

# Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## AWAITING JUSTICE



### NIENGLAIDI (21 YEARS)

D/O JANGKHONGAM, W/O ROTENKA NANAQ

ADDRESS: V. HAIPIJANG, SUGNU, CHANDEL

DATE OF INCIDENT: 5<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: PHOLJANG, LAMKA

CAUSE OF DEATH: MARRIED TO MEITEI, 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.

# NEWS REPORT: COMPLICATIONS ARISE IN DRONE BOMBING INVESTIGATIONS IN MANIPUR

As Manipur grapples with ongoing violence, the investigation into alleged drone bombings in Imphal West has become increasingly complex. According to sources, the Manipur Police base their claims on eyewitness accounts and evidence collected from the scene, while the Indian Army emphasizes technological data. The case has been handed over to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for a thorough inquiry.

This week, Indian Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi dismissed the claims of drone bombings as a “wrong narrative,” stating that ground checks revealed no evidence of such attacks. His comments follow assertions from the former Director General of the Assam Rifles, who also denied the occurrence of drone bombings.

On September 1 and 2, the Manipur Police reported multiple incidents of drone bombings, citing eyewitnesses, including personnel from the CRPF and BSF, who indicated injuries among civilians. Police officials assert that two senior officers witnessed the bombings firsthand.

In a formal statement, the Manipur Police characterized the drone bombings as an unprecedented escalation, suggesting the involvement of highly trained individuals capable of operating advanced technology. They emphasized the seriousness of these attacks, which they claim specifically targeted security forces and civilians.

Conversely, at the Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2024, General Dwivedi refuted allegations of weaponized drones being used against civilians, labeling them as a “false narrative.” He reiterated that no evidence of drone bombings was found during Army investigations, also dismissing claims of infiltration by anti-national elements.



In response to General Dwivedi’s comments, IG Operations of the Manipur Police, IK Muivah, criticized the former DG’s statements as misleading, reaffirming the police’s position on the drone bombings.

While the Manipur Police’s eyewitness accounts will be documented by the NIA, officials state that they have gathered substantial evidence, including reports from local community members and security personnel. The investigation continues as both sides present conflicting narratives regarding the events.

Sources within the Indian Army maintain that surveillance systems in the area did not detect any drone activity on the dates in question, rising doubts about the police’s claims. They stress that such systems are typically reliable and would not have overlooked sustained drone movements.

“We received a call about an attack in Koutruk. When the police learned that a machine worth over Rs 4 crore had been burned, high-ranking officers, including the IG, went to the scene to

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maintain law and order. The officers witnessed the drone bombings. Importantly, drones dropped bombs again the following day, which were also observed by CRPF and BSF officials. We have collected irrefutable eyewitness accounts, evidences which will be the part of the NIA probe,” said a senior Manipur government official. Officials noted that while those who died in the incident sustained bullet injuries, some individuals, including women, were injured in the drone bombings. However, sources within the Indian Army have stated that they have systems deployed in the area where

the drones were allegedly seen.

“We have systems in place, and on September 1, those systems did not record any drone movement in that area. It is unlikely that the systems failed to detect multiple drone movements over several hours. Moreover, officers on the ground reported no evidence of drone bombings,” a senior Indian Army official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said.

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## CONGRESS DEMANDS INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGED ARMS LOOTING AMIDST VILLAGE CLASH

The Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) has strongly condemned the recent alleged looting of arms from Ukhrul Police Station during a clash between two villages over a land dispute.

The committee has called for an enquiry into the incident.

Addressing the media at a press conference, MPCC President Keisham Meghachandra Singh highlighted that October 2, observed as the International Day of Non-Violence, witnessed an unfortunate incident in Ukhrul District, Manipur.

A clash over a longstanding land dispute between two villages resulted in the loss of four lives and left many injured.

