

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



RICHARD HEMKHOLUN (31 YEARS)

S/O KHUPTHANG

ADDRESS: NEIHSIAL VENG, LAMKA

DATE OF INCIDENT: 31ST AUGUST, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: KHOIRENTAK, LAMKA

CAUSE OF DEATH: DEATH BY BOMBING ATTACK FROM 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.

HOME MINISTRY INVITES MEITEI, KUKI AND NAGA MLAS TO HOLD TALKS IN DELHI ON OCTOBER 15

In a significant development, MLAs from the Meitei, Kuki, and Naga communities will convene for talks in New Delhi on October 15, marking the first time these groups have engaged in discussions since the outbreak of violence in Manipur on May 3, 2023. The meeting, organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs under Union Home Minister Amit Shah, aims to address the ongoing crisis and work towards restoring peace in the region.

Some of the Meitei MLAs/Ministers who would take part in the talk are Thongam Biswajit, Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata, Thounaojam Basantakumar, Khongbantabam Ibomcha, Dr Sapam Ranjan, Thokchom Radheshyam and Tongbram Robindro. The Kuki community will be represented by Letpao Haokip, Paolienlal Haokip, Haokholet Kipgen and a few others. Naga MLAs/Ministers namely; Awangbow Newmai, L Dikho and Ram Muivah will also take part in the talk.

Sources indicate that some MLAs have already arrived in Delhi, while others are expected to depart from Imphal shortly. A pre-meeting with Chief Minister N Biren was held, although details remain sparse.

Awangbou Newmai, a Naga MLA, expressed optimism about the talks, stating that discussions are necessary



to explore avenues for peace, even though the agenda remains unspecified. In contrast, Keisham Meghachandra, the State Congress Chief, criticized the lack of transparency and the exclusion of the opposition from discussions that he deemed crucial for the public.

The Kuki community's stance has been firm, insisting that any outcome that does not provide for a separate administration or Union Territory will be unacceptable, citing concerns for their safety in a unified administrative structure with the Meitei community.

As the discussions approach, all eyes are on the outcomes that could shape the future of Manipur.

UNION TERRITORY FOR KUKI-ZO SHOULD BE KEY STANDPOINT FOR KUKI MLAS IN UPCOMING 'PEACE TALKS': KNO & UPF

The Kuki National Organization (KNO) and the United People's Front (UPF) have issued a statement regarding the proposed talks scheduled for October 15 in Delhi, which will involve Kuki, Meitei, and Naga MLAs under the supervision of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

In their announcement, the KNO and UPF expressed a serious consideration of the talks initiated by Union

Home Minister Amit Shah, aimed at fostering dialogue among the involved parties. However, they emphasized the need for Kuki MLAs to attend the meeting as it was an initiative of the central government. Though the government may talk of peace for Manipur state, there should be a separate administration in the form of a Union Territory
Contd.

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for the Kuki-Zo for peace to return. This should be the steadfast standpoint of the Kuki MLAs in the meeting, the groups informed.

The groups urged the general public to understand their issue, stressing that while they support for Kuki MLAs to attend the meeting, they will not engage in discussions with Meitei MLAs without prior consultation with Kuki civil society organizations (CSOs) and the general public. They asserted that any meeting between Kuki and Meitei MLAs is unacceptable unless the concerns of the Kuki public are adequately addressed.

KNO and UPF reiterated that Kuki MLAs will attend the talks only at the invitation of the Ministry of Home Affairs but will not participate in direct discussions with their Meitei counterparts. They warned against making unfounded allegations about their representatives' involvement and promised that Kuki-Zo MLAs will hold a press conference following the talks to inform the public of any significant outcomes.

EXTORTION RAMPANT IN IMPHAL VALLEY, 7 MEITEI MILITANTS INVOLVED IN EXTORTION CASES ARRESTED

Security forces arrested seven members of a banned militant outfit in Manipur's Imphal West district on Monday, police said.

Briefing reporters, SP Ksh Shivakanta Singh said, "Based on reliable information regarding the presence of Kangleipak Communist Party (Nongdrenkhomba) cadres in Langol Game village, security forces conducted a search operation and arrested seven members of the outfit including a woman."

The arrested were identified as L. Alin (26), K. Rohit Singh (23), Sanju W. (20), P. Thoiba (26), W. Hero (21), Y. Bikash (23), and Henthoibi M. (41).

During the operation, authorities recovered two four-wheelers, one two-wheeler, two pistols and camouflage uniforms, Singh said.

