjust but also a failure of social responsibility. #JusticeForKukiZo



23:34 · 31 Aug 24 · 1,652 Views



Jon Suante @jon\_suante Follow

A child protester from the Kuki-Zo community holding a placard in Delhi's Jantar Mantar on August 31, demanding action against Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh over an audio clip in which he purportedly "declared his involvement in spearheading violence" in the state.



21:37  $\cdot$  31 Aug 24  $\cdot$  **254** Views





## TODAY IN HISTORY/EVENTS RECALLED: AUGUST 31, 2023

#### A RECAP OF THE HORRIFIC INCIDENTS ON AUGUST 31, 2023 AS A RESULT OF PRE-PLANNED STATE-SPONSORED ETHNIC CLEANSING POGROM AGAINST KUKI-ZO

The firing commenced at dawn in Chingphei, initiated by Manipur Police Commandos who led the operation against the Meitei Militants. Explosive devices were deployed during the assault. A minor injury was sustained by a village volunteer, prompting swift medical attention from the responding medic team. Concurrently, similar attacks targeted our village volunteers in Kangathei and Khoirentak, further underscoring the ongoing challenges.

The firing persisted throughout the entire day, with village volunteers displaying remarkable courage in their defense against the assailants. The use of explosive devices by the attackers posed a significant challenge for the village volunteers. Tragically, two village volunteers who were wounded by the Meiteis bombs have succumbed to their injuries. In addition, two more village volunteers sustained minor injuries during the evening altercation.

LS Mangboi Lhungdim, a well-known songwriter, tragically succumbed to his injuries in Songtal village during his transportation to Gauhati via Aizawl. His lifeless remains were repatriated using the same ambulance and received at the KKL Complex around 10:00 AM. Similarly, Richard Hemkholun also succumbed to his injuries today at approximately 11:00 AM while at the District Hospital. Both individuals had sustained injuries in a bomb attack that occurred in Khoirentak the day before.

Around 6:30 PM last night, two Meitei houses in Leimakhong Chingmang were engulfed in flames. Subsequent investigations have revealed that these houses were intentionally set ablaze by their own Meitei occupants. Notably, both of these houses were reported to be quite old. The motive behind this action remains uncertain, but it is speculated that it might be an attempt to seek financial compensation from the government.

It's worth noting that a few days prior, Kanto Sabal, a Meitei village, had made an announcement urging individuals whose houses had been damaged or destroyed in the ongoing ethnic clashes to file a First Information Report (FIR) to document their losses and potentially qualify for compensation.

# The tyranny of a multitude is a multiplied tyranny.

– Edmund Burke



KSO Media & Documentation Cell ksomediacell@gmail.com —



## Thingkho Le Malcha



BJP's Refuge for Scoundrels in Manipur - From Biren's Dramas to Michael Lamjathang's Staged Deflections

If nationalism is a last refuge for other scoundrels, BJP is a refuge for scoundrels in Manipur. Biren was the first to take refuge and Michael is the latest to do so. Until yesterday Mr. Haokip was touring news channels for interviews to defame and spew hatred towards the Kukis proclaiming himself as a person belonging to Thadou tribe but somehow he became the BJP spokesperson when his house got attacked today. Thus, the national leaders of BJP in Delhi and RSS in Nagpur need to put their house in order if they wish to remain relevant in Manipur politics in general and amongst the Kukis in particular. They must keep in mind the sentiments of tribal voters in upcoming elections in various state assembly as well.

As the saying goes "A man is known by the company he keeps," Biren and Michael are friends who love spreading hate and staging dramas. They don't shy away from displaying their high maintenance friendships. If Biren provided Michael a helicopter service for an election campaign, Michael stood tall as a sentinel for Biren to shield him from being persecuted for his crimes towards the Kukis on many occasions. The friendship is based on the foundation of their hatred towards the Kukis, their friendship history is telling of their all-weather ally or friendship.

If today Michael is considered as the rotten apple or Judas by 99% of his tribesmen, it is telling of his

character. His continual betrayal of Kukis and his being a hand puppet of Biren is a well established fact in Manipur. With the behind-the-curtains dirty politics by Biren to stop today's rally at all costs, the attack on Mr. Haokip's house stinks of dirty politics too. It is only natural to question as to if it was a staged attack to cover up and manage the news headlines to cover up his friend's crimes? Mr. Haokip has no one to blame if one raises an eyebrow on the authenticity of the attacks. He can only blame old weather friendship with Biren even today after the ethnic cleansing pogrom towards his tribesman. A person who stills maintain friendship crossing the bloods and lives of innocent victims of his tribe can do anything. Thus a staged attack of his own house if done isn't surprising either.

