

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



PAOGOULEN HAOKIP (34 YEARS)

S/O (L) HOLSEI HAOKIP

ADDRESS: KHANGBAROL, CHANDEL

DATE OF INCIDENT: 09TH AUGUST, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: KHOIRENTAK, 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.

'JANGNA DOPNA' PROJECT MARKS THIRD PHASE OF SUPPORT FOR KUKI-ZO MARTYRS' FAMILIES

The third phase of the “Jangna Dopna” project, initiated by the Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights, was held at Kangpokpi Christian Church, Kangpokpi town, in a moving ceremony that underscored the solidarity of the Kuki-Zo community in the face of ongoing ethnic conflict.

“Jangna Dopna,” is a unique initiative designed to provide voluntary financial aid to the families of Kuki-Zo Martyrs. It symbolizes the strength, compassion, and resilience of Kuki-Zo women, who have rallied together to support those who have suffered most from the violence.

This initiative, the brainchild of the Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights, continues to expand its reach. Since its inception, it has now compensated 48 victim families, with the third phase supporting 20 families.

In the first phase, launched on June 15, 2024, in Churachandpur, 12 families were aided, followed by 16 families in the second phase in August. Each compensated family receives ₹1 lakh in financial aid, along with a memento from the Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM) and a traditional shawl, Saipikhup, a symbol of honor and remembrance.

Hosted by the Kuki Women Union Sadar Hills, the third phase brought together key tribal and Kuki-Zo civil society organizations (CSOs), including KIM, the Sadar Hills Chiefs' Association, the Committee on Tribal Unity, and leaders from other Kuki-Zo tribes and organizations. The event was not only a moment of material support but also a solemn tribute, with Rev. Dr. Satkhokai Chongloi offering prayers for the Martyrs' families and the Kuki-Zo people. Prominent leaders addressed the gathering, expressing their deep respect for the fallen and the ongoing struggles of the Kuki-Zo community.

The “Jangna Dopna” project stands as a powerful testament to the Kuki-Zo women's commitment to their people. Through their efforts, they have shown that even in times of adversity, the community remains united,



resilient, and capable of self-reliance. The project also sends a clear message to authorities and the broader public about the community's ability to support itself in the absence of adequate state intervention, emphasizing their determination to protect and uplift their own people.

Rebecca Haokip, spokesperson for the Kuki Women Organisation for Human Rights, said that the Jangna Dopna Project was initiated to honor and support the families of Kuki-Zo Martyrs. She emphasized that Kuki women, both in India and abroad, have united to contribute financially, showing solidarity with the bereaved families impacted by the ongoing conflict.

Reflecting on the project's progress, she mentioned that 28 families were supported in the first two phases, and today, 20 more families have received aid. Each family was given ₹1 lakh, a traditional Saipikhup shawl, and a memento, symbolizing the community's shared grief and commitment to ensuring the sacrifices of the Martyrs are never forgotten.

Haokip further highlighted that this initiative reflects the strength and unity of Kuki women globally, adding that the project will continue, urging Kuki-Zo women worldwide to support the Martyrs' families.

The “Jangna Dopna” project not only offers material aid but also serves as a symbol of the community's resilience, sending a clear message of self-reliance and unity in the face of adversity.

CoTU CONDEMNS ATTACK ON EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN JIRIBAM

The Committee on Tribal Unity Sadar Hills has issued a strong condemnation of the arson attack on the Blooming Flower Foundation School in Kalinagar, Jiribam, which occurred on the morning of October 18. The committee described the incident as an act of terrorism by individuals from the Meitei community, highlighting it as part of a broader pattern of violence aimed at Kuki-Zo communities.

The Blooming Flower Foundation School, regarded as one of the best in the region and founded by Mr. Benjamin Sakum Hmar, has been instrumental in providing quality education in one of the most underserved areas of Manipur. The committee stressed that this loss is not only detrimental to the Kuki-Zo community but affects all residents of Jiribam.

In a statement, the committee emphasized that educational and religious institutions are fundamental to societal development, transcending boundaries of caste, creed, tribe, or community. The recent attack reflects a troubling trend of violence and intimidation that has escalated since the outbreak of ethnic conflict in Manipur on May 3, 2022. The statement notes that the majoritarian Meitei community has engaged in a series of violent actions, including the destruction of homes, and has perpetuated acts of rape and murder against innocent civilians.

The statement also criticized the Chief Minister, N. Biren Singh, for undermining the peace-building efforts of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, stating that the current approach to reconciliation in Manipur lacks a political solution for a Separate Administration for the Kuki-Zo people.

The Committee on Tribal Unity called upon the central government to recognize that without meaningful political solutions, efforts for peace and reconciliation would be ineffective.



Ravinder Kapur. @RavinderKapur2

107th Anniversary of Anglo Kuki War Commemorated at Aizawl Mizoram.

