

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



ONKHOMANG HAOKIP (35 YEARS)

H/O BIEKKIM HAOKIP

ADDRESS: DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS, TUIBONG, LAMKA

DATE OF INCIDENT: 13TH SEPTEMBER, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: CHINGPHEI, LAMKA

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED 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.

KUKI BODY SEEKS COURT-MONITORED SIT PROBE INTO LEAKED AUDIO TAPES PURPORTED TO BE OF CM N. BIREN SINGH

The audio clips leaked online earlier this year, where Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh is purportedly heard implicating himself for his alleged role in the State's ethnic conflict, have now reached the Supreme Court of India.

The Kuki Organisation for Human Rights Trust has now filed a petition in the top court seeking a court-monitored probe into the leaked audio tapes, which have already been submitted to the inquiry commission set up by the Union Home Ministry to probe the violence.

The petition, filed through advocate Prashant Bhushan, has said that the contents of the audio clips, "prima facie show the complicity and the involvement of the state machinery in violence against the Kuki-Zo community".

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The petition argued that since the purported conversations in the recording appear to point to a conspiracy involving the highest functionary of the State, the investigation cannot be done by agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation or the Enforcement Directorate. It sought a special investigative team with



officers of "impeccable integrity" picked by the court to conduct the investigation.

The petition also called for the probe to be monitored by a retired judge of the Supreme Court. The writ petition was filed on October 9 and registered on Tuesday (October 22).

Citing several portions of the alleged conversation that feature in the leaked audio tapes that run for around 45-50 minutes, the petition said, "It is apparent from the aforementioned conversation that the Chief Minister of Manipur was instrumental in inciting, organising and thereafter centrally orchestrating the large-scale murder, destruction and other forms of violence against the Kuki-dominated areas in Manipur."

In its petition, the organisation has said that the conversation contained in the recordings revealed a battery of offences under the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, the Arms Act, and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

Parts of the audio clips had first started leaking on social media in August this year. On August 7, the Manipur government issued a statement claiming that the audio clips were "doctored" but also said that the Manipur Police had launched an investigation into the origins of what it called a "defamatory campaign" against the CM. (The Hindu)

KUKI MLAS URGE GOVERNOR TO INTERVENE AND REJECT UNCONSTITUTIONAL HAC RECOMMENDATION

In a formal letter addressed to Lakshman Prasad Acharya, the Hon'ble Governor of Manipur, Kuki MLAs have expressed strong opposition to a recent HAC resolution concerning the administration of Autonomous District Councils (ADCs).

The controversial Resolution No. 59/2024 states that a committee of 20 members will be formed to oversee ADC administration, with 18 members selected from former ADC officials and local experts, and only two government nominees. The Kuki MLAs argue that this decision undermines democratic principles and is unconstitutional, citing concerns about bias and divisiveness.

The MLAs highlight that the resolution was passed under conditions that prevented many members from attending the HAC meeting, due to ongoing law and order issues in the state. They assert that the resolution violates the foundational democratic ethos of local governance and operates outside the established ADC Acts.

In light of these concerns, the Kuki MLAs reiterated their demand for a Union Territory with legislative powers, emphasizing that this reflects the aspirations of their community. They urged the Governor to

To, Churachandpur, the 23rd October 2024

Shri Lakshman Prasad Acharya Ji,
Hon'ble Governor of Manipur (Add. in charge).

Subject: To set aside the unconstitutional recommendation of HAC meeting RESOLUTION NO. 59/2024-(HAC), Imphal, 14th October, 2024.

Your Excellency,

We, the undersigned members of the Hill Areas Committee (HAC), Manipur Legislative Assembly, draw your kind attention to the recent HAC resolution relating to the Autonomous District Council, Manipur wherein the resolution says, "...in order to run the administration of ADCs, a Committee consisting a total of 20 members for each ADCs shall be constituted of whom 18 members shall be selected from amongst the former ADC members/experts in Local Self Govt/eminent persons/intellectuals and two (2) Govt. nominees of the District as a temporary arrangement till the ADC Election is conducted".

We felt that the resolution was unconstitutional, a mockery of democratic principles, unlawful, unprecedented, arbitrary, divisive and biased. Further, the resolution was taken while the State's law and order situations prevent half of the HAC members from a particular community from attending the HAC Meeting and State's Assembly Sessions since the 3rd May, 2023.

The resolution, besides violating democratic ethos behind local elected bodies, also is against all norms of propriety and outside the purview of the ADC Act(s) amended till date.

