

# Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## AWAITING JUSTICE



### LETMINLEN HAOKIP (23 YEARS)

S/O LETTHANG HAOKIP

ADDRESS: PANGMOL, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF INCIDENT: 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: PANGMOL, SADAR HILLS

CAUSE OF DEATH: DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY (TYPHOID)





## 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-ZO WOMEN STAND GUARD AT GAMGIPHAI TO BAR CM BIREN SINGH'S ENTRY INTO KANGPOKPI

The Kuki-Zo women across the Sadar Hills in Kangpokpi District gathered at Gamgiphai this morning to block the anticipated passage of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh through their territory. The protest was organized to prevent Singh's travel en route to the Liangmai Changa Ngee 2024 festival in neighboring Senapati District, a visit he ultimately skipped.

The Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) had earlier issued a stern warning to the Chief Minister ahead of his planned visit, labeling any attempt to enter Kuki-Zo areas as "provocative" and potentially "dangerous." CoTU has previously accused Singh of fueling violence against the Kuki-Zo community and warned that his presence could ignite renewed unrest in an already fragile region.

The protest, which began around 9:00 a.m., saw a large congregation of women monitoring the highway, prepared to prevent any passage of Chief Minister N Biren Singh, and other politicians and officials from the Meitei community. The demonstration remained peaceful, with no interruptions to highway traffic or business operations. Shops and businesses in the area continued their operations as usual, underscoring the controlled nature of the protest.

This is the second incident in recent months in which Chief Minister Singh's attempts to traverse Kangpokpi have been thwarted by local resistance from the Kuki-Zo community. A similar effort on August 3 was met with a strong opposition, forcing a cancellation. The incident reflects the deepening divisions and rising tensions in Manipur, with escalating concerns about government-community relations.

For many in the Kuki-Zo community, the protest served as both a message and a defense against perceived aggression. "We will not allow provocations in our land," one protestor asserted. As regional divisions continue to intensify, the impasse between state leadership and tribal communities signals a



significant challenge for Manipur's path to stability and reconciliation.

In a clear caution to Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) General Secretary Lamminlun Singnit has urged him to stop attempting to enter Kuki-Zo dominated areas, emphasizing that continued attempts to pass through Kuki-Zo territories would be seen as "trespassing" and could lead to an escalation in tensions, further deepening the community rift in the state.

Lamminlun Singnit highlighted the community's resolve, stating that under CoTU's guidance, the Kuki-Zo people would pursue all forms of protest against what they perceive as unauthorized entry into their areas by Meitei officials. This stand, he explained, is rooted in the Kuki-Zo community's longstanding demand for a separate administrative structure—a demand that remains unmet amidst a backdrop of ongoing unrest in Manipur. "Unless our call for separate administration is realized, we will oppose any attempts by the Meitei community to enter our regions," Singnit asserted.

The CoTU's message underscores the severity of the region's challenges and the potential for future unrest. As the standoff continues, the demand for a separate administration emerges as a critical point of negotiation—one that the Kuki-Zo community insists must be addressed before any path forward can be forged.

# KSO CHURACHANDPUR ALLEGES SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATION OF QUALIFIED KUKI-ZO CANDIDATES AT CMC RECRUITMENT

The Kuki Students' Organization (KSO) Churachandpur has issued a strong condemnation of the recent Assistant Professor recruitment results at Churachandpur Medical College (CMC), citing systemic discrimination against qualified candidates from the Kuki-Zo community. The organization argues that the recruitment process has failed to acknowledge the challenges faced by medical practitioners displaced from Imphal and has resulted in the marginalization of Kuki-Zo candidates.

According to the KSO, the selection process revealed a clear bias favoring the Meitei community, with many Kuki-Zo candidates allegedly more qualified than those chosen. The KSO highlighted that only one Kuki candidate was selected, for the Dermatology position, where there were no competitors. They expressed concern that the Meitei candidates selected are unlikely to physically teach at CMC, compromising the integrity of medical education, as it cannot be delivered virtually.