Singh criticised the state government, pointing out that incidents of arms looting have become a trend during violent outbreaks. He alleged that weapons, often looted from police stations, seem to be supplied rather than stolen, citing the Ukhrul violence as evidence of the home department’s failure.

He questioned the number of weapons remaining in state police stations, given the frequent occurrences



of such lootings. Singh also stated that the district authorities were aware of the potential for clashes but failed to prevent them, urging the state government to take responsibility.

Singh appealed to the Tangkhul community in the district to restore peace and harmony. It is noteworthy that on October 2, a mob stormed a police station in Ukhrul town and looted arms during a clash between the Hungpung and Hunphun villagers. (IndiaTodayNE)

# HOW EXTENSION OF AFSPA REPRESENTS GROSS INJUSTICE AGAINST TRIBALS

The Manipur government last week extended the promulgation of the AFSPA in the entire state, except in the jurisdiction of 19 police stations in seven districts of the Imphal Valley, for another six months with effect from October 1. The extension of the period of the AFSPA in the mountainous areas dominated by tribal communities would be a gross injustice to the tribals.

Various tribal organisations, including the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM), strongly criticised the N. Biren Singh-led state government for extending the term of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) for another six months with effect from October 1.

The extension of the AFSPA) represents institutionalised 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, characterised by a total collapse of law and order and the impunity enjoyed by radical Meitei organisations, 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 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, the tribal leader said in a statement.



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.

It said that the Kuki-Zo community stands firmly opposed to the Manipur state government, and “its discriminatory and oppressive policies”. Demanding an urgent and permanent political solution to the ongoing conflict in Manipur, the Kuki-Zo people cannot be subjected to continuous persecution by the Manipur state government.

In a related development, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has also extended AFSPA in certain districts of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland for another six months, effective October 1. This move has drawn widespread criticism from political parties, NGOs, and civil society organizations in the northeastern region, including the North East Students’ Organisation (NESO) and various Naga groups, all of whom are demanding a complete repeal of the AFSPA. The act grants the armed forces special powers to conduct operations and raids in areas where it is enforced without prior permission.



# MANIPUR CONGRESS QUESTIONS NON-INCLUSION OF MANIPURI IN CLASSICAL LANGUAGE CATEGORY

Former Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh expressed disapproval of the non-inclusion of Manipuri as a classical language of India, urging the authorities to clarify the reason for its exclusion.

The Union Cabinet, on October 3 approved classical language status for five Indian languages - Assamese, Bengali, Marathi, Pali and Prakrit.

It must be mentioned that the language did not get selected despite the fact that Maharaja Leishemba Sanajaoba, Member of Parliament from Manipur had been urging the inclusion and had also raised the matter at the Parliament.

Meanwhile, Manipur Congress MLAs also strongly reacted to the decision.

Okram Ibobi Singh expressed that the party is happy with the addition of five other languages, further expressing that he would be more grateful had Manipuri language also get such recognition.

Ibobi said that he believes the language fulfills all the criteria needed for inclusion as a classical language as it has its own script and history.



He also urged the authorities concerned to clarify the reason for the lack of recognition of the Manipuri language as a classical language. The state will consider it a complete betrayal if Manipuri fulfills all the criteria required to attain the status of a classical language.

Meanwhile, MP Sanajaoba expressed his determination to continue advocating for Manipuri's inclusion. "I will keep trying my level best to include my mother language in the status of Classical till my last day of Tenure," he stated, urging cooperation from all concerned parties.



**The basic tool for the manipulation of reality is the manipulation of words. If you can control the meaning of words, you can control the people who must use the words.**

— Philip K. Dick



FEATURED ARTICLE

## ‘Manipur Tapes’ Suggest Banned Armed Groups and Police ‘Commandos’ Played a Role in Violence

Newsreel Asia Insight #325

The “Manipur Tapes,” currently under review by an official enquiry commission and allegedly featuring Chief Minister N. Biren Singh’s voice, suggest that Mr. Singh may have facilitated cooperation between state security forces and outlawed Meitei groups like the People’s Liberation Army Manipur (PLA) to target the Kuki-Zo minority amid the ethnic conflict that erupted in May 2023, according to The Wire.

