

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



LAMKHOSAT @ SATNEO TUBOI (41 YEARS)

S/O HELSAT TUBOI

ADDRESS: KANGCHUP PONLEN, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF INCIDENT: 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: KANGCHUP, SADAR HILLS

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED IN AMBUSH BY MEITEI MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 21.10.2024



203
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.

BJP ALLY NPF OPPOSES FENCING OF INDIA-MYANMAR BORDER IN NAGA AREAS



The Naga People's Front (NPF) expressed strong opposition to the proposed construction of a border fence between India and Myanmar in the Naga-inhabited areas. Naga body in Manipur opposes Indo-Myanmar border fencing plan, demands early elections for Hill Area Councils.

The Naga People's Front (NPF), Manipur unit, expressed strong opposition to the proposed construction of a border fence between India and Myanmar in the Naga-inhabited areas.

The organization emphasized that the boundary should be corrected in line with traditional demarcations before any fencing work is carried out. They argue that proceeding with the project without addressing these concerns would disregard the historical and cultural significance of the traditional boundary, potentially disrupting the lives and livelihoods of local communities.

In a separate but related demand, the NPF reiterated their call for the long-overdue elections for the six

Autonomous District Councils (ADC) in Manipur's hill areas. The elections, which have been pending since 2020, were addressed in their earlier press statement on August 5, 2024. The organizations underscored the need to expedite the election process in the best interests of the hill area's citizens. They urged the Manipur government to adhere to the Cabinet decision dated June 13, 2024, which had committed to conducting the elections.

The NPF welcomed the Hill Area Committee's (HAC) recent recommendation, dated October 14, 2024, under Resolution No. 59/2024-(HAC), which called for the immediate conduct of the Autonomous District Council elections. The organization stressed that any unconstitutional delay or proposal affecting the election process undermines the democratic rights of grassroots communities. They asserted that restoring local self-governance through timely elections is essential for justice and effective administration in the region.

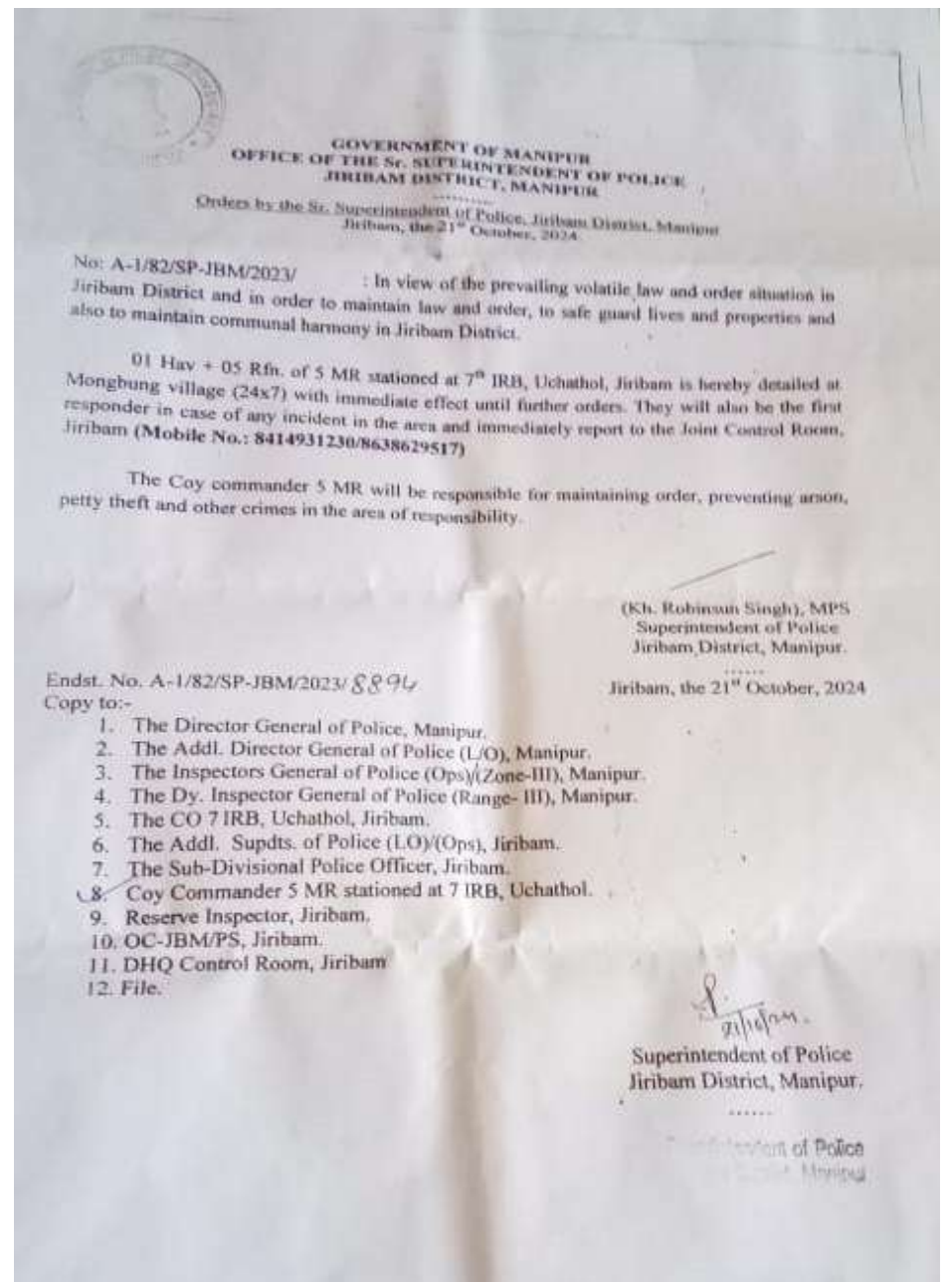
(Free Press Journal)

