

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



HOIKHONIENG ZOU (75 YEARS)

W/O HEMJATHANG

ADDRESS: KURAOPOKPI, TENGNUPAL DISTRICT

DATE OF INCIDENT: 9TH AUGUST, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: TENGNUPAL

CAUSE OF DEATH: TORTURED, LATER SUCCUMBED TO INJURY



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-ZO TOP TRIBAL BODY REBUTS TCI; CONDEMNS ETHNO-CENTRIC NARRATIVES

In response to the statement made by a self-proclaimed group, the Thadou Community International (TCI), dated 4th October 2024, regarding the release of three Meitei individuals, the Kuki-Zo community strongly condemns this ethno-centric narrative, which mirrors the stance of the valley-based COCOMI. This misrepresentation is deeply regrettable.

It is important to clarify that the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) played a pivotal role in securing the safe release of the Meitei youths, who were detained by village volunteers after crossing buffer zones on 27th September 2024 at around 4 PM. Contrary to the claims made, it was not due to any external influence.

The delay in their release was largely due to the reluctance of the Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh, to take



swift action for their safety. The central government was eventually appealed to, in order to resolve the matter.

This act of goodwill by the Kuki-Zo community should not be misinterpreted as a step towards.

MANIPUR POLICE RECOVER 80% OF FIREARMS LOOTED DURING UKHRUL VIOLENCE

Sixteen firearms looted by a mob from the Ukhrul police station in Manipur were recovered, police said on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference, Inspector General (Operations) IK Muivah said during the clash between two villages on October 2, an agitated mob stormed into the police station and looted 20 firearms.

“With the cooperation of the security forces, Civil Society Organisations, and community leaders, 80 per cent of the weapons have now been recovered,” he said.

Efforts are underway to retrieve the remaining weapons, he said.



Among the arms recovered were 9mm pistols, INSAS rifles and AK-47 rifles, he added. Muivah said the situation in the district was under control, and security forces, including the Manipur Rifles, Assam Rifles and BSF, were keeping a close

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watch with the cooperation of leaders of the two villages. “This is something unprecedented, noteworthy and praiseworthy for all those who have played a very positive role in restoring normalcy,” he said.

Assam Rifles’ officer Sanjeev Singh said the situation has been brought under control with “minimal use of force or no use of force”.

“Jointly Assam Rifles, BSF and the police have ensured that no more violent incident takes place. CSOs have played a great role. We want to appeal

that we are in a de-escalation phase and we should keep de-escalating the situation,” he said. Four people were killed and 20 others injured in a gunfight that broke out between two groups, both belonging to the Naga community but two different villages, on October 2 over cleaning a disputed land in the town as part of ‘Swachhata Abhiyan’.

Prohibitory orders were imposed and mobile internet services were suspended in the town after the clash. (Business Standard)

OVER 10 ACRES OF POPPY PLANTATION DESTROYED IN TAMENGLONG

At least 10 acres of nursery plants suspected to be poppy and planted illegally were destroyed by the Manipur Police and village operatives in Tamenglong.

The operation took place from September 27 to October 3, in the Kuilong Part 2 and Kadi IV villages under the jurisdiction of Tamei Police Station.

According to reports, approximately 4-5 acres were cleared in Kuilong Part 2 village, while 5-6 acres were destroyed in Kadi IV village.

The suspected illegal cultivation, believed to be the work of unknown individuals, was uncovered through coordinated efforts of locals and police.



Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh in a post on X said, “We will not rest until these poppy plantations and the drug menace are completely eradicated from Manipur.” (NE Now News)



Freedom is an expensive gift always worth fighting for. Even if it costs us!

— Marck E. Estemil

MANIPURI'S OMISSION FROM CLASSICAL LANGUAGE LIST UNDERMINES MEITEI HISTORICAL CLAIMS

The Meitei community's claim of having a 2,000-year history is misleading and unsupported by substantial evidence. If their history genuinely spanned two millennia, their language would have been recognized as a classical language of India. According to established criteria, a classical language must possess a recorded history of at least 1,500 to 2,000 years, a body of ancient literature, and continuity distinct from later linguistic offshoots. Current evaluations suggest that the Meitei language does not meet these qualifications.

