

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



LS MANGBOI LHUNGDIM (50 YEARS)

H/O NEMNEILHING LHUNGDIM

ADDRESS: T MUIPHA, LAMKA

DATE OF INCIDENT: 29TH AUGUST, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: KHOIRENTAK, LAMKA

CAUSE OF DEATH: SHOT DEAD 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.

KNF FOUNDER'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY BECOMES A RALLYING CRY FOR KUKI-ZO UNITY AND VISION

The Kuki-Zo people observed Martyrs' Day on October 12, commemorating the 31st death anniversary of Nehkholun Kuki, the founder of the Kuki National Front (KNF), the oldest and mother organization of the Kuki armed groups.

Thousands of Kuki-Zo people gathered this morning at Martyrs' Cemetery, Phaijang, in Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi District, and paid fitting tributes to the late leader and all deceased cadres who made the ultimate sacrifice for the Kuki cause.

KNF leaders, including its supremo ST Thangboi, the Home Secretary, the Defense Secretary, and others, paid floral tributes at the memorial site, followed by members of the organization and representatives from various civil bodies such as Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills (KISH), Sadar Hills Kuki Chiefs' Association (SAHILCA), Committee on Tribal Unity Sadar Hills, Kuki Women Union Sadar Hills, and others.

The day was one of shared remembrance. KISH President Thangminlen Kipgen, SAHILCA President Haokholen Kipgen, and CoTU General Secretary Lamminlun Singsit each highlighted Nehkholun Kuki's vision, simplicity, and unwavering dedication to his people.

They fondly recalled Nehkholun Kuki's relentless efforts to unify the Kuki people, remembering him for traveling across Kuki-dominated territories and forging connections with community representatives in even the most remote regions.

Born in Khoripoh village near Keithelmanbi, Nehkholun Kuki began his campaign to establish



the Kuki armed movement in 1986 along the Indo-Burma border, with a vision of creating a homeland for the Kuki people.

According to the KNF supremo, Nehkholun was a man of deep resolve, driven by a vision to uplift and protect his community.

Tragically, Nehkholun was martyred at the hands of security forces on October 12, 1993, in Motbung. His final resting place at the Phaijang memorial stands as a symbol of his enduring impact on the Kuki people. Under his leadership, the KNF emerged as a formidable force, later becoming a signatory to the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with the Indian government.

Nehkholun Kuki's life and legacy continue to inspire the Kuki community, reminding them of the sacrifices made in their ongoing pursuit of self-determination and peace.

MANIPUR POLICE FORMS ANTI-EXTORTION CELL TO CURB RISE IN CASES

The Manipur police have constituted an anti-extortion cell to focus on monitoring and supervising the anti-extortion drives in various parts of the state, senior officers said on Saturday.

This comes amid a rise in extortion activities taking advantage of the ongoing conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities in the state since May last year. In the last one year, more than 121 extortionists and 215 plus UG (underground) and gang members were arrested, said IGP (Intelligence) K Kabib.

“The extortion cell will be headed by additional director general (Law & Order) and all zonal inspector generals will be the members,” he said at a press conference in Imphal on Saturday, also attended by IGP (Administration) K Jayenta, DIG (Range-I) N Herojit Singh and SP Imphal West district Ksh Sivakanta Singh.

“In the districts, the state police with the help of other security agencies have also constituted their crack teams. There are 15 crack teams in the state as of now and they are working against the extortions,” Kabib said.

On the safety movement of the good trucks along

the National Highways in Manipur, he said that the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) with the help of state police have deployed 16 dedicated companies of CRPF for road opening parties on the National Highway 2.

There are two dedicated companies (of CRPF) especially dedicated for escorting the goods trucks along the route, he said

They have also increased frisking, checking and patrolling at some locations which were identified as hotspots of extortions, he added.

Stating that the state police are also coordinating with the other agencies in controlling extortions, he appealed to the public to cooperate with the police. “Whenever someone receives extortion (note) please don’t hide it. Please inform the police. We’ll keep the matter confidential, and we’ll try our best to catch the extortionists,” he said. “If you give in to one group, all other groups will also come to know, and they’ll also come to you.”

TWO KCP CADRES ARRESTED FOR EXTORTION IN IMPHAL

Two suspected cadres of underground groups were arrested for activities related to extortion and other crimes in Imphal, Manipur.

Police informed that one suspected cadre of the proscribed Kangleipak Communist Party (Lamyamba Khuman) namely, Leiphrakpam Jeneyson Singh (42) alias Punil of Nagamapal Kangjabi Leirak, Imphal West District was arrested.

