

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



**JOHNNY LALKHOLEN GRITE
KUM 32**

AWAITING JUSTICE



JOHNNY LALKHOLEN GRITE (32 YEARS)

S/O (L) KHUPTHANG GRITE

ADDRESS: KHAMENLOK/JANGNOMPхай, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF INCIDENT: 5TH AUGUST, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: PHOLJANG, LAMKA

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY MEITEI MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 11.09.2024



199
DEATHS



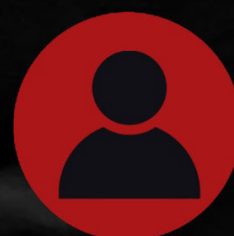
200+
VILLAGES BURNT



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.

KUKI INPI MANIPUR CONDEMNS AFSPA EXTENSION, CALLS FOR URGENT INTERVENTION

The Kuki Inpi Manipur has issued a strong condemnation of the recent extension of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in the hill areas of Manipur. The organization argues that this extension reflects institutional bias and represents a grave injustice against tribal communities, particularly the Kuki-Zo community, amid ongoing violence and insecurity.

In a statement, the Kuki Inpi highlighted the deteriorating situation in the Imphal Valley, where law and order have collapsed and radical Meitei organizations, including the VBIGs and the Meitei State Police, operate with impunity. They expressed concerns over the selective application of AFSPA, which they claim deliberately excludes the valley despite the alarming conditions, suggesting that this illustrates the Manipur state government's complicity in what they describe as a genocide campaign against the Kuki-Zo people.

The Kuki Inpi further criticized the state government for violating the principles of equality, justice, and minority rights enshrined in the Indian Constitution. They labeled the state's actions as contradictory to the ideals of a free and democratic India, calling for urgent intervention from the central government to restore justice and equality.

The organization emphasized that the Meitei government has lost legitimacy in governing the Kuki-



PRESS RELEASE

Lamka, the 2nd October, 2024

"A CALL FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY FOR THE TRIBAL PEOPLE"

04/KIM/PR./22-83: The Kuki Inpi Manipur strongly condemns the recent extension of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in the hill areas of Manipur. This extension represents institutionalized bias and a gross injustice against tribal communities, particularly the Kuki-Zo community, who have faced systemic oppression amidst escalating violence and insecurity.

The troubled state of the Imphal Valley, characterized by a total collapse of law and order and the impunity enjoyed by radical Meitei organizations, including the VBIGs and the Meitei State Police, raises serious constitutional concerns. The deliberate exclusion of the valley and the partial imposition of AFSPA, despite the alarming situation, clearly highlights the role of the Manipur state government in the ongoing genocide campaign against the Kuki-Zo people. This situation also serves as a stark reminder of the entrenched biases within the state's policies.

The Kuki Inpi believes that this selective application of the law exemplifies a broader agenda against the Kuki-Zo people - a targeted attempt at persecution. The state government has clearly violated the principles of equality, justice, and the protection of minority rights enshrined in the Constitution of India. It is utterly reprehensible that the state government operates in direct contradiction to the ideals of a free and democratic India.

Acknowledging the seriousness of the situation, we earnestly call upon the central government and all concerned for urgent intervention to ensure justice and equality. The Meitei government, responsible for orchestrating the ongoing genocide campaign and perpetuating violence and discrimination, has zero legitimacy to govern the Kuki-Zo people and our ancestral land. The Kuki-Zo people stand firmly opposed to the Manipur state government and its discriminatory and oppressive policies.

The Kuki-Zo people cannot be subjected to continuous persecution by the Manipur state government, and the need for a permanent political solution to the ongoing conflict in Manipur is therefore urgent.

(JANGHAOLUN HAOKIP)
Secretary, Information and Publicity
Kuki Inpi Manipur



Zo people and their ancestral lands. They reiterated their strong opposition to the discriminatory policies of the Manipur state government and stressed the urgent need for a permanent political solution to the ongoing conflict in the region.

UNC SUSPENDS PROPOSED 48-HOUR BANDH FOLLOWING INVITATION FOR TRIPARTITE TALKS FROM GOVERNMENT

The United Naga Council (UNC) has announced that it has temporarily suspended its proposed total bandh in Naga areas "on receipt of an official invitation for Tripartite Talk on the issue of District Roll Back amongst the Government of India, Govt of Manipur and the United

Naga Council on October 11, 2024 at New Delhi."

In a press statement issued on Wednesday, the apex body of the Naga tribes in Manipur said

Contd.