The KSO criticized the lack of representation on the recruitment board, which did not include any tribal members, and pointed out that CMC's Director, Dr. Iboyaima Singh, was absent from the process. They also condemned the decision to conduct online interviews for Kuki-Zo candidates, while others had the opportunity for in-person interviews in Imphal, labeling this disparity as pure discrimination.

Statistics from the KSO reveal a troubling trend across Manipur's medical colleges, with only 11.26% of Assistant Professors at RIMS and 17.6% at JNIMS



coming from tribal backgrounds. At CMC, only 6 out of 21 Assistant Professors are from tribal communities. Alarming, Kuki-Zo representation in these institutions stands at just 5.08%.

The KSO also highlighted the significant barriers that have hindered Kuki-Zo students from accessing medical education, leading to a decrease in representation in postgraduate courses. They view this as a reflection of broader political alienation under the Meitei government.

In response to these injustices, the KSO is demanding an unbiased review of the recruitment process, the availability of interview recordings, and the establishment of a neutral selection committee to oversee re-interviews. The organization emphasized its commitment to advocating for equality and fairness in educational opportunities for the Kuki-Zo community.



**War does not determine who is right  
- only who is left.**

— *Bertand Russell*



# NIPF AND ZORO CONDEMN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S BORDER FENCING PLANS IN MANIPUR

In a joint press statement released on October 30, 2024, the Nagaland Indigenous Peoples Forum (NIPF) and the Zo Reunification Organisation (ZORO) expressed strong disapproval of the central government's ongoing efforts to construct border fencing along the Indo-Myanmar border in the Tengnoupal, Chandel, and Churachandpur districts of Manipur. This initiative has resumed despite previous protests that led to a temporary halt in construction, with the government now deploying central forces to enforce its decision.

The organizations argue that the construction poses a significant threat to the cultural heritage and way of life of indigenous communities, as the fence disrupts villages, divides homelands, and imposes restrictions on traditional practices and interactions with communities across the border. They claim this erosion of cultural identity is unacceptable and highlights the government's insensitivity toward the concerns of these communities.

NIPF and ZORO also criticized the central government for scrapping the Free Movement Regime (FMR), which had been formalized in 2018 as part of the BJP government's Act East policy. They described the abrupt decision to abandon the FMR as shocking and perplexing, particularly as it appears to be an appeasement strategy toward certain communities at the expense of indigenous peoples.

The organizations pointed out that the central government's actions disregard the need for consultation with local stakeholders and violate international conventions designed to protect indigenous rights, particularly the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples



(UNDRIP). They emphasized that India's commitment to these principles should compel the government to uphold the rights of marginalized communities, including the right to maintain cross-border relations.

To achieve a sustainable and just resolution, NIPF and ZORO called for the Indian government to balance national security concerns with the protection of human rights. They asserted that border management in Manipur and the northeastern region should not come at the cost of disenfranchising indigenous communities, warning that such actions could exacerbate tensions and hinder peace and development in the area.

The organizations are demanding an immediate halt to the construction of the border fence to safeguard the rights and well-being of indigenous peoples, highlighting the need for a more inclusive and rights-based approach to border management. They argue that prioritizing national security over human rights risks further alienating the very communities the government intends to protect.

# KUKI-ZO WOMEN'S FORUM DELHI ISSUES URGENT CALL FOR JUSTICE AMID ONGOING ATROCITIES; DEMANDS UT WITH LEGISLATURE

In a press conference held today at National Capital, the Kuki-Zo Women's Forum Delhi raised alarming concerns over the escalating violence and atrocities against the Kuki-Zo community, particularly targeting women. This urgent call to action follows a devastating ethnic cleansing campaign that has persisted since May 3, 2023, resulting in significant loss of life and displacement.