He was arrested along with a few amount of extorted money from Mahatma Gandhi Avenue, Imphal West District.

he police also arrested a cadre of the Kangleipak Communist Party – People’s War Group (KCP-PWG), Organisation cadre namely, Mayanglambam Dhanbir.



He was arrested from his residence in Imphal East.

The suspected cadre was involved in extortion from various shops and the public residing in and around Imphal areas, the police said.

Both are now in police custody for legal proceedings, the police added. (NENow)

ONGOING PEACE TALKS BETWEEN CENTRE AND NSCN-IM CONTINUE IN NEW DELHI

Peace negotiations between the Government of India and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland – Isak-Muivah (NSCN-IM) are set to resume tomorrow, October 14, following a series of meetings that began on October 9. This marks the fourth round of discussions aimed at resolving longstanding issues related to the Naga peace process.

The talks, which resumed after a hiatus since December 2023, are being led by a 10-member NSCN-IM delegation headed by retired General V.S. Atem, while the Centre is represented by AK Mishra, Adviser for Northeast Affairs in the Ministry of Home Affairs. The ongoing discussions reflect the Centre's commitment to bring the dialogue to a constructive conclusion.

Key demands from the NSCN-IM include the recognition of a separate flag and constitution for Nagas, as well as the establishment of a Pan Naga framework that would unite various Naga communities across different regions. T Ovung, president of the NPGN/NNC (N/A), has voiced support for the talks, highlighting the need for practical outcomes and the implementation of the 2015 Framework Agreement.



As the negotiations continue, there is significant anticipation among various Naga tribes and regional stakeholders for a sustainable resolution to the Naga issue, which seeks to establish a secular and sovereign Naga state.

The outcome of these discussions is crucial for the future of the Naga people and is being closely monitored by all involved parties.



**You have an opportunity to save yourself
before it falls into the abyss of a long war that
will lead to your destruction and suffering.**

— Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel

AFTER CORCOM, SOREPA CALLS FOR STRIKE ON OCTOBER 15

The Socialist Revolutionary Party (SOREPA), Kangleipak also called for a 12-hour general strike on October 15 protesting the forcible merger of Manipur to the Indian Union in 1949.

According to a statement issued by publicity secretary, MC Yaiphabi, "The annexation of Manipur, a princely nation, occurred when the then King of Manipur Maharaja Bodhachandra was coerced into signing an agreement under extreme pressure in 1949 in Shillong (Meghalaya)."

The group stated that the general strike, however, will not cover movement relating to the emergency services including fire services, electricity, medical, religious ceremonies, and media.

The secretary also stated that SOREPA will extend support to the general strike, total shutdown, or boycott call of other revolutionary groups of Western South

East Asia (WESEA) on the said day.

The outfit accused India of using the Armed Forces (Special Power) Act (AFSPA) to prevent self-determination and suppress rising consciousness among the people of the region, who increasingly recognized the occupation of their lands.

It further alleged that Indian forces, along with mercenaries, are responsible for widespread atrocities, including killings and disappearances.

It also claimed that Chin-Kuki mercenaries, allegedly supported by India, have been involved in violent acts that threaten the future of Manipur.

It may also be noted that the Coordination Committee (CorCom), an apex body of six banned outlawed, called a 12-hour total shutdown on October 15 from 6 am in Manipur. (NE Now News)



CONTACT

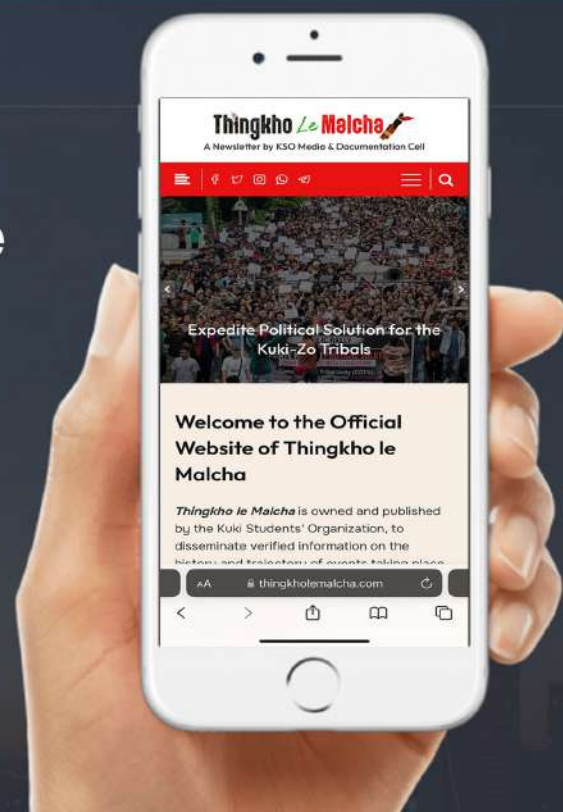


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Welcome to the Official Website of Thinkkho le Malcha

