

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



NEILAM HAOKIP (55 YEARS)

W/O GINKHAI HAOKIP

ADDRESS: LAIMANAI, LAMKA

DATE OF INCIDENT: 5TH NOVEMBER, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: KANGCHUP, SADAR HILLS

CAUSE OF DEATH: ABDUCTED & KILLED BY MEITEI MOB



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.

WHO IS SAVIO RODRIGUES, THE JOURNALIST OBSESSED WITH LALDUHOMA'S SEPTEMBER 2024 SPEECH?

Savio Rodrigues, the founder and editor-in-chief of Goa Chronicle, has recently stirred controversy with his obsession over a two-month-old speech by Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma. Rodrigues, a former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson and leader representing the Velim Assembly constituency in Goa, has once again made headlines with claims that have ignited political debate.

In the past week, Rodrigues resurrected a speech by Lalduhoma delivered in September 2024 during an event in the United States. The speech, which can be found on the District Information & Public Relations website, has now become the focal point of a controversy, with Rodrigues claiming it points to a larger conspiracy. According to him, Lalduhoma's statements signal an attempt by the Kuki-Zo-Chin tribes to form a separate nation with the help of the CIA, spanning parts of Myanmar, Bangladesh, and India's northeastern states.

This is not the first time Rodrigues has written about the unity of the Kuki-Zo-Chin tribes. Earlier, he accused the CIA of trying to carve out a Christian nation by uniting these ethnic groups, similar to the creation of East Timor. In his writings, Rodrigues suggested that the CIA may have an interest in establishing a new Christian nation incorporating the Kuki, Zo, and Chin peoples, and that this idea could be politically advantageous for international powers, especially the U.S.

In one article, Rodrigues referred to a statement made by Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, which he claimed brought a "startling dimension to the geopolitical landscape of South Asia." According to Rodrigues, Hasina disclosed that a foreign agent had offered to help her secure an easy victory in the January 7, 2024 elections in exchange for allowing a foreign country to build a military airbase in Bangladesh. Rodrigues linked this to the broader idea of carving out a Christian nation from parts of Bangladesh and Myanmar, with the Kuki, Zo,



and Chin tribes at its heart. He suggested that the plan could resemble the establishment of East Timor, which gained independence from Indonesia with international backing, including from the United States.

Rodrigues concluded his article by writing: "The story of Zogam, Chin-Kuki-Zo people would like us to believe is one of faith, resilience, and the unwavering pursuit of a united and thriving Christian nation."

However, there is a significant flaw in Rodrigues' narrative. No speeches by Chief Minister Lalduhoma—nor by any previous Chief Ministers of Mizoram—have ever mentioned the creation of a Christian state or a separate nation for the Kuki-Zo-Chin people. In fact, even in the speech that Rodrigues is so fixated on, Lalduhoma speaks of unity under the Indian government, not a separatist agenda. The Kuki-Zo-Chin tribes, separated by colonial borders drawn by the British, have been living in different countries for over seven decades, and no state government or politician from any of these countries—India, Myanmar, or Bangladesh—has ever entertained discussions of unification under a new or separate government.

Rodrigues, however, continues to push this

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narrative. On November 3, 2024, he posted on Twitter: “This statement of Chief Minister of Mizoram in the US in September needs to be thoroughly interpreted and understood for its true intent, and investigated @AmitShah. I have always maintained that the Chin-Kuki-Zo want to have a separate nation carved out of Bangladesh, Myanmar and India. They plan to achieve it with the assistance of the CIA.

While his earlier tweets may have garnered only a few comments or a handful of reposts, this particular tweet exploded on social media, receiving almost 2,000 reposts and more than 134,000 views. The viral post has given Goa Chronicle a much-needed boost, turning what was a dying newsroom into the center of a new media firestorm.

On October 30, 2024, Exchange4Media reported that Rodrigues had warned of “tough decisions” ahead for Goa Chronicle, hinting at financial difficulties facing the publication. However, after his tweet on November 3, the post went viral, which could provide the momentum he needs to revive his media outlet.