Aizawl: Commemorating the 107th Anniversary of the Anglo-Kuki War in Aizawl, Mizoram, we honor the fearless sacrifices of our Kuki forefathers who bravely fought against the might of the British Empire. Their courage and legacy continue to inspire our pursuit of justice and self-determination from the neo-colonialism

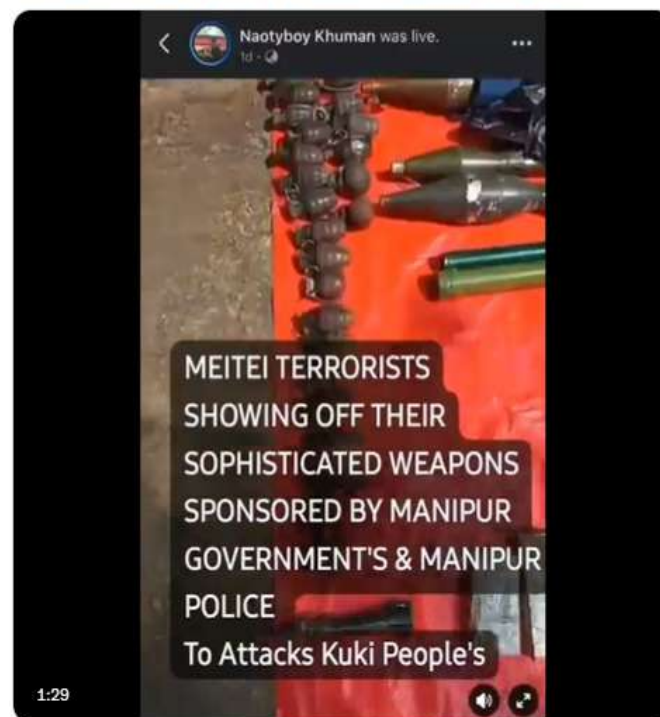
#AngloKukiWar #AngloKukiWar1917 #Kuki @Chengchengpi @haokipkim128 @SamKhongsai_ @Bec_Eimi to



7:53 AM · Oct 19, 2024 · 1.094 Views

Sushma Sharma @SushmaSh22

Showcase of weapons freely within #Manipur. Government is just sleeping freely the way these wepaons are roaming. From where this foreign weapons are coming? Now, #Bihar is behind it or government? I think #Manipur is now not a part of India as everyone is buzy in their power hunger. Here these #Meitei are showcasing these wepaons only with intent to attack #kuki people. #RishabhPant #LUFC #CROS #paobc #FelizSabado #Orense



Last edited 2:39 PM · Oct 19, 2024 · 463 Views

KCP MEMBERS ARRESTED FOR EXTORTION ACTIVITIES

Manipur Police arrested two active members of the proscribed Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) People's War Group (PWG) on October 18 from Pureiromba Khongnangmakhong in Imphal East district. The accused, identified as Mutum Inao Singh (31) and Khwairakpam Rajen Singh (25), were involved in extortion activities targeting the general public and engaging in other illegal operations.

During the operation, police recovered several items from their possession, including one two-wheeler, three mobile phones, a sling bag, a wallet, two ID cards, and a sum of Rs. 7,600.

In addition, security forces conducted extensive search operations and area domination in the fringe and vulnerable areas of both hill and valley districts. To maintain the flow of essential goods, authorities



ensured the safe movement of 301 vehicles along NH-37 and 336 vehicles along NH-2 under strict security escort.

A total of 111 Nakas (checkpoints) were set up across Manipur, but no one was detained for violations during the operations. Enhanced security measures continue across sensitive areas to ensure safety and prevent any further illegal activities. (IndiaTodayNE)

PRINCIPAL OF BLOOMING FLOWER CHILDREN'S SCHOOL ADDRESSES MISLEADING CLAIMS REGARDING ARSON INCIDENT

Benjamin Shakum, Principal of Blooming Flower Children's School, has issued a statement clarifying recent misleading claims made by police officials regarding the arson of the school.

In his statement, Shakum emphasized that the fire, which occurred yesterday, was not related to any management issues, contrary to reports circulating in local newspapers. "I would like to clarify that as claimed by some police officials, the burning down of my school had no relationship at all with management issues," he stated.

The Principal highlighted the school's long-standing commitment to providing quality education to all communities in Jiribam, including the Meitei community. He noted that due to ongoing unrest in the region, the school had to close this year, forcing him



and his community to seek refuge in neighboring states for safety.

Since the closure, Shakum revealed that the school had been utilized as a duty center by security forces. He had previously appealed to authorities to ensure its occupation by security personnel

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during times when their presence was lacking. “Apart from entrusting the school to security forces, I had entrusted no one else,” he insisted.