It is, in fact, such an atmosphere of political erraticism and bias that justify our demand for UT with legislature which we hereby reiterate with growing conviction. We urge your kindness to find favor with our political demand, which reflects the strong political aspiration of our people and advocate for our cause which is the only viable way ahead for peaceful neighbourly existence.

Further, we seek your kind and prompt intervention so that the constitution of India and the ADC Act be respected and upheld to the fullest, in public interest.

Thanking You.


1. Haokholet Kipgen
MLA, Saitu AC


4. Ngursanglur Sanate
MLA, Tipaimukh AC


7. Chinlunthang
MLA, Singnat AC


2. Kimneo Haokip Hangshing
MLA, Saikul AC


5. Letpao Haokip
MLA, Tengnoupal AC


8. Paolenlal Haokip
MLA, Saikot AC


3. LM Khaute
MLA, Churachandpur AC


6. Letzamang Haokip
MLA, Henglep AC


9. Nemcha Kipgen
MLA, Kangpokpi AC


10. Vungzagin Valte
MLA, Thanlon AC

intervene and ensure that the Constitution of India and ADC Act are upheld for the benefit of the public.



What is of supreme importance in war is to attack the enemy's strategy.

— Sun Tzu

SC: 42 SITs ASSIGNED TO REVIEW CASES NOT HANDED OVER TO CBI IN MANIPUR VIOLENCE

The Supreme Court on Monday said that it proposes to pass order that there will be 42 Special Investigation Teams (SIT) to look into cases in connection with Manipur violence which have not been transferred to Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud said cases have been transferred to the CBI, but to ensure faith in the rule of law, it is proposing to direct that there shall be five officers of rank at least Deputy SP who will be brought into CBI from various states.

“These officers will also be functioning within the four corners of the infrastructure and administrative structure of CBI. There will be 42 SITs looking at cases that have not been transferred to CBI”, the top court said.

SITs already probing matters which are not transferred to CBI will supervised by six DIG level officers brought from outside Manipur.

The top court said it contemplates to appoint a committee of three former High Court judges which will look into the investigation, relief, remedial measures, compensation, rehabilitation, etc.



“The Committee of three former judges will be headed by Justice Gita Mittal, and also comprise Justice Shalini Joshi, Justice Asha Menon”, apex court said.

The top court further said that IPS officer will supervise CBI investigations. Former Mumbai police commissioner Dattatray Padsalgikar will be in overall supervision of the probe.

Meanwhile, Director General of Police (DGP) of Manipur Rajiv Singh appeared before the Supreme Court pursuant to court’s order. (NewsX)

PROTEST ERUPTS IN KAMJONG OVER BORDER FENCING PLAN

The group of people mostly women, braving the incessant rains, blocked the road at Ramphei village junction in Manipur’s Kamjong district sharing a border with Myanmar on the east.

They opposed the government’s plan to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the Indo-Myanmar border fencing project.

The agitators blocked the vehicles occupied by the officials to assess the ground survey and data



collection for fencing works at the Kamjong area on Wednesday afternoon.

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Reports said on Thursday, the official vehicles turned back from the said junction but they were allowed to inspect and assess the first-hand reports at the border areas of Phaikok and Thana villages in the same district.

The agitation erupted after the Naga People's Front (NPF), an alliance partner of the BJP-led government in the state, along with the Naga students' bodies objected to the proposal for fencing the Indo-Myanmar border in the Naga-dominated areas of Manipur.

Additionally, two Naga students' bodies – Southern Tangkhul Students' Unions and Eastern Tangkhul Students' Union have jointly expressed strong opposition against continuing the border fencing works and also against scrapping the Free Movement Regime (FMR).

Additionally, amid strong opposition from the section of people in this border state, the Government has started the ground survey and data collection work to prepare DPR for the fencing works (in Kamjong).

Officials said that the survey from Border Pillar (BP) 6 to Border Pillar 110 (Chasad/Kamjong) covers a distance of 20.25 Km.

It started on October 18, 2024, as per a letter written by the General Reserve Engineering Force (GREF) to the 10 Sector Assam Rifles, Kamjong DC and Kamjong SP.

Officials said that over 30 km long border fencing has already been completed at the Manipur-Myanmar border. (NENow)

TMNL PRESIDENT AND ASSISTANT GEN SECRETARY KILLED IN TRAGIC ACCIDENT NEAR SHINGCHA JUNCTION

In a tragic road accident near Shingcha Junction, two prominent leaders of the Tangkhul Mayar Ngala Long (TMNL) lost their lives on Thursday morning. The deceased have been identified as TMNL President Themmaso Tallanao (35), son of Khanot Tallanao of Longpi kajui village, Ukhrul district and Masothing Mungshon (26), son of late. Leimaya Mungshon of Seikhor village, Assistant General Secretary TMNL.