INDIGENOUS TRIBES ADVOCACY COMMITTEE RAISE CONCERN OVER POSTING OF MANIPUR RIFLES PERSONNEL IN JIRIBAM

The Indigenous Tribes Advocacy Committee (ITAC) has raised significant concerns regarding a recent order issued by the Superintendent of Police in Jiribam District. The order, dated October 21, 2024, details the deployment of five personnel from the Manipur Rifles to Mongbung village, a region predominantly inhabited by the Kuki-Zo community.

ITAC argues that the presence of Manipur Rifles in this area could exacerbate existing tensions, citing a lack of trust in state law enforcement among the Kuki-Zo people. The committee alleges that the Manipur Rifles have covertly collaborated with local groups such as the Arambai Tenggol and other proscribed Meitei insurgents, further deepening suspicions within the community.

In a statement, ITAC expressed that the deployment of security forces is unwelcome in Kuki-Zo areas and warned that such actions could lead to heightened conflict rather than ensuring safety. The committee is calling for the immediate cancellation of the SP's order, emphasizing that the presence of security personnel could escalate local tensions instead of providing the intended protection.



If the dog is not barking when the thief is stealing it means both are friends

— African Proverb

TANGKHUL CSOS REJECT HAC'S UNCONSTITUTIONAL RECOMMENDATION



The Tangkhul Frontal Organisations have vehemently condemned the recent decision by the Hill Areas Committee (HAC) to reconstitute Autonomous District Councils (ADCs) through a selection process. In a press conference held on Wednesday at the Tangkhul Naga Long (TNL) President's chamber, leaders from various organisations, including TNL, Tangkhul Katamnao Saklong (TKS), Tangkhul Shanao Long (TSL), and Tangkhul Mayar Ngala Long (TMNL), called the HAC's decision "unconstitutional" and "undemocratic."

The HAC's resolution, passed on October 14, proposes the formation of a 20-member council, with 18 members to be selected from former ADC members, local self-government experts, and intellectuals, alongside two government nominees. The Tangkhul Frontal Organisations argue that this move undermines democratic principles and disrespects the rights of the hill people.

Sword Vashum, President of TNL, stated, "This decision is an insult to the people of the Hills. We reject it outright. It is arbitrary and runs contrary to

the democratic process. We will not allow this reconstituted ADC to function in Ukhrul District."

Vashum also demanded the resignation of HAC Chairman and all elected representatives involved in the decision, emphasizing that their actions must be held accountable. He questioned the selection criteria for the council members, expressing concerns over how government nominees would be chosen, suggesting a "divide and rule" tactic.

"We are not a flock of sheep to be driven around. Enough is enough," Vashum asserted, calling for clarity from the three Tangkhul MLAs regarding their positions on the HAC's resolution.

The Tangkhul Frontal Organisations have made it clear that they will not accept any governance that bypasses the democratic framework established for the hill areas, insisting on a representative body that truly reflects the will of the people.



OPINION

The Burying of Autonomous District Council

The term and tenure of the six Autonomous District Councils of Manipur Viz. Senapati, Kangpokpi, Ukhrul, Chandel, Tamenglong and Churachandpur was to end by May, 2020. The Hill Area Committee (HAC) held meetings on 16 and 28 January, 2020 and adopted a resolution “recommending for holding of ADC elections in the month of November, 2020 due to the rainy season in the month of June-July”.