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that the temporary suspension of the proposed 48-hour total bandh is in response “at the request of the Representative of the MHA, Gol and Security Advisor, Northeast. The total bandh called by the UNC in Naga areas was due to begin, effective from the midnight of October 3, 2024. “Whilst acknowledging the unflinching support and cooperation from the constituent units, subordinate bodies, various Naga frontal organizations, and the Naga populace in general are requested to remain steadfast and be prepared for any course of action until our demand is met,” said the UNC.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had agreed to resume the long-pending tripartite talks with the United Naga Council, following a memorandum submitted by the council on September 11, 2024. The talks will

involve the Government of India, the Government of Manipur, and the UNC, addressing key issues, including the demand for the rollback of district boundaries in the state. In a letter dated September 30, 2024, the MHA officially communicated to the Chief Secretary of Manipur about the resumption of these discussions. A.K. Mishra, Advisor for the Northeast, has been appointed to represent the Ministry of Home Affairs in the talks.

Notably, the UNC on September 30 has announced a 48-hour total bandh in all Naga areas, commencing at midnight on October 3, 2024, demanding the rollback of new district created by the Congress government on December 8, 2016.

SOCIAL MEDIA THE BUZZ

Ambalica Singh @Iam_amby

Manipur: 7000 homes burnt to the ground—this is an attempt to erase the #KukiZo tribals. Meiteis hate Kuki history as they can't easily twist it to their whims & wishes. Kukis fought British in 1917-19 & history remains.

- #MeiteiAtrocities
- #MeiteiEngineeredManipurViolence
- #ManipurViolence
- @SamKhongsai_
- @RavinderKapur2



8:17 PM · Oct 2, 2024 · 898 Views

Harmeet Kaur K @iamharmeetK

#Manipur

Allegations surround Meitei leader Jodha Heikhurjan's UN presentation, accused of misrepresenting Manipur's conflict.

Claims suggest Meiteis, not victims, are primary aggressors, shifting blame to Chin-Kuki community.

Facts show 97% of displaced persons are Kuki, not Meitei.

Destruction of 400+ Kuki-Zo churches reveals a larger issue. Manipur's conflict stems from Meitei majority's land ambitions, targeting Christian Kuki minorities.

The international community must recognize the truth beyond misleading narratives.

- #ManipurViolence
- #ManipurTapes
- #MeiteiLiesDebunked
- @UN @UNHumanRights @UN_HRC
- @SamKhongsai_
- @haokipkim128
- @RavinderKapur2



10:19 PM · Oct 2, 2024 · 511 Views

DELHI HIGH COURT REJECTS NIA'S PRELIMINARY OBJECTION TO MAINTAINABILITY OF PLEA CHALLENGING ARREST OF UNLF (P) CADRES

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday rejected the preliminary objection raised by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) regarding the maintainability of the petition filed by three cadres of the United National Liberation Front (P) challenging their arrest and remand orders for waging war against the state in the backdrop of Manipur's ethnic violence.

The high court also held that in matters concerning personal liberty, it is "never just or proper to reject a plea based on a pedantic, hyper-technical" approach.

Based on a July 19, 2023, FIR, NIA arrested the self-styled army chief of the organisation Thokchom Shyamjai Singh, its intelligence officer Laimayum Anand Sharma, and a driver Salam Ibomcha Meitei on March 13. The three are facing charges under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) for criminal conspiracy and waging war against the state, as well as for offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

NIA has alleged that the three are involved in raising funds for UNLF through extortion, as well as recruiting cadres and procuring weapons to incite violence in Manipur. Notably, the union government, Manipur state government and the UNLF(P) had signed a tripartite peace accord in November 2023.

A habeas corpus petition was moved following their arrest, also seeking the setting aside of their arrest, but the plea was subsequently withdrawn from before the Delhi High Court on April 16, with the court granting liberty to the petitioners to move the same issues before the competent court.

The present plea challenges their arrest as well as their remand as illegal. The petitioners have contended that their arrest violates their fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14, 21, and 22 of the Constitution. The petitioners, represented by advocate Siddhartha Borgohain, have also pointed out that "grounds of arrest ought to have been communicated to them in writing at the time of their arrest.



NIA, represented by Rahul Tyagi, opposing the maintainability of their plea, had submitted that the petitioners could not have moved Delhi HC but rather could have either moved the Supreme Court with a writ petition or challenged their remand orders before the NIA special court.

Rejecting the NIA's contention, Justice Anup Bhambhani concluded, "It therefore does not stand to reason why the words "before Competent Court/Forum" appearing in order dated 16.04.2024 would, for any conceivable reason, exclude a Bench dealing with a different subject-matter allocation, even if the different Bench exercises powers under the same Article 226 of the Constitution...what is relevant is that the Bench before which the petition is filed must be competent to deal with that subject matter."