As per preliminary police report, the Bolero, bearing Regn No. AS 03M 0985, in which the victims, including another occupant were travelling "met with self accident near Shingcha village junction on Kamjong-Finch corner road at around 10:35 AM on Thursday. Both the victims died at the spot, while the occupant, HR Mingyao (27), son of HR John of Thiwa village Senapati District, Manipur received multiple injuries, the police report said.

Police report said that the vehicle was badly damaged beyond repair, while the cause of the accident could not be immediately known.



According to police, the Bolero fell into a 400 ft deep gorge. A similar accident took place in the same spot where a lone driver died in an accident some year ago, it added.

The Tangkhul Mayar Ngala Long has said that the mortal remains of the deceased will be kept at TNL Hall tonight, with a condolence service to be held on October 25 at Ukhrul Town Hall.



NEWS ANALYSIS

Reflecting the Hills-Valley Deep Divide: Separate Administration a Necessity for the Hills

NH-12027/65/2024/MN/Zone-V
(C.No.242067)
Government of India
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
(Zone-5, NE)
Transport Bhawan - 1 Parliament Street New Delhi - 110001
Date: 24 October, 2024

To,
The Secretary,
Public Works Department,
Government of Manipur,
Manipur.

Sub:- Works to be taken under Central Road and Infrastructure Fund (CRIF) for the state of Manipur - Sanction - reg.

Sir,
Reference is invited to letter no. MISCWD-1601/13/2024-WD-WD dated 21.08.2024 received from Secretary to the Govt. of Manipur, Public Works Department submitting therewith Concept Note for 111 No. of CRIF works total amounting to Rs 399.36 Crore for consideration under CRIF scheme for the state of Manipur.

2. In this regard, it is to inform that the Competent Authority in Ministry has approved the following 57 nos. of works:-

Sl. No.	Name of Road	Length (km)	Amount (Rs. in Cr.)	Type of Road
1	Takyel Ghari Road from Naoremthong to NH-02 Tiddim Road and its Peripheral Roads	15.67	15	MDR
2	Changanger Tabungkhok road from NH-02 Tiddim Road to NH-37 Imphal - Jiribam road and its inter connecting Roads	9.1	9.1	ODR
3	Interconnecting Roads of Takyel and Langjing	7.9	8	ODR
4	Improvement of road from RIMS road to Cheiracochoing via Khomdram selungbha, Hijam Leikai, Sinam leikai	12	6.5	SH
5	Improvement of road from Sangitihel Lamkhai to S Kolen	7	3	IVR
			3.5	IVR
			3.5	IVR
			3	IVR
			3	IVR

The recent allocation of 57 roads construction, a notification issued on October 8, 2024, solely for the Meiteis' valley of Manipur has sparked wide concerns about uneven distribution of developmental projects between the Hills and Valley regions.

The Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India, has recently approved construction of 57 roads in Manipur, for which funds have been sanctioned under Central Roads and Infrastructure Fund. Unfortunately, all of these roads are only confined to the valley; not even one for the hill districts. A total of 317.49 Km has been approved for road construction with Rs. 217.50 Crore sanctioned for the same by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways under the CRIF.

On October 22, the Ministry, however, stated that it has approved 50 National Highway projects of 1026 km length in Manipur. Out of this, 44 projects of 902 km length lie in the hills of the State so far. In hills, 8 projects for 125 km have been completed and balance 36 projects of Rs 12000 cr for 777 km are in progress.

In the Annual Plan 2024-25 of the Ministry, there are 2 National Highway projects of Rs 1350 cr for a total length of 90 km which lies in hills.

Under CRIF Ministry approves the list of work on State roads as prioritised by the State Government. Out of total 111 Nos. of works in the priority list given by the State Government, depending on the BOS ratio Ministry has approved 57 Nos. of works in the order of priority.

Here, all 57 road building projects are only for the Meiteis' valley districts; none is allocated for the hills. This reflects N. Biren Singh's mischievous plan under his "Go To Hills or Go To Village" campaign. It is also a poor attempt at justifying 100% state roads development prioritisation by a communal state government under the narcissistic regime of N. Biren Singh.

National Highway development is a welcome step but, nowhere else is it used to neglect state roads in the same area. The farcical programme of Go To Hills, Go To Village are all cosmetic in nature. Where were the funds meant for the hills to develop this kind of road? The Hill and Valley divide was always there, historical discrimination was always there. The deep divide of Manipur administration under hills and valleys can truly be traced.