Shakum reiterated that he had communicated this arrangement clearly to the Superintendent of

Police in Jiribam, reinforcing that there were no management issues at play. “I pray that truth will prevail,” he concluded, urging the community to seek clarity amidst the confusion surrounding the incident.

LEAKED LETTER FROM 19 MLAS FUELS REBELLION RUMORS AGAINST MANIPUR CHIEF MINISTER

Local media reports have ignited fresh speculation regarding a potential rebellion against Chief Minister N Biren Singh, following the emergence of a purported letter allegedly signed by 19 BJP MLAs. The letter, which has not been independently verified, reportedly calls for a change in leadership amid ongoing ethnic strife between the Meitei community and the Kuki tribes.

This latest development comes just a day after Meitei, Naga, and Kuki MLAs held discussions with central leaders in Delhi, marking the first such meeting since violence erupted in May 2023. The BJP’s central leadership previously dismissed calls for a leadership change, despite persistent unrest in the state.

The purported letter includes the signatures of key figures, notably Speaker Th Satyabrata, alongside known dissenters Th Bishwajit and Y Khemchand, who have publicly criticized Biren Singh’s leadership in the past. The letter expresses concerns from the MLAs

about the inability of the BJP-led government to restore peace and normalcy in Manipur, stating, “We have a responsibility of saving Manipur along with saving BJP from downfall.”

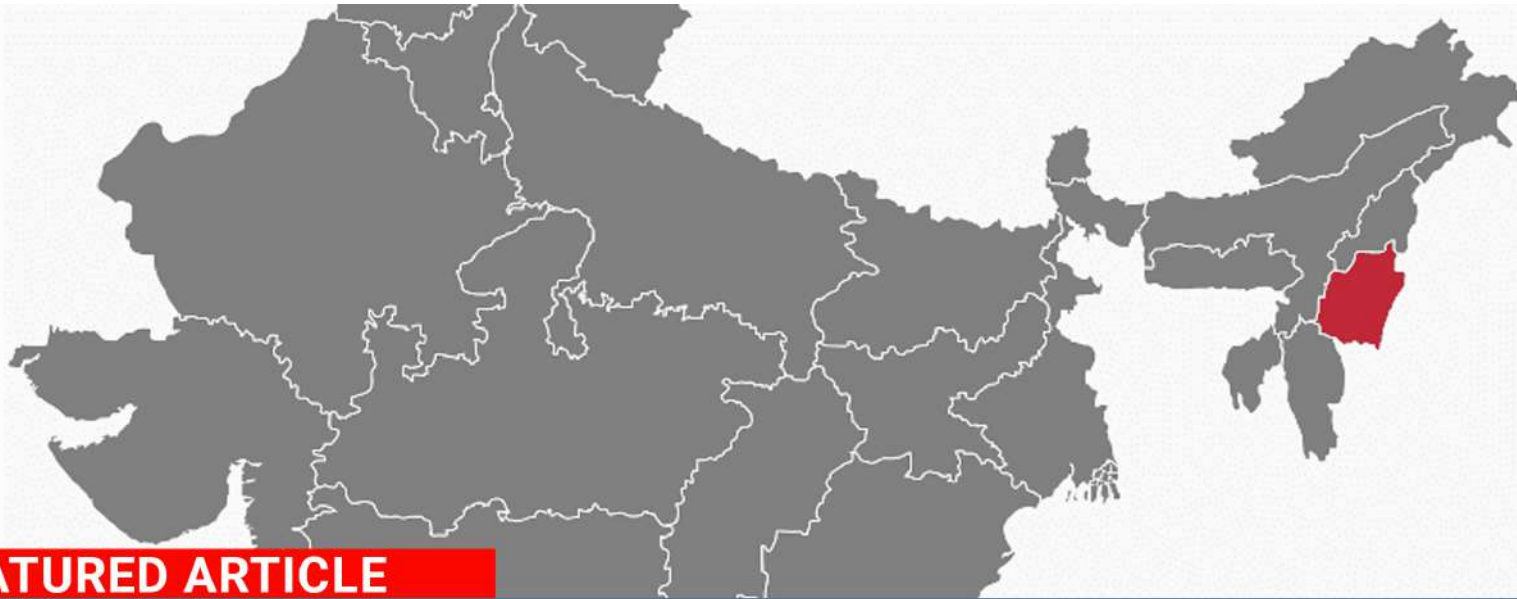
Biren Singh has faced similar speculation regarding his position multiple times over the past few years, with previous groups of MLAs traveling to Delhi to advocate for his removal. In July, he downplayed such rumors, attributing them to political opponents seeking to exploit the state’s crisis. His leadership has been contentious, especially after he nearly resigned last June, only to be dissuaded by a surge of public support.