The voice in the recording, alleged to be that of Mr. Singh, who is a Meitei, is heard saying, “[Police] commandos ... those underground people at frontline ... made all of them join together. I am telling you ... revealing the truth, the PLA ..., Pambei’s people (a faction of the insurgent group United National Liberation Front, or UNLF), PREPAK (another insurgent group) and every other ... with commandos, I let them all join together,” as reported by The Wire.

### The Insurgency Groups

PREPAK, or People’s Revolutionary Party of “Kangleipak,” was founded in 1977 to advocate for the independence of Manipur from Indian governance. “Kangleipak” is the historical name for the region before Manipur became part of India in 1949.

The Pambei faction of the UNLF is a splinter group within one of Manipur’s oldest insurgent organisations. This faction is reportedly led by Khundongbam Pambei.

The PLA was formed in 1978 with the objective of establishing an independent socialist state of Manipur.

Both PLA and PREPAK are banned under India’s Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act due to its involvement in armed resistance against Indian government forces.

In November 2023, the Pambei faction of the UNLF signed a peace agreement with the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. However, the group has been accused by officials of perpetrating violence also after the signing of the ceasefire.

“Commandos” in Manipur, recruited from the Manipur Rifles, local police and the Indian Reserve Battalion, are specialised units trained to handle high-risk operations, including anti-terrorism

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efforts, hostage situations and violent clashes related to ethnic or communal conflicts. These commandos, not officially part of the state's law enforcement structure, are selected by the Chief Minister's office unofficially, according to a previous report by The Print.

During the initial phases of the violence, sections of the commandos were accused of joining Meitei mobs that burned homes and attacked Kuki-Zo villages with weapons.

**The PLA**

The PLA is notable among these groups because, despite the fact that organisations banned under the UAPA are prohibited from engaging in any public or private activities, promoting their agenda, recruiting members or communicating as an organisation, it maintains a presence on social media and actively communicates with people both within Manipur and beyond.

On X, PLA describes itself this way: "With a full determination of independent Manipur our leaders went to Lasha in Tibet in 1975 and come up with a new ideology to make a total change in Manipur." They also call for local support by urging people to "Join PLA || Please Like Share and follow," featuring videos of armed and unformed individuals from the group.

On Sept. 25, the group posted a message by their Acting President M.M. Ngouba: "There is another history of deception and insincerity that parallels the history of the heinous crimes committed by the Bharat government and its occupying forces ..."

PLA also engages in acts of symbolic defiance online such as observing the "78th Manipur Independence Day Celebrations" and calling for boycotts of Indian Independence Day.

**The Recording**

The 48-minute recording, first published by The Wire, was allegedly made during a closed-door meeting at the official residence of the Manipur Chief Minister.

Given the nature of the groups allegedly involved with state police in the violence, the recording's implication that the sitting chief minister facilitated such collaboration is of grave seriousness.

The government of Manipur had dismissed the audio as "doctored," asserting that the claims of it being Singh's voice were false, after the Kuki Students' Organisation released excerpts of the recording in a press release a few months ago.

The Manipur Tapes were submitted in August to the Justice Ajai Lamba Commission of Inquiry, established by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to investigate the ethnic violence over land rights and identity.

The conflict has resulted in more than 200 deaths, the destruction of thousands of houses and hundreds of churches and synagogues, and the displacement of over 60,000 people. The violence continues 17 months later.

The commission is expected to verify the authenticity of the recordings through forensic examination. The individuals who provided the recording have sworn in an affidavit that the voice heard is indeed that of Singh.

Published by [Newsreel Asia](#)



THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

Ravinder Kapur. @RavinderKapur2

Meitei terrorists on a full display of their gun handling skills.

Why are they not being accountable for this showoff??