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Notably, Manipur's road network spans approximately 8,648 kilometers, connecting key towns and villages. However, the focus on valley districts has led to disparities in infrastructure development.

The government's decision to concentrate road projects in valley districts has reignited demands for greater autonomy and representation for hill areas. Proponents of a UT with a legislature argue that this would enable targeted development and address the unique needs of hill communities.

The people of the Hills, particularly the Kukis, have been bearing all kinds of negligence or mistreatment in all sectors. They are marginalized for decades in spite of demanding equal budgetary allocation for both the hills and valleys. However, their demands have been heard with a deaf ear. This is why Union Territory with legislature for the hills is a necessity, which can guarantee fair development and representation.

The Union Ministry should either review the orders or bring up another list for the Hill areas under separate sanction for UT category by obtaining priority from hill MLAs.

In the wake of the ongoing state-sponsored ethnic persecution against the Kukis, world-class roads may be built in the valley. But, road conditions in the Kukis regions are still pathetic, prompting bamboo stretchers to carry patients towards district hospitals.

The government must prioritize the development of roads in the hill areas of Manipur too. Failure to do so will result in blatant discrimination and more division between the hill and valley regions of Manipur.

It may be recalled that at the heart of this conflict is the long-standing hill-valley identity divide. The Meiteis have all of the best infrastructures in their ancestral

valley areas. They have better access to good quality drinking water, clean cooking fuel, and hospitals. The population in the valley dominates public sector jobs, and the economy of the region is propped up by tourists, who, for the most part, stay in the valley. A higher share of industries, which provide better employment opportunities, can also be found in the valley.

On the other hand, the relatively less educated tribal people live in the rural areas. They live in hilly regions, which are covered mostly by forests and have relatively poor access to basic facilities. This population is poorly represented in public sector jobs. Very few of them work in industries and don't earn a sufficient income from tourism.

The hill-valley divide is more pronounced when access to basic facilities is compared. In the valley, 73-90% of households had access to better quality water compared to 51-69% in the hill districts. In the valley, 70-90% of households had access to clean cooking fuel, compared to 23-62% in the hills. In the valley, 67-76% of births were institutional, compared to 39-67% in the hills.

The answer as to why there is uneven development between the hills and valley in Manipur is due to non-implementation of the tribals' Constitutional rights for the past 50 years in hill areas. It is a cumulative product of decades of administrative apathy as well as discriminatory policy making by those who have been controlling the affairs of the state.

With such a deep divide, the best permanent solution to these disparities is the Government of India to grant separate administration in the form of Union Territory with Legislature for the Hill people.

SOCIAL MEDIA
THE BUZZ

Ravinder Kapur. @RavinderKapur2

Wanton killings of innocent labourers in Imphal by #MeiteiTerrorists stands a good reminder that Kukis and Meiteis can never live together again. #SeperateAdministration is the only solution, nothing else!
#MeiteiWarCrimes
@Chengchengpi
@EstherEimi
@SamKhongsai_
@haokipkim128
@Bec_Eimi



1:00 PM · Oct 24, 2024 · 1,440 Views

Sushma Sharma @SushmaSh22

#Meitei group #ArambaiTenggol has started infiltrating into #Kuki areas. If this continues expect another round of conflict will start soon between the #Kuki and #Meitei communities and this will further make the situation worse.
#Garime #TheRajaSaab #LingOrm
#ViratKohli #degerforsif #dkpol