On November 4, 2024, following the success of his viral post, Rodrigues tweeted again: “GoaChronicle is an investigative team that sets the tone of reportage which most mainstream media catch up later because our focus is always the truth. You can like us, you can hate us but you cannot ignore us. We will survive and we will continue to expose the existential threats to India.”

Rodrigues, who has authored three books, is also known for his controversial opinions on other topics. His second book, *Modi Stole My Mask* (co-authored

with Amit Bagaria), chronicles India’s battle against the COVID-19 pandemic. The book controversially suggests that certain protests, like the farmer’s protests and those surrounding the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), were “probably” orchestrated to malign Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Rodrigues has also spoken out on international issues. In the wake of the Canada-India diplomatic row, he was quoted in reports blaming Canada’s Foreign Minister for targeting Home Minister Amit Shah. Rodrigues claimed, “The leaks by Canada’s Deputy Foreign Minister David Morrison targeting Home Minister Amit Shah show that they are trying to put India in a bad light. The leaks prove one thing for sure, that the Canadian government is directly supporting the anti-India Khalistani extremists for their own political benefits, which is a point that’s been repeatedly emphasized by our government.”

Rodrigues has been involved in other controversies as well. In 2011, he filed a petition in the Bombay High Court seeking a ban on the release of the Hindi-language film *Dum Maaro Dum*, claiming it portrayed Goa in a negative light. He also objected to the constitution of a seven-member government committee that reviewed the film before its release in theatres.

While BJP has borne the brunt of Manipur’s ethnic clashes, now this puts the clashes into a new light—the Zo-Kuki-Chin ideology pushed by the CIA—while BJP can wash its hands. (East Mojo)



War is when the government tells you who the bad guy is.

Revolution is when you decide that for yourself.

— Benjamin Franklin

THADOU COMMUNITY INTERNATIONAL IS UNAUTHORIZED BODY: THADOU INPI

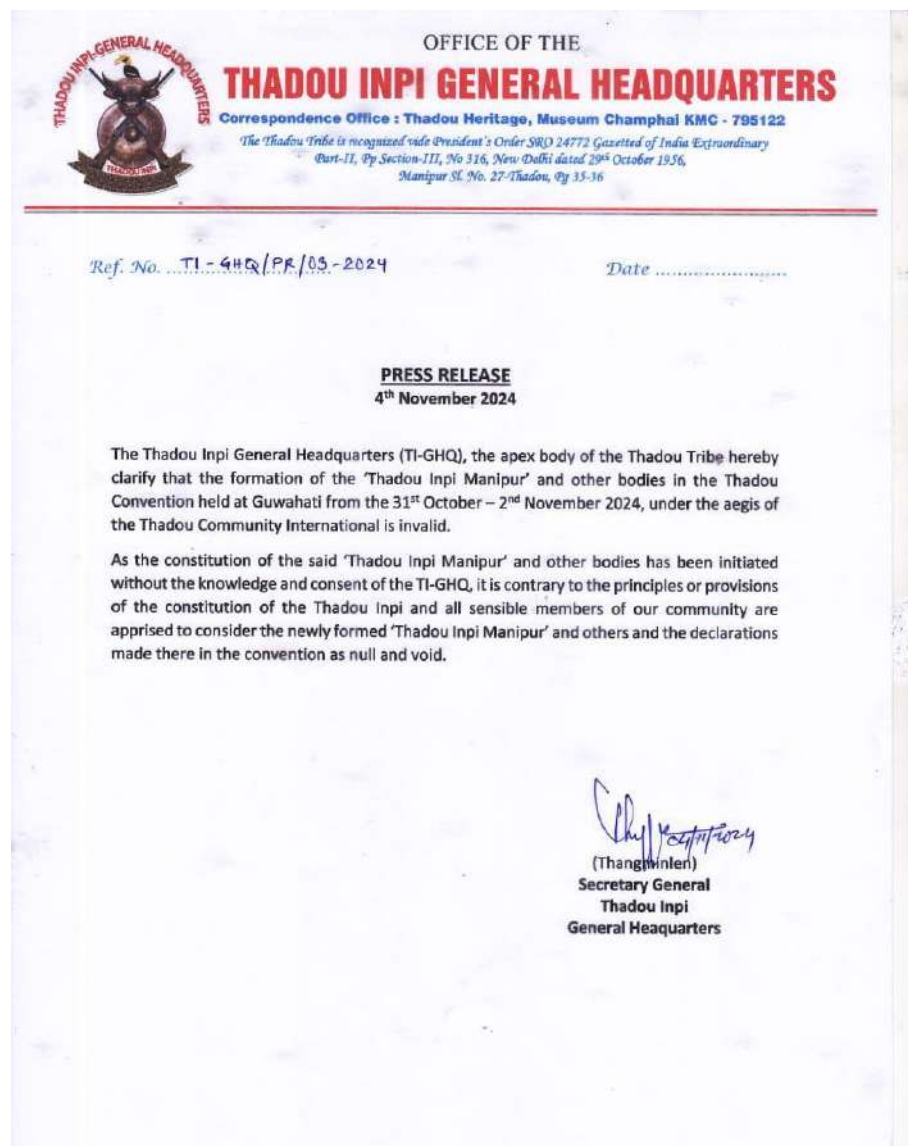
In a firm rebuttal, the Thadou Inpi General Headquarters, the apex body of the Thadou tribe, has strongly condemned the Thadou Community International (TCI) Convention held in Guwahati, dismissing TCI as an unauthorized body lacking the authority to represent the Thadou people.