Thinkkho le Malcha is owned and published by the Kuki Students' Organization, to disseminate verified information on the history and trajectory of events taking place in the deeply divided state of Manipur. It is an indispensable locus for truth and sanctum of resistance towards the antithesis of justice and peace... [Read More](#)



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NEWS ANALYSIS

Poppy & Propaganda : How Biren Demonized the Kukis-Zo Tribes

Fact 1: Manipur is burning, with scores of innocent men, women and children murdered in the capital and the surrounding valley areas due to their ethnicity.

Fact 2: For the first time in history, an entire set of tribes numbering around half a million people are being clubbed together and labelled “foreigners” and “poppy cultivators” to justify violence against them.

But what does poppy have to do with a sectarian conflict that has displaced around 60,000 civilians and resulted in the total physical separation of two ethnic sides that have lived together for generations until violence erupted on May 3, 2023?

POPPY? TARGET THE ‘KUKIS’

Illegal poppy cultivation has existed in the state for more than a decade. The state’s proximity to the Golden Triangle - Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam - which is a major drug route, is often cited as a major factor for the proliferation of poppy cultivation.

Chief Minister N. Biren Singh began his “Nisha Thadoklasi” or “War on Drugs” in 2018. He said the aim was to make Manipur a drug-free state, but the

trajectory of the “war” which targeted a single ethnic group, coupled with his legislative overreach concerning Kuki-Zo settlements, would ultimately result in partition of the state.

A report by Narcotics and Affairs of Border (NAB), a specialised unit of Manipur police, said illicit poppy or opium cultivation is found in the hill districts of Ukhrul, Senapati, Kangpokpi, Kamjong, Lamka (previously Churachandpur), and Tengnoupal.

As the drive against poppy cultivation gathered pace, all Kuki-Zo tribal bodies, including churches, voiced their support. On February 25, 2021, representatives from 33 communities in Manipur took a pledge to end poppy cultivation under the banner of “All Communities Convention for a Pledge against Illegal Poppy Plantation”. The Kuki National Organisation (KNO), Hmar People’s Convention (Democratic), Kuki National Front, United Kuki Liberation Front, and Zomi Youth Association all issued repeated advisories and resolutions supporting the drive against poppy cultivation.

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A report by the Netherlands-based Transnational Institute and released in December 2021, stated that poppy plantations in Manipur were the “highest in Saikul, Ukhrul and Chandel”. While Saikul is home mainly to the Kukis, Ukhrul and Chandel are Naga-dominated districts.

K. Meghachandra, Manipur police’s superintendent of narcotics and border affairs, told news website Scroll that poppy plants may be thriving in Manipur’s hill districts but the opium trade also involved “Meiteis, Muslims, Nepalis” from the valley. According to the NAB data on community-wise breakup of people arrested in drug cases from 2017-2023, 873 belong to Kuki-Zo tribes, 1,083 are Muslims and 381 are Meiteis.

Yet, the crackdown on narcotics targeted only Kuki-Zo areas, which gave the impression that the CM was using the war on drugs to vilify one community. The drive was accompanied by the CM’s often hostile rhetoric targeting the Kuki-Zo.

The restaler Terms like “poppy cultivators” became associated with Kuki-Zo tribals, and the CM started positioning himself as a crusader trying to save his land from “foreigners” hell-bent on destroying the state. In a one video that the CM posted on social media, he publicly said “I will declare war on you people”.

Aby amplified by the Meitei media, the constant demonisation of tribals led to the alienation of the Kuki-Zo tribes and the radicalisation of the valley population, which now saw Kuki-Zo as foreign enemies.

While the state machinery - police, forest dept officials was deployed to “destroy” poppy plantations in the hills, there was strangely no visible effort to go after the real players in the narcotics trade - the financiers,

the drug lords, the network of middlemen and the petty peddlers who sold drugs to the people.

The police occasionally paraded drug transporters in front of the media as a public relations exercise, but none of these led to the arrest of the people running the business. Was there no interrogation of the drug transporters? Were the police not interested in bringing the drug networks down and not just target poor farmers who planted poppy in the hills on behalf of the drug lords?