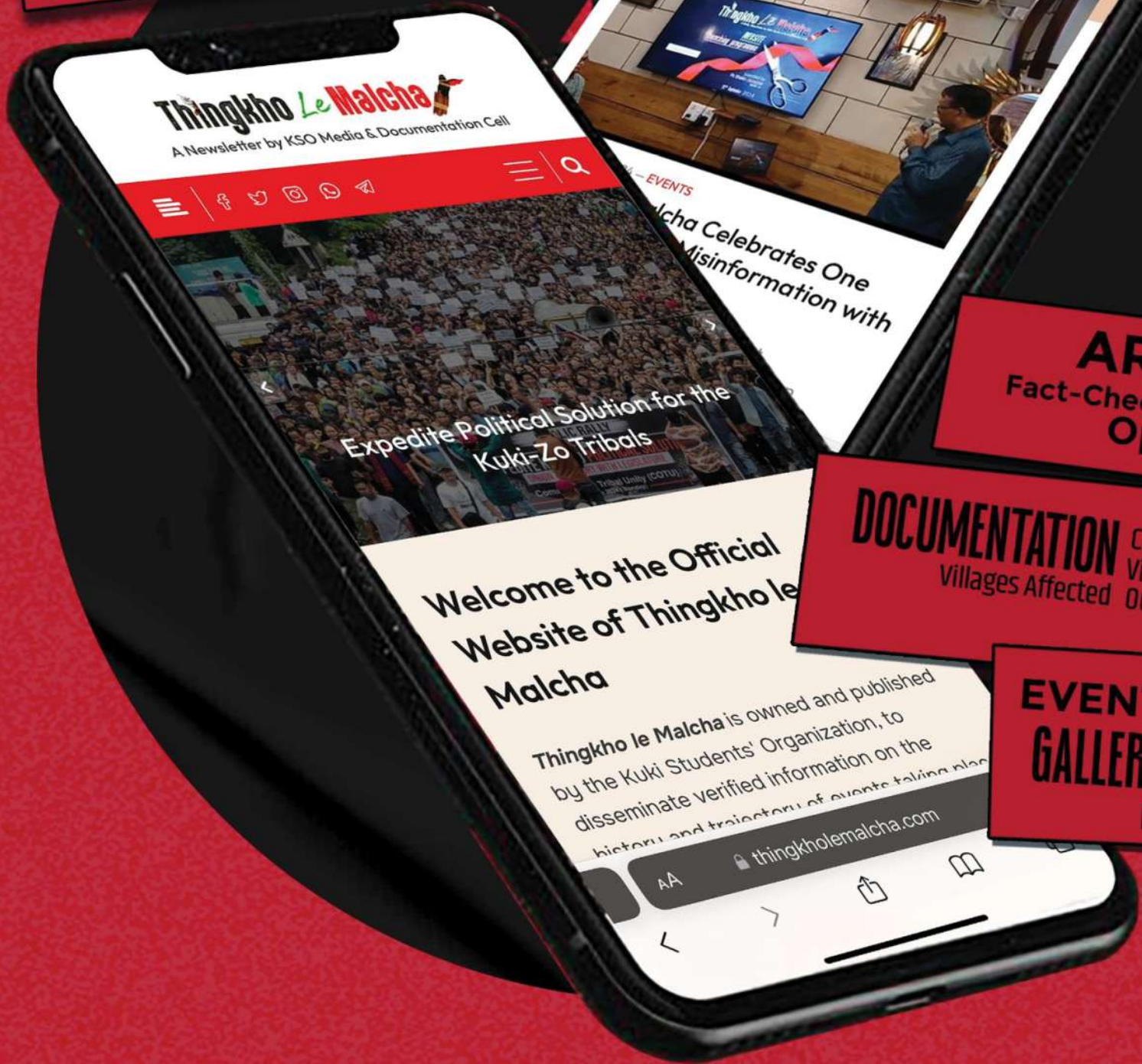
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ECHOES OF THE FALLEN

~ Seimonlal Singsit

In the silence of the night,
When the world falls still,
Echoes of the Fallen
Whisper through the chill.
They tell of the battle fought,
Of lives given in vain,
Of dreams that were shattered,
And the hearts that are
hollowed with pain.

Parents sit in empty rooms,
Their hearts heavy with grief,
Eyes searching for faces,
That will never come home.
Their dreams, once bright,
Now shadows of what could have been.

Siblings recount the laughter,
The shared secrets,
The bond that can never be replaced.
They feel the absence,
A void that echoes with loss,
A pain that words cannot touch.

Partners hold onto memories,
The touch, the voice,
The love that was their world.
Now, just whispers in the wind,
A constant ache,
A reminder of what was lost.

Children grow up with stories,
Of heroes they never knew,
Their lives forever marked,
By the absence of those who should be there.
They ask questions, seeking answers in the silence,
Their hearts heavy with the weight of loss.

Friends gather, sharing tears and tales,
Of times that will never return,
Of lives cut short.
They feel the emptiness,
The space where their friends should be,
A wound that time cannot heal.

The world moves on but the pain remains,
A constant reminder of the cost of war.
They are missed every day, every moment,
Their absence, a wound
that never truly heals.

But we must not give up, yet fight for them,
For the dreams they had,
For the love they gave.
We carry their memory in our hearts,
In our actions, and we strive for a world,
Where such loss is no more.

Stand strong, Hold onto hope,
For their sake, For our future.
Let their sacrifice be the light that guides us,
Towards a better tomorrow,
To a world where love is known.