The Thadou Inpi General Headquarters expressed its disapproval of the resolutions and statements from the TCI convention, labeling them “null and void” and criticized the prominent slogan, “Thadou is not Kuki,” as an “emotional outburst” driven by a divisive mentality within factions of Any Kuki Tribe (AKT)

Chongpu Kipgen, President of the Thadou Inpi General Headquarters said that the convention, held from October 31 to November 2, was conducted without the knowledge or endorsement of Thadou Inpi, the legitimate apex body representing the Thadou tribe. Kipgen stressed that TCI does not have any mandate to speak on behalf of the Thadou community, casting doubt on the legitimacy of its resolutions.

In response to the TCI’s slogan, “Thadou is not Kuki,” Kipgen explained that the Thadou community is historically and culturally linked to the broader Kuki identity and such affiliations cannot be easily erased. He said, “The Thadou identity has deep-rooted ties to the Kuki community, similar to other indigenous groups in Manipur.” He suggested that the rejection of the Kuki label could undermine the Thadou tribe’s heritage and shared history with other Kuki groups.

Kipgen also noted that the slogan is a reactionary move, potentially motivated by sentiments of supremacy among certain AKT members, which contradicts the established cultural affiliations and unity valued by the Thadou people. The Thadou Inpi General Headquarters reiterated that TCI’s statements do not align with the



views of the broader Thadou population and should not be viewed as representative.

Moreover, Thadou Inpi urged caution against rhetoric that could fragment the community, stressing the importance of preserving the unity and cultural ties shared with the larger Kuki identity. The organization reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the Thadou tribe’s position within the Kuki umbrella, warning that TCI’s divisive stance may create discord and harm the cultural integrity of the community.

SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS OPENLY FLAUNTED DURING NINGOL CHAKKOUBA CELEBRATION IN IMPHAL: A BRAZEN DISPLAY OF LAWLESSNESS

In a shocking and alarming incident, members of the Meitei radical group Arambai Tenggol were seen openly flaunting sophisticated weapons during a night concert organized as part of the Ningol Chakkouba celebration in Imphal. A video of the event, which has since gone viral, shows several individuals lifting assault rifles and other military-grade weapons with apparent ecstasy, in full view of the public. This disturbing display has raised serious concerns about the breakdown of law and order in the Imphal valley.