"As extortion activities have increased, the general population has begun to express their displeasure. Police are actively monitoring the situation. There have been instances where the public, for various reasons, has not disclosed information," Singh explained.



"Over the last four to five days, 11 people have been arrested by Imphal West district police in connection with extortion-related cases. We will start applying the National Security Act (NSA) to specific individuals as well," he warned.

"We will also begin recommending cases to the National Investigation Agency (NIA)," Singh said and urged the public to share information with the police to combat the rising number of extortion cases. (IndiaTodayNE)

THE FEELING OF APPREHENSION REMAINS: MINORITY TRIBES APPEALS FOR EQUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF RIIN IN NAGALAND

The Association of Indigenous Minority Tribes of Nagaland (AIMTN), representing the Kuki, Garo, Kachari, and Mikir (now Karbi) tribes, held a press conference today to address concerns over the Implementation of the Registration of Indigenous Inhabitants of Nagaland (RIIN). The government issued an order on September 20, 2024, that focused on enumerating only the four minority tribes under the new RIIN procedures.

Speaking at the press conference, L Singsit President KIN and other representatives clarified their stance, stating that while they support the implementation of RIIN, they oppose the selective targeting of their tribes. “We are not against RIIN,” said Singsit. “But we question why only the four minority tribes are singled out for the enumeration process. We believe all tribes should go through this process together.”

The AIMTN had previously submitted a representation to the state government, requesting a review of the order. The leaders expressed disappointment over the lack of response from the government, which they said has led to misunderstandings among other tribes, many of whom believe the four minority groups are against RIIN. “This is not true at all” Singsit clarified. “We are with RIN, but we seek equal treatment for all tribes.”

Addressing the sensitivity of their position as minority tribes, Singsit remarked, “When you are a minority, you become very sensitive. The people of our tribes have become apprehensive, wondering why we are being singled out.” The press conference highlighted the historical and cultural ties the four tribes have with Nagaland, dating back to the Naga freedom movement and the



Simon Commission of 1929, Singsit emphasized, “We have always been part of the Naga society economically, politically, and socially, so this order feels like we are being singled out. Although the AIMTN leaders expressed hope for a government response, they acknowledged that, as a minority group, they lack the strength to challenge the order directly. “We are disappointed, frankly speaking, but we still think the government has no direct intention to target us,” Singsit said. “However, the feeling of apprehension remains.” When asked about potential legal action if the government fails to revise the order, the AIMTN leaders expressed reluctance to pursue such a route. “Going to court is a big step, and we are not interested in taking the government to court,” they said. “We just want to send a message to the people of Nagaland that we support the implementation of RIIN, but we seek equal treatment.”

The AIMTN concluded by urging the government to revisit the order and implement RiIN for all tribes to ensure fairness and justice. (Nagaland Post)

MEITEI INFLUENCER BAN BY MEITEI MILITANT GROUP, ATTACK FOLLOWS

Manipur police defused a live hand grenade found at the doorstep of a shop owned by a social media influencer, RK Ichalthoi, in Imphal West district on Sunday night.

Security footage captured the incident, showing an unidentified individual placing the explosive device and fleeing the scene.

This attack follows a recent ban imposed on RK Ichanthoi by the proscribed Kangleipak Communist Party – Nongdrenkhomba (KCP-N) for her alleged support of anti-social elements.

The group issued a statement prohibiting Ichalthoi from using social media platforms for a year and attending public events. They also warned of severe consequences if she continued to tarnish the organization's reputation.

The KCP-N accused Ichalthoi of interfering in the case of K Romario, a man shot and injured by an underground group on October 5. They claimed Romario had sexually exploited multiple Manipuri girls.

Before the grenade incident, Ichalthoi had reported threats and attempted abduction by armed miscreants on October 12.



Five individuals, including two women, arrived in a vehicle and tried to abduct her from her shop while she was live-streaming on Facebook. They brandished a pistol, snatched her phone, and fled.

Ichanthoi and the Women's Wing of the Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) have strongly condemned the abduction attempt and threats against the social media influencer. (NENow)



The law is silent during war.

— Cicero

SOCIAL MEDIA
THE BUZZ

The News Track
@newstrackdaily

#India's claim as a secular nation is under scrutiny amid rising attacks on #Christians. Particularly in #Manipur, Christians suffer extensively with 199 deaths, 41,425+ missing, and over 360 churches destroyed. These Persecutions mark a 45% increase from 2022 in India.

Persecutions of Christians in India

There is continuous hatred and discrimination against the Christian community.