To be clear, Kuki-Zo tribals who are involved in the drug trade are poor farmers in the hills who cultivate the poppy plant on behalf of drug lords to earn their livelihood. The real players in the business are the Meitei drug lords from the Imphal valley, who have the financial resources and the connections to run the drug cartels.

For instance, opium weighing 50 kilograms worth Rs. 10 crore was seized in Delhi on February 17, 2023 from two individuals from Manipur. The Special Cell of Delhi Police said they belonged to the “Itocha International Drug Cartel”. According to Manipur Pradesh Congress Committee (MPCC) vice president Hareshwar Goshwami, one of the arrested men, a Meitei named Loyangamba Itocha, is said to be a close relative of a well-known person in the state BJP circle.

A statement by the Delhi Police Special Cell said there has been widespread illegal cultivation of opium and manufacturing of heroin in Manipur in the last 5-6 years, after Biren Singh came to power in the state.

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DRUGS AND POLITICS

In 2018, decorated police officer Brinda Thongnougjam, who was leading a team of the Narcotics and Affairs of Border (NAB), arrested a drug lord and seized 4.595 kg of heroin, 2,80,200 “World is Yours” tablets, Rs 57.18 lakh in cash, another Rs 95,000 in old currency notes, and several other incriminating articles from his residence.

In the affidavit filed by Brinda in the Imphal High court on July 13, she said Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and a top state BJP leader pressured her to release and withdraw the chargesheet filed against the drug lord, Lhukhosei Zou.

Zou, it later emerged, was the right-hand man of the CM’s wife Olish. He was granted bail and acquitted in December of 2020. To protest the handling of the case, Brinda returned a gallantry medal awarded to her by the chief minister. She also later resigned from the police force.

In September 2019, the Manipur government reportedly endorsed a request by Dr. Reza Borhani, an Australian national, for the license/permit to hold, transport and use of the seeds, flowers, and leaves of the cannabis plant for scientific research and testing to his company Cannabis Health and Sciences Pvt Ltd (CHS).

The petition bears the CM’s Secretariat R.R.No.148 of the day and was immediately endorsed to the Special Secretary (Home), to “allow and issue permits for sample”.

Borhani’s firm is an unlisted private company incorporated on April 9, 2019 in Guwahati, Assam.

Two months after the meeting with Biren Singh, Borhani

was arrested by the Anti-Narcotics Cell (ANC) of the Mumbai Police crime branch for his alleged involvement in a drug racket in Mumbai. His intention to hoodwink officials and run his pan-India cartel in the guise of cannabis research using the Manipur license/permit was revealed during his arrest.

DRUG FACTORIES

While poppy plantations may be found in the hills, all drug manufacturing units are located in the valley. On August 17, 2019, police busted a drug factory in Imphal and seized 184.644 kg of brown sugar worth Rs 166 crore in “the biggest ever haul of contraband drugs in the entire northeast region.” On Feb 8, 2020, a drug manufacturing plant was busted in Thoubal district, where drugs worth Rs 120 crore were seized. On September 2, 2021, police raided a drug factory in Imphal East and seized drugs worth over Rs 90 crore. On June 14, 2022, police discovered a drug-manufacturing unit in Thoubal district and seized 222.85 kg suspected brown sugar. There have been no reports of drug labs in the hills of Manipur..

So, is Biren Singh really against the narcotics trade? Why did the CM single out a particular community in his “War on Drugs”? If the drug trade is such a bane for the state, why did the CM sign a deal with a drug peddler to allow the use and transport of cannabis?

What is clear is that the CM directed the entire state machinery to demonize the Kuki-Zo community in his “War on Drugs”. Unfortunately, he succeeded.

SOCIAL MEDIA
THE BUZZ



Sushma Sharma ✓
@SushmaSh22

In a covert attempt to conceal his actions, CM Biren declared that welfare schemes would not be extended to #Kuki_Zo, labeling them as illegal immigrants. This effort to further marginalize and deny development to the #Kuki_Zo is strongly condemned.

#Devara #Garime #mizu5tw
#Dussehra2024 #dkpol #Drill #DussehraWishes #Kippour

Manipur govt to deny benefits of schemes to 'unregistered' villages

Illegal migrants from Myanmar set up hamlets, say sources

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, EHNS

The BJP government in Manipur has decided not to provide benefits of government schemes, including water and electricity, to "unregistered" villages in the state, Chief Minister N Biren Singh announced on Tuesday. Singh said benefits of central government schemes such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme would also be denied to the villages not registered with the government.