#Manipur  
#ManipurViolence

@SushmaSh22



6:39 AM · Oct 4, 2024 · 3,949 Views

Sushant Singh @SushantSin

Follow

Imagine if this incident had happened in Kashmir or Punjab. Barely 25% of the weapons taken from (given away?) state armouries 16 months back have returned so far. But no one is held accountable or punished.

Biren Singh, the CM seems to hold some kind of sway over PM Modi.

Mob storms police station, loots weapons in Manipur's Ukhrul

IMPHAL, OCTOBER 3  
A mob stormed a police station in Manipur's Ukhrul town and looted arms during a clash between two groups, officials said on Thursday.

They said three persons were killed and 20 others injured in a gunfight that broke out between two groups on Wednesday over cleaning a disputed land in the town as part of the 'Swachhata Abhiyan'.

Besides, prohibitory orders were imposed and mobile internet services were sus-

Prohibitory orders in place, Net suspended amid group clash

suspended in the town after the clash between two groups of the Naga community.

"After violence broke out in Ukhrul town, a mob comprising mostly of youths stormed the police station located at Wino Bazar and decamped with government weapons. The number and types of weapons looted cannot be immediately con-

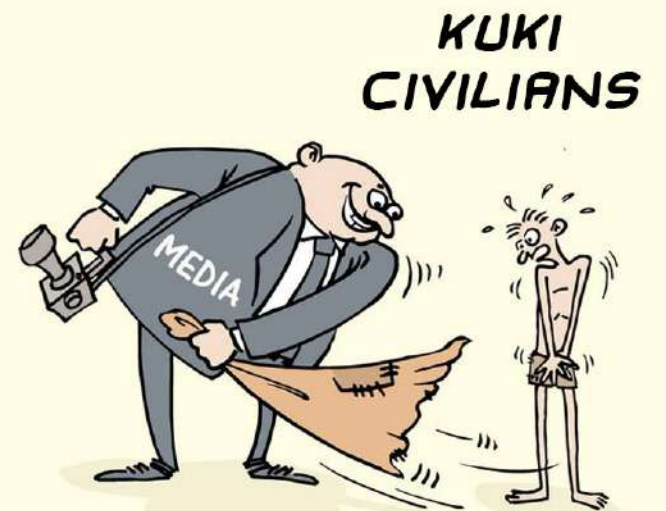
firmed as an investigation is continuing," an official said. Unofficial sources, however, claimed that the looted weapons included AK-47 and INSAS rifles.

Looting of arms was reported from various police stations in the ethnic-strife-torn state earlier, but in all those cases, the areas concerned were dominated by either Meities or Kukis, the two warring communities. This is the first time a police station was stormed in a Naga-majority area, a source said. — PTI