Criteria for Classical Languages:

1. High antiquity of early texts or recorded history over a period of 1,500-2,000 years.
2. A body of ancient literature or texts that is valuable to its speakers.
3. Knowledge texts (especially prose) with significant inscriptions and historical evidence.
4. Continuity in the language and literature, distinct from later linguistic offshoots.

Based on these criteria, it is evident that the Meitei language does not meet the qualifications for classical language status.

Moreover, historical and genetic studies indicate that the contemporary Meitei population is a mix of various ethnic groups, including descendants of Shantidas Gosai from Bangladesh and individuals claiming origins from China, Thailand, and Myanmar. Notably, over half of today's Meiteis are categorized as "New Meiteis," whose ancestors migrated from mainland India after the 1800s, making them more recent immigrants than the so-called "New Kuki," whose presence in the region predates the Meitei. The term "New Kuki" first appeared in The Gazetteer of Manipur (1886). It is ironic that while some Meiteis label the Kuki-Zo people as immigrants, they themselves conceal their Mayang ancestry behind a Yumnak (occupational surname). In fact, the Kuki-Zo people inhabited Manipur before the original Meiteis, led by Pakhangba, arrived and settled



in the Kangla region.

Historically, the original Meiteis trace their lineage back to Pakhangba and other valley tribes, while newer groups, often referred to as "Mayangs," are genetically distinct. This has led to some tension, as Meiteis who label the Kuki-Zo people as newcomers often overlook their own Mayang ancestry.

British records from the 19th century, particularly by Bertran S. Carey and H. N. Tuck, document a pattern of exaggeration among the Meitei, describing them as having "habitual lies and exaggeration." These observations highlight a continued narrative of distortion, especially regarding the ethnic cleansing actions against the Kuki tribals, which have been challenged by various groups and organizations both nationally and internationally.

In light of these findings, there are calls for the central government to take action to protect the rights of the Kuki people, potentially by considering Union Territory status with legislative powers to ensure their safety and representation.



Biren: A Monster India is Nurturing in its Courtyard With Dignity and Power Undeserving for Him

The stark silence of the central government and their continual inaction against Biren even after an audiotape which provides the evidence for his complicity in the ongoing conflict got leaked, whereby the person(s) making the recording have, in a signed and sworn affidavit, identified the person speaking Meiteilon in the audio as Manipur chief minister N. Biren Singh despite knowing how dangerous it is for him/her or them, is immoral, unethical, undemocratic, worrying and terrifying. It leaves the victims in despair with no ray of hope for their justice as it is seen as an attempt by the central government to back Biren Singh yet again. Their continual support and backing is seen by the innocent civilians as their complicity, as they believe President Rule is an alternative as well if not other BJP MLA's. How can a man in power be held accountable with the continual support of his superiors to whom the victims should otherwise seek their help to hold him accountable? Will their compromise cost India dearly, is thus the question.

The unfolding of events in the past one and half year, stands tall as a testament of the central government's lack of interest in the ongoing conflict, their role being limited only to damage control and Biren's continual stranglehold in the state. The belief on the ground is that Biren is more powerful than he was before. They think that Manipur is now under Biren's autocratic rule and not a mere Biren-led government in the state. The

ground reality of Manipur is telling of the complete breakdown of constitution and law and order despite the implementation of Article 355 which refers to the provision in the Constitution that states that "It shall be the duty of the Union to protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance and to ensure that the government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution".

What strikes out in both the snippets of the leak audio tape content release by The Wire is the upper hand Biren holds and his influence on every issue, his disregard for rule of law and the central government and its agencies. The central government's silence and the ground realities of Manipur is proving the authenticity of the content each passing day. If this is how Article 355 functions, then Article 355 is comparable to the power of the British crown as laid down in writing by the British parliament - a paper tiger with no real authority. One will not be wrong in assuming to state that the de-facto power of the state is entrusted to Biren alone after a careful observation and analysis of the ground reality of governance in the state.