Holding the petition to be maintainable, Justice Bhambhani went on to record, "All else apart, this court is of the view that in matters concerning questions of personal liberty, it would never be just or proper to reject a plea based on a pedantic, hyper-technical or restrictive construction of order dated 16.04.2024 made by the Division Bench, especially when that order expressly grants to the petitioners liberty to agitate the same issues before the competent court or forum." (TIE)

UKHRUL VIOLENCE: THREE KILLED, SEVERAL INJURED IN A CLASH OVER LAND DISPUTE

At least three people, including one personnel of the 6th Manipur Rifles, were killed and over 30 others injured in a violent clash between two villages over a land dispute in Ukhrul district on Wednesday.

According to reliable sources, the violence erupted during a one-day cleanliness drive organised by the Thawaijao Hungpung Young Students' Organisation (THYSO) on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, from District Hospital, Hungsei to Thingrasa.

However, residents of Hunphun village opposed the activity, claiming the area fell under their jurisdiction. The disagreement escalated into a large-scale clash, involving firearms, leading to three fatalities and several others injured, some critically.

The deceased have been identified as Reileiwung Hongray and Silas Zingkhai from Hunphun village, and Worrinmi Thumra, a Manipur Rifles personnel from Lunghar village.

Wednesday's conflict has rooted to a long-standing boundary dispute between the two neighbouring villages and seen several confrontations over the years.

In response to the violence, the Manipur government temporarily suspended internet services across Ukhrul district for 24 hours, starting from 1:20 pm on Wednesday.



An official order stated, "In view of the prevailing law and order situation in Ukhrul district of Manipur with reported casualties, incidents of violence including exchange of firing, there is apprehension that some anti-social elements might use social media extensively for transmission of images, hate speech and hate video messages inciting the passions of the public which might have serious repercussions for the law and order situation in the state of Manipur".

The Ukhrul district sub-divisional magistrate has also imposed emergency measures under Section 163 of the BNSS, 2023. The order highlighted that the land dispute between Hunphun and Hungpung villages could lead to further disturbances, risking public peace and safety.



Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed.

— *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

THE MANIPUR TAPES
PART-5

FEATURED ARTICLE

Manipur Tapes: 'Amit Shah Called Me, He Wanted NIA to Arrest 5 Persons, I Didn't Reply at First, They Finally Got Only Two'

Sangeeta Barooah Pisharoty

As many as 13 cases related to the ethnic violence in Manipur have been handed over to the National Investigating Agency (NIA), chief minister N Biren Singh told the state assembly this past February 24.

However, an audio recording recently submitted to the official Commission of Inquiry on the Manipur violence suggests the process of "handing over" may not always have been a smooth one and that the premier Union government's agency's ability to investigate some of these cases may have been compromised as a result.

The audio features the voice of a man speaking in Meiteilon whom the person/s who take responsibility for making the recording have identified – in a signed and sworn affidavit – as Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh. For the record, the Manipur government has claimed the recording is "doctored" and that the voice heard is not that of the chief minister. On its part, The Wire cannot independently verify the identity of the speaker but can confirm that the recording and affidavit were formally submitted to the Justice Ajai Lamba commission last month.

Given the compelling public interest involved in the contents of this recording – both for the people of Manipur and the rest of India – The Wire is placing some key excerpts in the public domain. The question of whose voice it is in the tape is a contested one before

a public and statutory commission of inquiry, and as such also a matter of public interest.

In the recording, the voice, purportedly that of Biren Singh, boasts to his audience about how he intervened in an ethnic violence-related case some time last year to ensure that an NIA team present in Imphal couldn't arrest all the "five" persons it wanted.

Significantly, the voice also claimed that he succeeded in holding back most of the accused wanted by the NIA team in spite of Union home minister Amit Shah telling him on the telephone to allow the central team to carry out its work. As per the claim made in the recording, Shah had categorically asked Singh to send all "five" of them in a helicopter belonging to the Border Security Force (BSF) along with the NIA team.

"NIA ka pura team hai (in Imphal) hum ka bhi izzat dekho (The full NIA team is present there; show some respect to us)," Amit Shah was quoted as saying by the voice. But the NIA was finally given only two of the five men they sought.

This is an English translation of the relevant section of the recording:

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“At that time (or situation), I could not speak out a lot but at last, the home minister himself called me on phone...there is a helicopter for the BSF (Border Security Force) but arrest those five and send them...I did not reply at first. The first time the home minister phoned me, I was told for the five to be arrested and handed over...I did not react; he was calling because of his own tension...arms being snatched...no arrests are made, etc. etc....the Supreme Court is saying this...that...there were calls even for the PM to resign...I did not give a reply immediately.