Based on the recommendation of the Hill Areas Committee the state cabinet of 3rd March, 2020 decided to extend the term of the ADC members for six months. This decision of the state cabinet was vehemently opposed by all sections of the tribal people.

It was pointed out that, section 13, 2nd paragraph of the ‘Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act, 1971 explicitly states that “provided that the administrator, when satisfied that it is necessary in order to avoid administrative difficulty, may extend the term of all members by such period not exceeding one year as she/he thinks fit. Here the word ‘administrator’ is construed to be the head of the state, i.e. the Governor of Manipur. It also pointed out that ‘administrative difficulty’ meant breakdown of law and order in the state.

They argued that Manipur is witnessing an era of peace for the last three years with no political upheaval or social turmoil so what’s the

need to extend the tenure of the ADC’s?

However, even after the completion of the six-month extended tenure there was no attempt to conduct the election from the side of the government.

On 21st July, 2020 four ADC Chairman had urged the HAC to extend their tenure by another six months starting from December 31st, 2020 till May 31st 2021. The government of Manipur was inclined to the demand of the ADC chairman’s for another six-month extension. This infuriated the CSOs of the hill people who took it as a deliberate affront to the tribal people with the ulterior motive of burying forever the only political institution of the hill people.

On 24th October, 2020, the All Tribal Students’ Union Manipur called 48-hour bandh from the 26th of October if the announcement of the election was not made immediately. The government of Manipur invited them for talks where it was agreed that the matter would be put up in the next state government’s cabinet meeting with the assurance that the election notification shall be issued after the cabinet meeting. So the agitation was deferred for another 10 days. On 4th November, ATSUM met the Chief Minister of Manipur and was assured that government is

Contd.

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seriously taking steps for the conduct of the election and that the ADC election shall be held along with the by-election of four assembly constituency seat. Consequently, the term of the six ADCs were dissolved. The by-election for the four assembly constituency seats were held in the month of November, 2020 but the election of the six- ADCs was shoved to the background.

In February, 2021 ATSUM reminded the government to abide by the assurance it had made for holding the ADC at the earliest. It warned the government of stringent agitation if the notification to hold ADC elections is not issued at the earliest. It accused the government not keen on holding the election and that is why playing delay tactics.

In the early part of March, 2021 a new organization under the name Demand Committee of Autonomous District Councils (DCCADCs) was floated in connivance with some political leaders with the intent of scuttling the demand for the conduct of ADC election. The DCCADCs demanded for the creation of ADCs for the newly created district of Pherzawl, Kamjong, Tengnoupal and Noney. On March 27 the state cabinet agreed to

hold the elections in the 10 ADCs which included the four new districts. However, the move was seen as an attempt to divide and then derail the election process, which later turns out to be true. The United Naga Council which had opposed the creation of the new districts since 2016 came out strongly against the cabinet decision and asserted that it will opposed tooth and nail. The DCCADCs played the perfect spoilsport.

The demand eventually fade away as the agitating leaders became preoccupied with the Manipur (Hill Areas) Autonomous District Council Bill, 2021 or better known as the HAC Bill, 2021.

It can be concluded that the Biren Singh led BJP government has no intention of reviving the grass-root local self government of the hill districts which is vital for the growth and development of the tribals but instead it is more interested burying it forever. In spite of the countless number of MOUs signed with the government, three years has passed but the ADC election is yet to be conducted.



Paolienlal Haokip
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Uti Possidetis Juris (UPJ) applies to new sovereign states, not to India which had created 28 states and 8 UTs after independence.

youtu.be/kIKnir9kxd0?fe... via @YouTube

YouTube



Dr. Yumnam Premananda Speech at Observance of "National Democracy...

Dr. Yumnam Premananda, Head of Department of Law, MU, Speech at Observance of "National Democracy Day, Manipur" OBSERVANCE OF "NATIONAL DEMOCRACY DAY, MANIP...



Sushma Sharma ✓
@SushmaSh22

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Inner #Manipur Valley has good road & infrastructure but check the condition of NHs in #Kuki dominated #Tribal areas of Outer Manipur

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#ViratKohli #degerforsif #dkpol