152- Christians forced to 'reconvert' in Central India.

600+ cases of Christian persecution in India up 45% from 2022

199 deaths, 41,425+ are missing 360+ churches ruined only in Manipur

4:26 PM · Oct 13, 2024 · 277 Views

Sushma Sharma
@SushmaSh22

The fake Hindu disguise is here. Only in name of Hindus they want to play the card for gaining support from government and people. But in real they are neither hindus nor humans... #Metel #Garime #INDvBAN #Djokovic

Robin Mangang Khwairakpam
1d · 🌐

Ngasidi pork ka sagolhawai punna thongba amaga
Beef thongba amaga echil enao sing chaminnare
animak eina thongbani khara toukhre.

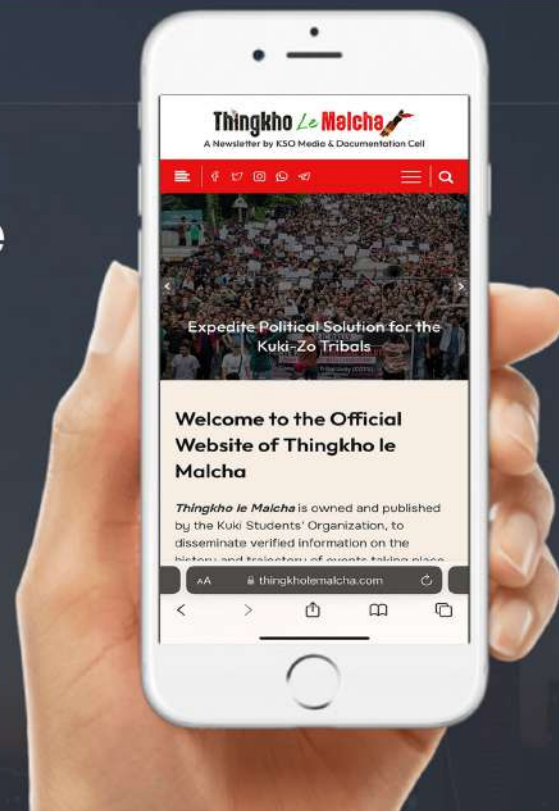


2:11 PM · Oct 14, 2024 · 2,358 Views



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](#)





FEATURED ARTICLE

Testaments Of The Kuki-Zo People's History

Artifacts from the Anglo-Kuki War at Oxford's Pitt Rivers Museum offer deep historical insights

Ngamjahao Kipgen

The recent debates and accusations of the Kuki-Zo tribals using drone and missiles (in their pursuit to defend themselves) in the ongoing unrest in Manipur have raised many eyebrows. Many armchair media house and self-acclaimed experts in the region have once again conveniently accused (subscribing to misinformation and false narratives) and pointed fingers at the helpless Kuki-Zo minority group of receiving foreign aid/hand. At a time when the situation in Manipur is so volatile, such an accusation is nothing but in bad taste, clearly sympathetic not only to the use of military-grade bombs and automatic rifles against the poorly armed Kuki-Zo village volunteers but also the heartless massacre of the innocent civilians. There has also been a concerted effort by certain vested interest groups to sideline or belittle the Kuki-Zo histories such as the Anglo-Kuki War, 1917-1919 (locally known as Zou gaal, Thadou gaal, etc.), as if it did not exist at all and merely based on concoction. Nothing would be too naïve to swallow such hateful and baseless narrative. Four artifacts belonging to the Anglo-Kuki war, lying in the Pitts Rivers Museum, Oxford, UK, speak volumes.

It was ASA18: Sociality, matter, and the imagination: re-creating Anthropology, organised by the Association of Social Anthropologists of the UK and Commonwealth (18-21 September 2024), wherein I had the privilege to attend the said conference and also presented a research paper. It was during this time that I had the opportunity to visit the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, UK. It was indeed an eye-opening revelation to have a

glimpse of history through the artifacts displayed in the museum.



Hand cannon (cannon of raw-hide, made by Kuki during the Anglo-Kuki War, 1917-1919). Object description: This hand cannon was acquired from the Kuki people of north-east India and Burma (Myanmar) in the late 19th-20th century, although it is likely that weapons like this had been made for centuries. This weapon was formed by rolling a length of hide into a tube. It was loaded with shot instead of a cannon ball. A lit match would be inserted into the small protruding tube near the breech to ignite the gunpowder. (Collected by J.H. Hutton by 1923 and donated in 1928. Source: Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, UK).