I know...I am assessing the situation...2-3 hours after Amit Shah Ji called, I then said I would take action at my level; then he said...Arre, NIA pura team hair...hum ka bhi izzat dekho (The full NIA team is there...show some respect to us). So, that is how it happened...they said two of them...and so we agreed on that...out of respect and on consideration of the any wrong actions by the five...”

Though Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi have solidly stood by Biren Singh ever since the violence erupted last year – Shah told parliament in August 2023 that Singh “is cooperating” with the Centre and that there were no grounds for the Opposition to demand his sacking – the recording if indeed it is of Singh, suggests that he may on occasion have been happy to delay action on – or even parry – requests made directly by Shah despite knowing that Modi’s own national standing would take a beating as a result.

The breakdown of law and order has taken a heavy toll on the north-eastern border state, leading to killing of over 200 people by now, while at least 60,000 others belonging to both the Kuki and Meitei communities are still displaced. As per official records, as many as 39 people are still missing. The state is virtually divided into two on ethnic lines with central forces guarding the buffer zone.

As stated in the first part of Manipur Tapes, The Wire is unable to independently establish that the person heard speaking on the recording about the violence in Manipur is indeed Biren Singh, but we have confirmed

the date, subject and contents of this meeting with some of the participants, none of whom was willing to be identified because of fears for their safety. Some persons claiming to have been participants at the meeting held at the chief minister’s official residence sometime last year, assert that the voice is indeed of Biren Singh and that he did say all the things in the recording in their presence.

The Wire had obtained a copy of the recording, which in total is about 48 minutes long, from a well-placed source in July 2024, and has transcribed and translated its contents. The Wire had, however, refrained from publication until it was told that the same has been placed on the record of the official Commission of Inquiry set up under the law. The Commission was set up by a notification of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) on June 4, 2023.

The date and time of the recording as well as the circumstances under which it was made at the chief minister’s official residence have been provided to the Commission in the affidavit but The Wire is withholding from publication any particulars that might help lead to the disclosure of the deponent/s’ identity and endanger their security. The deponent/s have also sought confidentiality from the Commission citing the sensitivity of the content and possible threat to their life and limb, which has been granted, The Wire has learnt.

Questions to the Chief Minister

Keeping in view the claim made by the voice identified by the deponent/s as that of the chief minister made in their presence, The Wire has sent the following questions to Biren Singh’s office. If any response is received, will be added here.

The Wire is aware that your office has issued a denial of the voice on the tape being that of the Chief Minister and the same has been carried by the Wire repeatedly. Independently thereof,

Contd.

Contd.

questions affecting public interest remain and the following are some of them.

A) Did N. Biren Singh stop an NIA team present in Imphal last year from arresting five people accused in a case of violence?

B) Did the chief minister speak to the union home minister Amit Shah to stop the NIA team in Imphal from arresting the five people and taking them away from the state in a BSF helicopter last year?

C) Did the Chief Minister's intervention lead the NIA team to only arrest two persons in that case?

Questions to the NIA Spokesperson

Since the claims made in the audio recording purportedly compromise the independence of the NIA, a premier probe agency of the country, The Wire has also sent the following set of questions to the NIA

spokesperson Jaya Roy. If any response is received, will be added here.

A) Did any NIA team face any hindrance from the Manipur government or chief minister N Biren Singh in arresting all the accused it wanted in any of their cases related to the ethnic conflict?

B) How many cases arising from the recent ethnic conflict in Manipur is the NIA investigating?

C) Was there a specific number of arrestees in the NIA's plan of action, and could they all be arrested? If not, were they subsequently caught, or are they still treated as absconding?

D) What is the current status of the investigation? Has the charge-sheet or final report been filed?

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A SONNET OF UNITY AND RESOLVE FOR THE KUKI



To Kuki hearts, with courage bold and strong,
Together we shall rise and claim our due.
Through trials faced, we've journeyed far and long,
With hopes and dreams held steadfast, pure, and true.

Let not the winds of doubt obscure our aim,
For justice waits, though battles may be hard.
In unity, we'll kindle brighter flame,
And no defeat shall leave us scarred or marred.

The path may twist, with shadows in our way,
Yet dawn will come, with skies of clearer hue.
Our voice, a mighty force, will never sway,
And what we seek, we surely shall pursue.

Take heart, O tribe, our victory is near,
In steadfast faith, we conquer every fear.

~ **Moun is kuki**