Singh said this while talking about the steps taken by his government to protect the forests and environment in Manipur.

Although the CM did not specify about the unregistered villages, sources in the government on Wednesday said he was referring to several "new villages," which cropped up in the Kuki-dominated hill districts since 2006. The source said the new villages consisted of "illegal migrants" from neighbouring Myanmar who were allegedly provided shelters by the Kuki-Zo communities without the government's information.

"Many such villages were set up in the forests, and this resulted in the destruction of forest cover and the environment. This must stop. The government has decided to stop benefits of government schemes to prevent them from further destroying the forests," said the source.

New villages
In April this year, Singh said more than 900 new villages had come up since 2006, most of which are in the Kuki-dominated areas.

He said "unabated infiltration" from Myanmar posed a threat to the identity and culture of the indigenous communities, particularly the Meiteis. He said his government's crackdown on the cultivation of opium by the Kukis and collection of biometrics of the "illegal migrants" were the main reasons leading to the conflict between the Meiteis and the Kukis since May last year.

More than 230 people have died, and over 60,000 others were displaced due to the conflict, Kukis, on the other hand, said Singh was continuously trying to project the Kukis as illegal migrants to target them and support the "ethnic cleansing" being carried out by the Meiteis.

The Kuki-dominated districts like Churachandpur, Kangpokpi, and Tengnoupal have remained divided from the Meitei-dominated valley districts since the conflict flared up. The Kukis have been demanding that a "separate administration" such as Union Territories can only end the conflict. However, state has rejected the demand. But 10 MLAs, belonging to the Kuki-Zo communities supported the demand.

14:46 · 12 Oct 24 · 1,312 Views



Samuel Khongsai ✓
@SamKhongsai_

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Replying to @NENowNews

Is Manipur CM Biren still in power @HMOIndia @AmitShah ?

Has he given up or these Meitei separatists have forcibly held the state to ransom?

Gol needs to intervene immediately before we lose Manipur from India 🇮🇳

These separatists should be eliminated.

@NIA_India @CBIHeadquarters Is India's intel too weak to put an end to these separatist movement?

#MeiteiNarcoTerrorists #MeiteiSeparatists



11:23 · 12 Oct 24 · 729 Views

Post MORTEM

THE RESCUE OF BIREN AMID INJUSTICE



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CEO, PRAGNYA GROUP



**PAUCHUNGNUNG
VAIPHEI**
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
CENTRE HEAD, IIE



S PAUMINTHANG GANGTE
AGM, SIOBI

ECONOMIC CONCLAVE 2024



RAMMAWI
CHIEF MANAGER
SBI CCPUR

**REVITALISATION OF THE KUKI ECONOMY THROUGH
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KWOHR

KUKI WOMEN ORGANISATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

3RD PHASE

**JANGNA
DOPNA
HOPDOHNA KINGON**

**ON SATURDAY
OCTOBER**

19TH 2024

**AT THOMAS GROUND
KANGPOKPI DISTRICT**



COMMEMORATING

**ANNIVERSARY OF
ANGLO-KUKI WAR 1917-1919**

**PRESERVING
HERITAGE
CELEBRATING
COURAGE**



Thursday 17th
OCTOBER 2024



A CALL FOR FREEDOM. A POEM FOR THE KUKI-ZO

We don't ask for peace, not built on the graves,
Of our children, our elders, who died brave.
In the flames of our homes, in the blood on the land,
We demand a future, where free we stand.

No longer can we live under the same sky,
With those who watched our people die.
Their hands drenched in our tears and pain,
We refuse to walk that road again.

The hills whisper freedom, the rivers call our name,
We seek not union but to break these chains.
A land of our own, where we can be,
Good neighbors—yes, but never the same family.

For we cannot forget how they hunted us down,
Burned our homes and razed our towns.
No apology can heal what they've torn,
No peace can grow from the seeds of scorn.

So let us part, let the borders divide,
Where our spirits can heal, where our dreams can reside.
Separate, but strong, we will rise anew,
In a land where the Kuki-Zo's flag will fly true.

With hearts of steel, and unshaken pride,
We'll build our nation, for those who died.
With every step, our ancestors' voices will sing,
Of a homeland reborn, of freedom's wings.

Never again will we kneel, never will we fall,
For our blood is our strength, and our land is our call.
In the name of the Kuki-Zo, united we stand,
Our flag will fly high, over our sacred land!

~ Lucy Khongsai