As the situation in Manipur remains volatile, the focus now shifts to how the central BJP leadership will respond to these internal pressures and whether they will address the growing concerns among local MLAs.



**In War, There Are No Prizes For
The Second Place Finishers.**

— General Omar Bradley



FEATURED ARTICLE

Manipur's Ethnic Conflict: Can Dialogue Save The State?

Shaimin Raja

The northeastern state of Manipur has been engulfed in a cycle of ethnic violence and political instability for over a year now, with no clear end in sight. What began as a protest by tribal communities against the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status has spiraled into a full-blown conflict that has claimed more than 230 lives and displaced tens of thousands of people. The violence has torn apart communities, destroyed homes, and left Manipur's economy in ruins.

Amidst this turmoil, the state's political leadership is also facing a crisis of legitimacy. Chief Minister N Biren Singh, who has been at the helm during this period of unrest, is now facing growing calls for his resignation. Recently, 19 Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs submitted a letter to the Prime Minister's Office, calling for a change in leadership. The MLAs argue that Biren Singh's removal is necessary to restore peace and stability in the state, which has been rocked by ethnic violence since May last year. The conflict in Manipur has its roots in deep-seated ethnic and political grievances. The Meitei community, which constitutes the majority in the state's valley regions, has long sought recognition as a Scheduled Tribe, a status that would afford them certain constitutional protections and access to resources. However, this demand has been met with fierce opposition from the Kuki and Naga tribal communities, who fear that granting ST

status to the Meiteis would dilute their own rights and privileges.

The tensions between these communities reached a breaking point in May 2023, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' organized by the Kuki-Zo community in the hill districts led to violent clashes with the Meitei community. The violence quickly spread across the state, with homes being torched, businesses destroyed, and thousands of people forced to flee their homes. Despite the deployment of security forces, the violence has continued, and the state government has struggled to bring the situation under control. The conflict has not only caused immense human suffering but has also taken a heavy toll on Manipur's economy. With businesses closing and essential commodities in short supply, the state's economy has been severely impacted. Inflation has skyrocketed, and state revenue and tax collection have plummeted. The situation is dire, and without decisive action, the conflict threatens to plunge Manipur into even deeper chaos.

In this context, the 19 BJP MLAs who signed the letter calling for Biren Singh's removal argue that new leadership is essential to bringing about

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peace in Manipur. The letter highlights the growing frustration among legislators and the public at the state government's failure to end the violence. According to the MLAs, the current approach of relying on security forces to maintain order is not sufficient to resolve the underlying issues driving the conflict. At the heart of the MLAs' argument is the belief that dialogue is the only viable solution to the crisis. They argue that military force alone cannot bring about peace and that meaningful engagement with all communities involved in the conflict is necessary. Without dialogue, they warn, the conflict will continue to escalate, causing further damage to the state and tarnishing India's image on the global stage.

Chief Minister Biren Singh has managed to survive previous challenges to his leadership, but the current situation appears to be far more serious. The ethnic violence, combined with internal dissent within the BJP, has left him in a precarious position. While he has dismissed previous calls for his resignation, it is unclear whether he will be able to maintain his grip on power this time.

For now, the central government has not indicated that it will take action to replace Biren Singh. However, with the violence continuing and the pressure mounting, it may only be a matter of time before a change in leadership is seen as the only option. If Biren Singh is removed, the central government will need to appoint a new leader who is capable of navigating the complex political landscape of Manipur and restoring peace to the state.

Manipur's future depends on the ability of its leaders to rise above political infighting and focus on the needs of the people. The conflict between the Meitei, Kuki, and Naga communities is not insurmountable, but it requires a solution that is grounded in dialogue and mutual understanding. The people of Manipur deserve peace, and it is the responsibility of both the state and central governments to ensure that this peace is achieved. Whether through a change in leadership or a renewed commitment to dialogue, the time for action is now. ([Eurasia Review](#))



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THE KUKI SPIRIT

~Diana Phiamphu

In the hills of Manipur, a tribe holds sway,
The Kukis, known for honor, in their own way.
Their hearts ablaze with courage, their souls so bright,
Shining beacons of integrity, in the dark of night.

With honesty as their shield, they face each test,
Their word, a bond of trust, forever at its best.
Their ancestors' wisdom guides them on their way,
A legacy of loyalty, night and day.

From Paona to Tongkho, their brave hearts beat,
Their love for justice, forever on repeat.
Their culture rich and vibrant, a heritage so grand,
A testament to their greatness, in this land.

The Kukis stand tall, with dignity and pride,
Their supremacy, not of power, but of heart inside.
Their honesty, a beacon, shining ever bright,
A guiding light, in the darkest of nights.

Let us celebrate, this noble tribe's might,
Their unwavering commitment, to what is right.
May their example inspire, and forever shine,
A beacon of hope, in a world divine.