The forum outlined shocking statistics that reveal the scale of the crisis, including 203 confirmed deaths, over 200 villages burned, more than 7,000 homes destroyed, 360+ churches and synagogues torched and approximately 41,425 individuals displaced. These figures highlighted the targeted violence, discrimination, and marginalization that Kuki-Zo women and families are facing, leading to lasting trauma and insecurity within their communities.

The forum emphasized several key commitments in response to these atrocities:

**Raising Awareness:** It is imperative to amplify the voices of Kuki-Zo women and families, ensuring their stories and suffering receive the recognition they deserve.

**Demanding Justice:** The forum called on authorities to conduct thorough investigations into these acts of violence, hold perpetrators accountable, and deliver justice to affected communities.

**Empowering the Community:** There is a critical need to provide education, resources, and support systems to Kuki-Zo women, enabling them to rebuild their lives and assert their rights.

**Building Solidarity:** The forum urged all communities to unite against violence and discrimination,



fostering a safer environment for everyone.

**Advocating for Separate Administration:** The forum called for the Indian government to acknowledge the profound divisions caused by the ongoing ethnic cleansing. They demand the establishment of a Union Territory with a legislature to ensure safety, justice, and sustainable development for the Kuki-Zo community.

The Kuki-Zo Women's Forum appealed to the media, community leaders, and concerned citizens to join their urgent call for action. They stress the importance of amplifying the voices of Kuki-Zo women and safeguarding their rights and dignity.





**NEWS ANALYSIS**

**Systemic Injustice and Discrimination in Manipur: Kuki-Zo Community Continues to Face Discrimination in Government Recruitment, Education, and Employment**

It is often mistakenly thought that there is problem in Manipur or that there are violations of human rights only when there are attacks or gun firing. But every day is another day gone by where victims are by default made to live with injustice, discrimination and deprivation from their legal and human rights due to hesitancy from the central government and commissions to recognise the reality as it is. Their hesitancy is aggravating the plight and the injustice of the Kuki-Zo. If Biren’s communal politics makes thousands the direct victims of 3rd May, the lack of recognitions of the status-quo of Manipur by the central government is continually leading to violations of human rights, fundamental rights and legal rights of every Kuki-Zo household.

The recent results of Assistant Professor recruitment for Churachandpur Medical college is the latest testament of systematic alienation and discrimination of qualified candidates from the Kuki-Zo community in government jobs. The plight of medical students who had to be displaced from Imphal due to the failure of their medical institutes and the state government and its machinery – a reality they have to necessarily consider – was thrown

out of the window. The recruitment process is thus a blatant attempt to curtail the growth of aspiring medical students to their potential and the denial of qualified Kuki-Zo candidates into the den they have for decades been holding a monopoly over. Where is the equality of opportunity for these students and the candidates? The reality today is that none of the selected Meitei candidates will have the courage to reach the college itself, forget about educating the students.

It was not experience and expertise in the medical field the criteria unlike it always has been, but the community you belong to that decided the selection process. Else there is no explanation for the rejection of many candidates like Dr. Kholi Sania Monica, Dr. Shan Damrolien or Dr. Vumkhoneh among others. Had a quack doctor not from Kuki-Zo community applied for in the department of Dermatology, it won’t be wrong to assume going by their selection process that he/she will get selected in place of Dr. Thanjamang Haokip, the lone candidate who got selected only because he

**Contd.**

**Contd.**

had no competition that the selectors could select over him by dint of their discriminatory attitude towards the Kuki-Zo. Can we expect a fair and realistic result from an interview dominated by doctors belonging to Meitei community?

Let's for a second set aside the monopoly they want to retain in the Health Care sectors of the state. Even if they have the intention to recruit the candidates in a fair and impartial manner, it is highly unlikely that they will have the courage to execute it practically, as going by the trends operating in the valley, they will be keeping their lives and their family life and houses at stake. It is also highly unlikely that a state government under Biren Singh will allow for it. A fair and impartial recruitment process freed from the government, CSO's and VBIG's threat is thus the need.