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India, 19th century
to the mouth of a musket
dated in 1928; 1922.84.432

Powder and priming horns, Kuki (Chin) people, India, 19th century
These horns are painted in red and black pigments, colours which are characteristic of Kuki decoration.
Collected by J. P. Mills by 1918 and donated in 1928; 1928.89.1055

Powder and priming horns (Kuki/Chin people, India, 19th century).

Object description: Horn for gunpowder with attached lid and attached carrying belt that has a priming horn and lid attached to it. The powder horn is carved towards the mouth and is decorated with black pigment over 2/3 its length with patterns highlighted with red pigment. The lid is carved in decreasing concentric curves and has traces of red pigment. It is perforated and attached to the carrying belt with string. The priming horn is covered with black pigment with red pigment at the base, mouth and on the lid. The narrow leather carrying belt is attached to the butt of the powder horn with an iron loop and is knotted to the other end below the mouth. The primer horn and cap are attached to the carrying belt with string. (Collected by J.P. Mills by 1918 and donated in 1928. Source: Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, UK)

Already in the 1890s, B.S. Carey mentioned how the Kuki-Chin world had already known the art of manufacturing gunpowder from the locally available materials, which he said was “although slow in igniting, is particularly powerful” (Carey, Chin Hills, vol. 1, 1896: 224-25). The process of production is a lengthy one, but it is to be reminded that the Kuki-Zo people have known the art of making gunpowder for centuries and hardly rely on importation when the need arises.



Miniature gun, Kuki (Chin) people, India, before 1918.

Object description: This gun is more than just a toy and may have been used to shoot small birds. The body is carved from a single piece of wood, the iron barrel being bound to it with plant fibre. It is a simple version with only a small touch-hole for use with a match, but there are other known examples fitted with a trigger and nipple for use with percussion caps. (Collected by J.H. Hutton and donated in 1918. Source: Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, UK).

Most colonial officers agreed that the Kukis valued their guns more than anything else and were willing to pay for it for any amount. It was more of a status than having to kill one. Traditionally, their blacksmiths used to manufacture firearms during peace and wartime.

The most potent firearms used by the Kuki during the war appear to be muzzle-loader rifles, old tower muskets, and flintlock muskets (jangvoh) and cannons (pumpi). In this regard Col. L.W. Shakespeare noted: “The Kukis use a curious sort of leather cannon made from a buffalo’s hide rolled into a compact tube and tightly bound with strips of leather. A vent is bored in the proper place, rough powder is poured in, and a quantity of slugs or stones is then inserted” (History of the Assam Rifles, 1977 [1929]: 215).

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Object description: Thadou Kuki people, Telonglong [Tamenglong], Manipur state, India. Made before 1900. Received by a local chief as part of his sister's marriage price. (Collected by John Hutton in 1929 and purchased in 1930. Source: Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford, UK).

In regards to the rhinoceros-hide body armour mentioned above, R.G. Woodthorpe wrote: "A Kuki fighter normally packed his bread, locally called changlhah or buchun, along with his gun, a priming horn filled with gunpowder, bullets, and body armour made

of rhinoceros hide and went for war. Gunpowder, probably of their own manufacture, is taken care of in a 'flask' made of mithun horn" (The Lushai Expedition 1871-72, 1978 [1873]: 75).