On paper, it is the Unified Command that oversees
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security operations in Manipur and is currently handled by a team of Union Home Ministry officials, the state security adviser and the Army. However amid the ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur, the state government led by Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, has created a new post of Senior Superintendent of Police (Combat) and appointed a retired Colonel of the Indian Army, Mr. Nectar Sanjenbam. It is not surprising that his pro-activeness and responsibilities is being restricted only to Kuki dominated areas as he was appointed by the accused mastermind of the ethnic cleansing CM Biren Singh. His infamous operations and activities in Moreh town and Sugnu caused more violence and human and constitutional rights violations of the innocents civilians inhabiting the said places. An intel report from CMO recently is exposing the non-unified command and non-coordination of the so called Unified Command operating in Manipur. It also exposes the CM's office role in inciting fear amongst the public and communal enmity between the two communities and thus inciting the conflict more. Will it be wrong to assume Kuldiep Singh as a puppet being deployed to deceive the people of India that Article 355 is being implemented in the state?

Coup d'état of constitutional machinery including Ministers by VBIGs Arambai Tenggol at Kangla fort and assault of elected representative during that meeting, surrendering of state police uniforms and its vehicles to the same outfit, the same outfit which holds looted weapons and ammunition from the state armoury. They along with militants (or/Police) in state police uniforms attack and arson houses, properties and churches in the fringes inhabited by Kukis. They are alleged to have engaged in booth capture during the recent elections. However, the long arm of law never reaches their doorstep. Biren in the audiotape confessed that he sent the security forces to help the militants in attacking Kukis. Thus it comes with no surprise that they are not held accountable for their crimes and of Biren's claim that they are village volunteers and by some as cultural/religious groups to legitimise their inhumane and genocidal crimes. It is necessary to question and consider the possibilities of what if tomorrow Biren loses the elections and utilises this

militia group to capture power via coup d'état? The staged resignation drama and the compromisation of law and order and the constitution is pointing of the fact that Biren can do anything for power. Arambai Tenggol is a dangerous force because their radicalism and ethnocentric ideology is well received on the ground and thus they have a solid fan base in every pocket of the valley district.

Rampant extortion and broad daylight kidnapping for ransom, attacks on any voices that is anti-Biren regime; law of mob and not of law; misusing of Meira Paibis to stop central agencies and forces from carrying out their responsibilities and duties; rescuing arrested criminals; freedom to spread communal hatred and violence; discriminatory practices through negligence; inaction and misuse of power and authority towards the Kukis by government officials and departments in the state capital Imphal, and crowdfunding to buy illegal weapons are some of the characteristics that define the ground reality of the valley district in Imphal. However, AFSPA is limited only for hilly districts and not for the valley. One of the reasons given for the non-imposition of AFSPA in the valley districts is that the imposition could worsen the already broken law and order. It implies some community's sentiment is valued more and the state is openly violating the principles and value of equality as laid down by the constitution.

In the first snippet of the leaked audio tape, the voice confessed to directing the security forces to use bombs discreetly after being called out by the Home Minister. The surprising fact is the attack on Kuki villages happened after a rally organised under the aegis of Kuki Inpi Manipur and Kuki Students Organisation demanding to probe the leak audio tape. Pro-government national media then orchestrated the organised campaign against the Kukis alleging them of using drone bombs in the conflict by misrepresenting videos of Myanmar rebels and Hamas as that of the Kukis'. The Army

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chief has exposed their fake allegations. The event exposed how dangerous Biren is and how far he can go to protect his CM chair and to hide his crimes. It must be noted that the discriminatory name calling of Kukis as refugees, illegal immigrants, poppy planters and narco-terrorist is popularised by the man himself.

In the second snippet, he talked about the negotiations he had with the Home Minister on 5 criminals that were to be arrested by the NIA. He confessed that 3 out of 5 were saved from the clutches of NIA investigations, and that he had to sacrifice the other two to honour the Home Minister and NIA's "izzat". Thus the question is, since when did "izzat" become the criteria for prosecution of criminals and not the rule of law? Is justice for tribals like Kukis even possible in today's India where the Home Minister's interference could not hold criminals to be prosecuted by the central agencies? It is a fact that as days pass by, they will bury more and more evidence which can prove the heinous crimes of the criminals. Hence the question becomes, is the Central government giving them the time to bury the evidence? If one of the most powerful persons in India today has to beg the Chief Minister for prosecution of criminals in the name of his "izzat", what can powerless and ordinary innocent victims do to get their justice?