His bad blood with his tribesmen is already a decade-old long, so why should his tribesmen choose today of all days to launch an attack, when they are aware he is given a VIP service to propagate and defame Kukis by radicals Meitei occupying important positions in various national and regional media houses? When they know that he himself is not in his home (a person who does not feel safe in his own home among his own people shows

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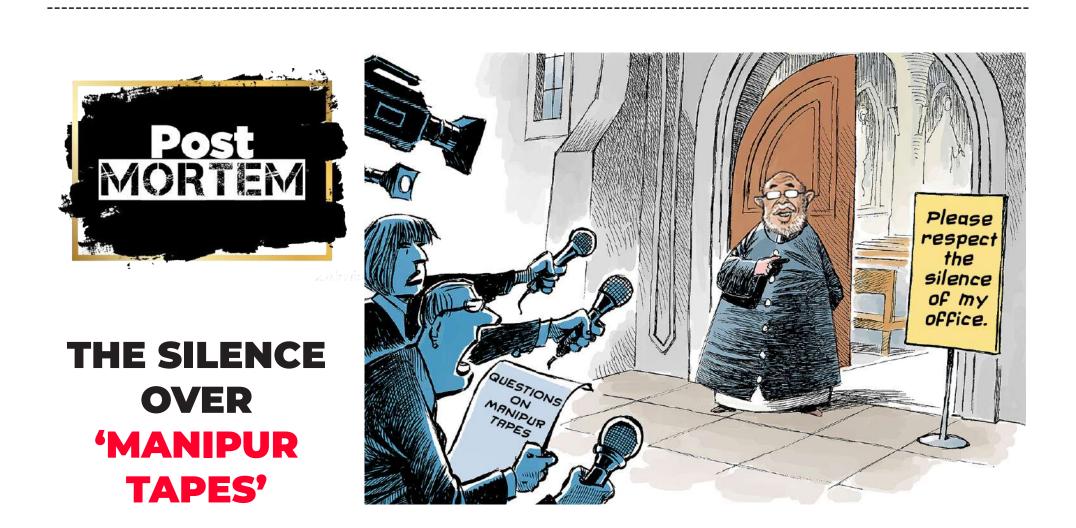
#### Contd.

that he has gone against his own people), that he has the backing of the most powerful person of the state, why would they risk their luck? When exposing Biren for his crimes is the bigger objective they have on the day, will they want the national attention to be taken away from their main cause? Because that is exactly what this is - an attempt to divert attention from Biren's crimes for which the rally was organised and portray the rally-goers in a bad light. So which side do you think benefits from this alleged staged-attack?

The answer is clear. But the bigger question is will they find a scapegoat to make their drama a reality? Anything is possible from them as long as it can defame Kukis and make their movement weaker.

Biren gave a plate full of problems for the Kukis. So, when they have a bigger objective and enemy to tackle, the rotten apple whose antics they are adapted to is an issue they don't have a problem living with for a few more years. Or else Mr. Haokip can re-settle himself at any Kuki house left behind in Imphal under the full protection of his CM, if he does not trust the Kukis.

Thus, the news headlines addressing Mr. Haokip as the BJP spokesperson is a disadvantage in itself for the BJP unless Mr. Haokip defames Kukis on behalf of the state BJP. It will do no good for the BJP to target a minority tribal community against whom their CM in the state has done enough injustice. Unless media outlets believe that the BJP spokesperson is interfering in the internal matters of the Kukis, the correct way to address Mr. Haokip would have been "A hand puppet of Biren". With elections underway in 4 states, will BJP give refuge to this scoundrel and risk themselves to be portrayed as anti-tribal? Their reaction and actions will say so.









## AT THIS TIME, KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

#### ~ Thongminthang Lhungdim

As the winds of ethnic cleansing rage, Through valleys, hills, and village stages. The majorities valley meetei, to the minorities tribal Kukis, A saga begins under blood-red sky.

At this time, Kuki village volunteers stand strong, A stand is made, by those who guard the land, at buffer's edges,

Defend their homes, on frontlines, brave they stand, With courage deep and hearts alert, at buffer zone.

At this time, let the Kuki Army stand firm, soar, With mindful hearts and watchful eyes, In unity with Kuki village volunteers, aligned, To defend the hills of the Kukis, where our freedom lies.

At this time, the womenfolk, a brave mother, stand as one, Guarding and protecting their homeland, day and night, Standing firm against any intruder, until the battle is won, Whether bias State or Central forces, who dare to encroach.

At this time, let representatives hear the people's voice, Let politicians, MLAs, and bureaucrats awake, Let the people's voices be heard, guide with truth, Be wise, be prudent, and stand on the right side. At this time, the Kuki Civil Society Organizations, arise, Let the leaders heed the call, stand in one, The cries of the people, voices strong and clear. For the nation's soul, we must hold dear.

At this time, those who cannot fight, In fields of battle, their bodies unseen, The workers from afar, government servants or private job, Can offer money and wealth, to support the battles waged.

At this time, let students remember well, Your studies are the future's hope we hold, be competitive minded, Let knowledge be your weapon, grand, At this time, your success must the greatest revenge.

At this time, the Pastors, the Church leaders of faith, kneel, In unceasing prayer, for the Kuki nation's grace. To safe and guard ancestral land, a hope to shine, Lift your voices, sending sincere prayers to our living God.

So, at this time, let us all fight, the common foes, every corners,

With all our might, all our strength, day and night, Until the sunrise of the Separate Administration, We strive for ZalenGam, for Kukiland.

#### Th`ngkho Le Malcha 💉