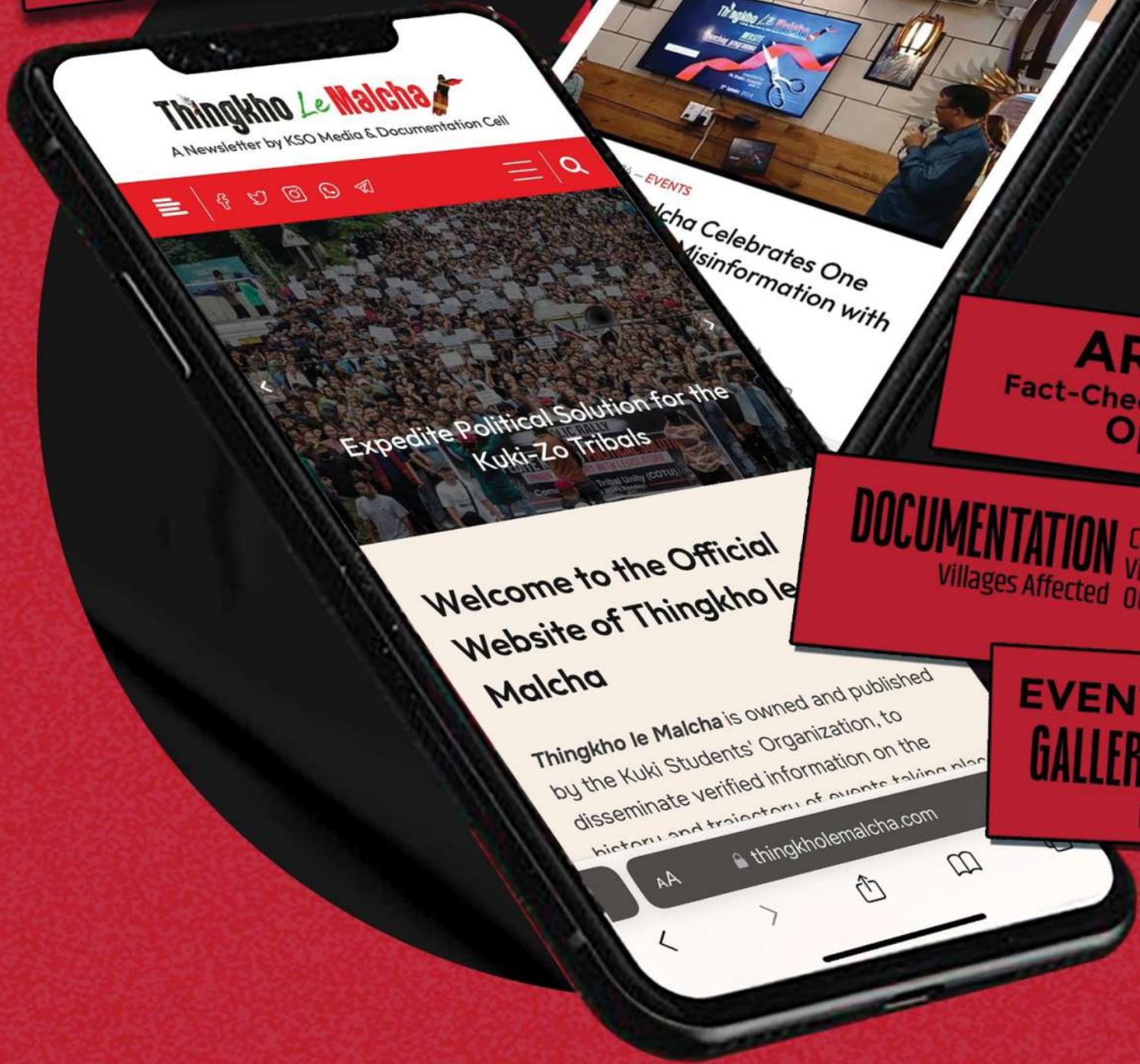
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BLOOD THAT BINDS

~ SD William Haokip

Across the hills and valleys wide,
Kuki tribes stand side by side.
Each voice distinct, each tongue its own,
Yet in our hearts, the bond is known.

For blood runs deep, it ties us tight,
Our customs shared; our spirits bright.
From ancient songs to woven art,
A single pulse, a beating heart.

But shadows fall, divisions rise,
From little quarrels, old disguise.
We fight for names, we break apart,
And lose the strength within our heart.

Yet while we clash, our foe grows bold,
Their grip is iron, their gaze is cold.
We cannot face them torn in two;
Our unity must carry through.

So brothers, sisters, near and far,
Remember well who we are.
Our roots go deep, our blood is strong,
Together is where we belong.

For blood is thicker than water,
Than whispered doubts, than fractured dreams.
Our enemy is mighty and cruel,
But not as fierce as me and you.

When hand meets hand, and hearts align,
No wall or mountain can confine.
Our power lives in shared embrace,
In every tribe, in every face.

So let us rise, as one, to fight,
With courage burning through the night.
For Kuki's strength is not in name,
But in the bond we dare reclaim.

United we stand, divided we fall,
Let this be our battle call.
To forge a future bold and free,
To honor the roots of our ancestry.

Together we'll face the storm's fierce roar,
Together we'll stand evermore.
For in our unity lies our might,
And with it, we'll endure the fight.