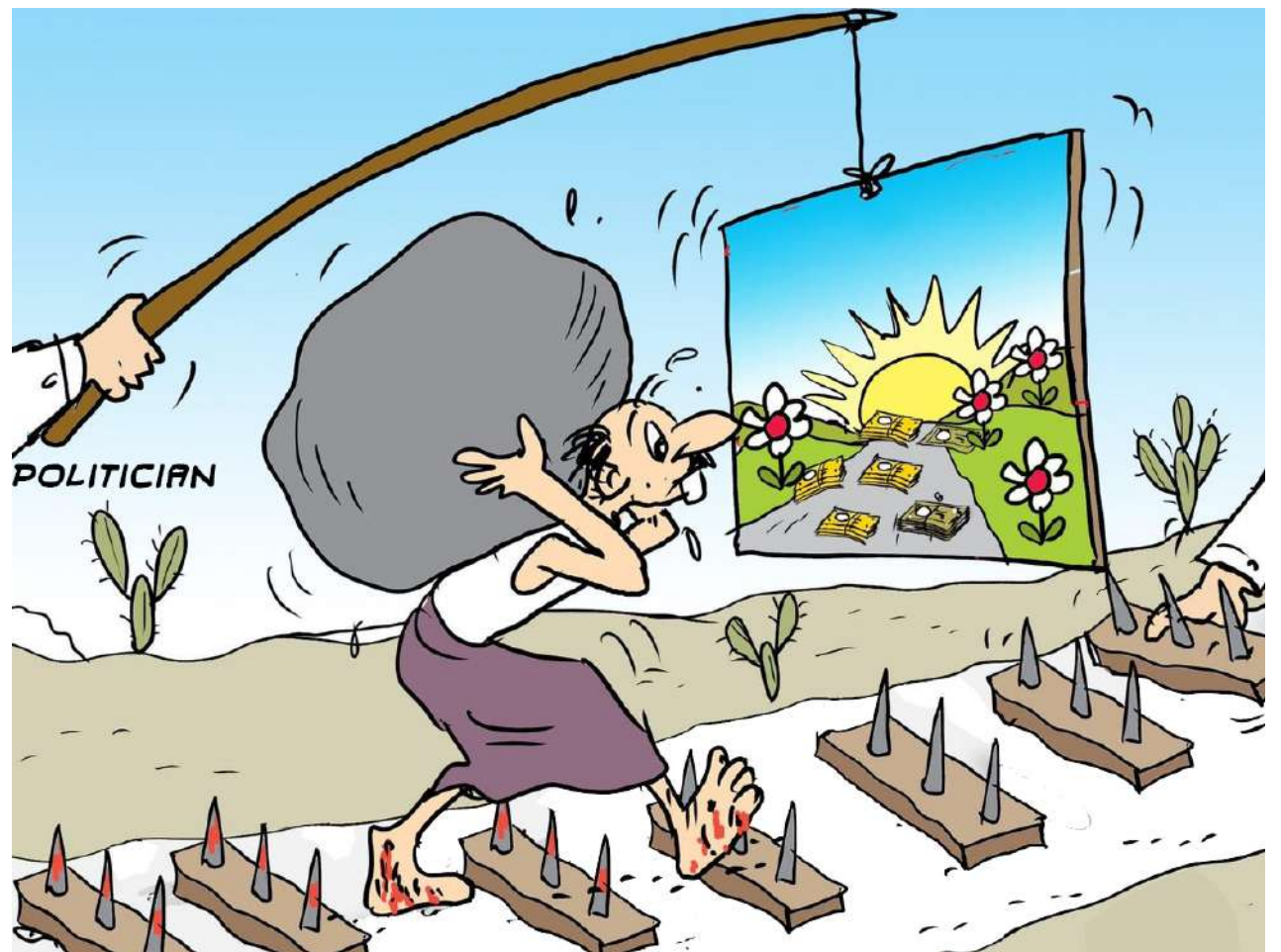
The above museum pieces are testimony of the self-reliant Kuki-Zo people in times of war. Contrary to the accusations, evidence from the ground suggested that the Kuki-Zo people are again self-reliance during this ongoing conflict, using their licensed guns or country-made firearms, gunpowder, and pumpi against the well-equipped and trained rivals who fully rely on factory-made modern automatic rifles, long-range mortars, military-grade bombs and drones that can deliver payloads. Foreign hands are rather anticipated among the latter. Can history repeat itself so easily? I really don't know.

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PROMISE OF POLITICIANS & THE REALITY





DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & COMMERCE

FRANCIS HAOKIP
CEO, PRAGNYA GROUP



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



S PAUMINTHANG GANGTE
AGM, SIOBI



RAMMAWI
CHIEF MANAGER
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ECONOMIC CONCLAVE 2024

**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



ETERNAL GATHERING OF THE BRAVE

In the quiet mists of ancient days;
Where shadows long and spirits gaze.
The fallen heroes, steadfast, bold;
In silent ranks, their stories told!

Upon the field where courage bled;
They rest with honor, peace instead.
Yet in the twilight, they await;
The warrior's soul, the hand of fate!

Brave spirit, who has met the fray;
Your journey ends, yet here you'll stay.
For in this realm, where echoes reign;
Your kin now call you home again!

From distant times, they beckon still;
With steadfast hearts and iron will.
Their voices rise, a solemn sound;
To greet the one who stands unbound!

In hallowed halls of valor bright;
Your name is carved in eternal light.
And as you walk this timeless plane;
You're welcomed to the honored chain!

The battle done, your soul ascends;
To join the ranks of fallen friend.
Where ancestors in silence stand;
Awaiting you with outstretched hand!

~ S. Sonminthang Mate