The decision of Biren Singh's government and its actions to proactively recruit jobs in others departments amidst the conflict to appease the Meitei community and alienate the Kuki-Zo community is a well accepted fact on the grounds. With unemployment crisis, this amounts to the psychological, emotional and economic warfare the state government is orchestrating against the Kuki-Zo.

The buck doesn't stop there. The state Government inflicted aspiring students' dreams in central government jobs as well. Despite the availability of infrastructure and resources, the state government intervention compelled students from Churachandpur to travel 14 strenuous and troubling hours on a long journey through a mountainous and hilly terrain just to give an exam in Aizawl, or a relatively shorter but equally tiring and strenuous journey from Kangpokpi to Nagaland. Poor students have to incur extra expenses from their own pockets as what was a one-day process examination for other aspirants took a minimum of 3 days for Kuki-Zo aspirants. Many

students have to give up their dreams due to financial difficulties or health issues related with long hours travelling. But the central government remains apathetic for these students as well.

The common solutions given to curb the problems in any conflict torn area is to educate the youth and empower them, to show them they can have dreams beyond their problems in the form of employment opportunity and to make them aware that there is equality for all, free from the discrimination and injustice that are wrongly propagated to by non-state actors. However here students and educated youths took the initiative on their own but the state government acted as a stumbling block to their paths and the central government's hesitancy aided it. Recognising the problem and status-quo will solve half of the human rights and fundamental rights violations problem that exist today in Manipur, although only political solution will guarantee long-lasting peace, justice and everlasting solution to the conflict.

There should be no place for discrimination and impartiality for any qualified candidates and students who dreams a better future for themselves and to serve the society as the constitution forbids the discrimination on the basis of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth for opportunity in government jobs and it is the responsibility of the government to ensure that everyone gets treated equally. The recent recruitment process is against the principle of equality and is not sensitive of the existing status-quo in the state. Thus it should be thrown into its rightful place – the garbage can. And only the central government's empathy on their plight can ensure this.



THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

Ravinder Kapur. @RavinderKapur2

BREAKING NEWS — #Manipur:

Cadres of Meitei Separatist Terrorist UNFL(P) who signed ceasefire agreement with Gol arrested with sophisticated weapons while undertaking extortion activities at Thoubal. Biren has led Manipur in chaos & mobocracy where terrorists rule the valley.

#ManipurViolence  
#MeiteiTerrorists



11:06 AM · Oct 30, 2024 · 557 Views

The Proud Indian @DynastyDoungel

Whoops! The result is crystal clear, "Why Assam Rifles were ridiculed and chase out yesterday". Myanmar based Narco-Terrorist UNLF PLA and KCP were station in that area's.

Will CM @NBirenSingh, MP @MaharajaManipur still deny their involvement?

@adgpi @AmitShah @official\_dgar



10:44 AM · Oct 30, 2024 · 1,325 Views

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[www.thingholemalcha.com](http://www.thingholemalcha.com)





# RISE KUKI PEOPLE

We've suffered long, of hardship and pain.  
Discrimination's chains have bound,  
Our voices silenced, hopes drowned  
In a trifling land called Manipur.

With Meiteis, hill-valley lost its essence,  
Our culture, language, fade away.  
But now we rise, a new dawn breaks,  
As we seek separate administration.

Autonomy is our cry, our hearts desire,  
Free to govern, our future acquire.  
No more shackles, no more pain,  
Let's make our children's future bright again.

Let's unite, march forward as one,  
For a brighter tomorrow, we've begun.  
Self-rule's our dream, our hearts alive,  
A separate administration, we strive.

Through struggle and strife, we'll find our way,  
And build a future, brighter each day.  
With courage and hope, we'll stand tall,  
And our freedom, we'll never fall.

~ Robert J. Gangte