To one's horror, in one of the snippets, Biren could be heard complaining about the Meitei community for not taking the due credit of rescuing and dropping the women safely to a safe place after the men committed the heinous crime of parading the women naked and gang-raping them. He expects the world to thank the Meitei Community for saving the women at least from brutal murder. Thus, it is telling of why police themselves handed over to mobs, where one of the women lost his brother and his father to the same mob that brutally raped and inhumanely paraded them naked. Any sane CM would have held the police forces accountable and questioned the community members for letting the women be tortured inhumanely in their presence except for the psychopath CM, Mr Biren who

questioned the intelligence of his community for not taking due credit for saving the women from being brutally murdered after the horrific torture they endured. His psychopath mentality is so bone-chilling that it stood up the hair on your skin. But the Kukis are expected to trust him by the central government unconditionally.

Why is India which is the third most powerful country in Asia helpless against Biren? Does India lack the technology and manpower to probe the leaked audio tape? What holds the central government back? Don't Indians deserve the unbiased truth? Will Biren be ever held accountable? Why is India nurturing a monster that could bite it back in his courtyard? Why is President's Rule not imposed, as article 355 cannot ensure the governance of the state according to the provisions of the constitution? The government of India must satisfy itself and the people of India with the above questions.

Today, Biren and his comrades' communal politics has divided the state into two emotionally and practically. They themselves won't be able to undo the deep hatred they have incited between the two conflicting communities. Thus the demand for Manipur territorial integrity by the dominant community is Kukis' ancestral land oriented not the Kukis themselves. Will India allow it? Above all Kukis don't feel safe to be integrated in the state of Manipur. The fight thus is between territorial acquisition and dignity, safety, equality and justice. While India won't lose an inch of land for creating a separate administration in the form of UT, what awaits Kukis in Manipur will be discrimination, atrocities, injustice and suffering because the level of hatred towards them have increased manyfold.

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



Ginza Vualzong
@vualzong

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Once again the CM of Manipur shows his partisans by ignoring the goodwill of the Kuki-Zo people. Had the role been reversed, no Kuki-Zo will be kept alive in the hand of the Meitei.



N. Biren Singh @NBirenSingh · 2d

The two young men abducted in Kangpokpi on 27th September, 2024 have been safely brought back to the custody of @manipur_police . I sincerely appreciate everyone from both the state and central government who worked tirelessly to e... Show more

08:31 · 03/10/24 · 2.6K Views



Harmeet Kaur K @iamharmeetK · 22h

It's so Painful to hear this young woman 's Ordeal And it's not just about one woman This Double Engine Sarkaar seems to be forgotten , ignored by the Modi Government "I was pregnant when the violence was going on, I had to flee home. I hid in the jungle for a few days on the way to the mountains. When I gave birth to a baby girl, I didn't even have a piece of cloth to keep her clean" ❤️

- Lamvah Touthang, a Kuki woman (IDPs)

#Manipur
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#ManipurViolence
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THE MEITEIS' CHIEF MINISTER



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A SONNET OF COURAGE AND RESOLVE FOR THE VALIANT DEFENDER

Upon this sacred soil you bravely stand,
A shield to guard the place where roots run deep.
Your heart entwined with every grain of sand,
In watchful vigil, while the others sleep.

The winds may howl, the skies may darken still,
But courage blooms within your steadfast soul.
With every step, you conquer every hill,
Defending earth that makes the spirit whole.

For love of land, you wield a valiant hand,
Not for reward, but for the future's sake.
A humble guardian of your homeland,
Whose quiet strength no force could ever break.

Press on, brave heart, though trials may seem vast,
Your will is firm, and victory shall last.

~ Moun is kuki