9:21 · 04 Oct 24 · 4,595 Views

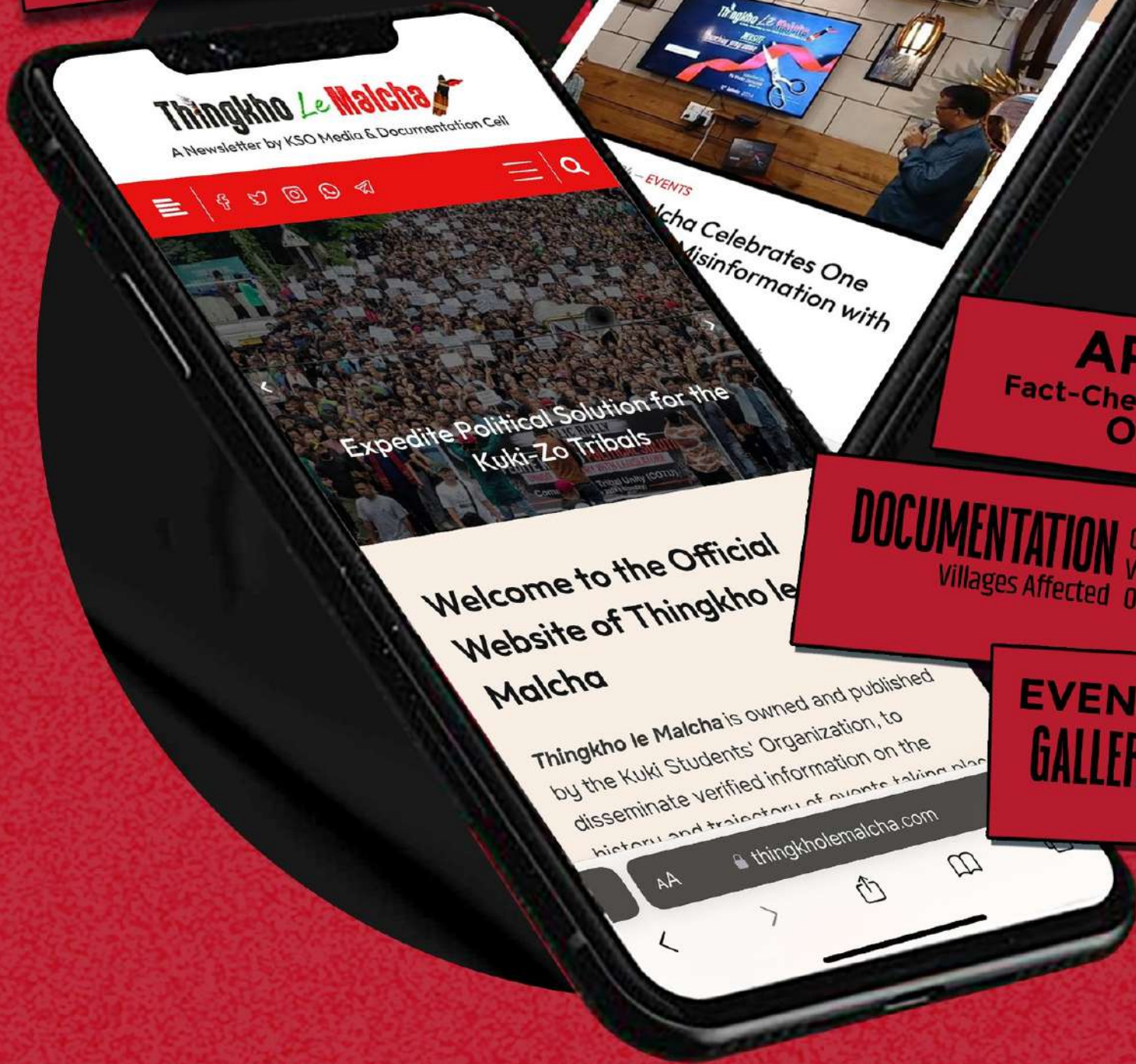


THE MEDIA COVER-UP & VICTIMISATION OF CIVILIANS





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# THROUGH ASHES, I DREAM

In dreams, I wander far from here ,  
Yet wake to shadows drawing near.  
The world, so cruel ,both day and night,  
We live in darkness,seeking the light .

By day, the pain is sharp and clear,  
In night's embrace, we fear the fray.  
Like Orphans lost, or stepchild's plight,  
Our suffering echoes through the past.

Mornings bring the worry for the noon,  
Afternoons are haunted by the moon.  
The world's harsh hand is always near,  
It's cruelty seals our bitter fate.

My young eyes see the endless strife,  
It haunts my nights and robs my glow.  
Tears falls silent, wet the pillow's seam,  
Hoping for a world that's but a dream.

In war's dark grip, my mind is bound,  
The bloodshed echoes all around.  
I can't unsee, I can't unhear ,  
This new normal, so severe.

Yet in the darkest depths of night,  
I dream of dawn, of future light.  
Where shadows fade and hope is real,  
And suffering's wounds begin to heal.

~ **Themnou khongsai.**