The public display of weapons, including automatic rifles and other sophisticated firearms, not only violates India's stringent arms laws but also underscores the ongoing insecurity in the region. Despite the presence of armed groups and the escalating violence since May 3, 2023, the Imphal valley continues to grapple with the consequences of unchecked lawlessness. Interestingly, the valley remains excluded from the purview of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA), while areas with comparatively less criminal activity, such as the hill districts, have seen the extension of this draconian law.

The video's widespread circulation has reignited fears of rising militancy in the valley. Daily reports of criminal activities, including extortion, kidnapping, and violent assaults linked to Meitei militant groups, paint a grim picture of the region's deteriorating security. The blatant flaunting of sophisticated weapons further exacerbates the sense of lawlessness.

In India, the display and possession of sophisticated weapons in public without proper authorization is a clear violation of the Arms Act, 1959. The law strictly governs the possession, sale, and use of firearms. Under the Arms Act, only individuals



with a valid firearm license are permitted to possess firearms, and carrying or displaying such weapons in public is prohibited unless expressly authorized by the government.

Additionally, weapons like assault rifles and automatic firearms are classified as prohibited, and their public display can lead to severe legal consequences. A breach of these regulations can result in charges under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including:

Section 144: Prohibits the gathering of individuals with dangerous weapons in public to maintain public order.
Section 153: Punishes actions that promote enmity between groups or cause public disturbance through the display of arms.
Section 307: Deals with attempts to commit murder, which can be invoked in cases where weapons are displayed with the intent to threaten or intimidate.
Despite the clear violations of these laws, state government seems powerless to take

action. While the Arms Act and public safety laws clearly prohibit the display of sophisticated weapons, the Manipur state government has consistently failed to take any significant action against the Arambai Tenggol for its defiance of these laws. The state's apparent inaction is even more troubling given the group's direct involvement in illegal activities, including violence and extortion.

The government of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh has come under intense scrutiny for its failure to address these escalating issues. Notably, N. Biren Singh has been described as a patron of the Arambai Tenggol, raising concerns about the government's willingness to act against a group that may have the tacit support of those in power.

The escalating violence and public flaunting of sophisticated weapons highlight the growing crisis in the Imphal valley. However, the state government's reluctance to take meaningful action against militant groups like Arambai Tenggol has compounded the problem, creating an environment where criminal activities can thrive without fear of consequence.

The public display of sophisticated weapons not only endangers the lives of citizens but also threatens the very fabric of law and order in the region. How long can the state allow such brazen violations to go unchecked, especially when the law itself is being openly flouted in full public view?



Sushant Singh
@SushantSin

Follow

Meanwhile the majoritarian militia in Manipur is now abducting Naga traders. The mess just became messier.

Now, conflict erupts between Naga, Meitei groups

Prawesh Lama
letten@thehindustantimes.com
NEW DELHI: The 18-month long crisis in Manipur seems to have entered a new phase with security forces gearing up to deal with a new challenge—friction between Naga groups in the state's Senapati district and Meitei radical group Arambai Tenggol (AT).
While AT has been accused by Kuki groups of launching attacks against them over the past 18 months, this is the first time that Naga groups have gone against it.
Over the past 18 months, as Meiteis and Kukis have clashed, the Nagas have not fought with either of the groups. Even as buffer zones separate the Kuki and Meitei residents, who live in different districts, the Naga residents live with both communities.
Security officials are worried

that this could change.
On Sunday, as a 48-hour shutdown of the district called by Senapati's three key Naga groups ended, they announced an indefinite blockade of all commercial vehicles going towards Imphal. The three Naga People's Organisation (NPO), Senapati District Students Association (SDSA), and Senapati District Women's Association (SDWA) have been protesting the recent abduction and assault of two Naga traders allegedly by AT on October 31. The Naga groups have two demands—a public apology from Arambai Tenggol (AT) and action against those involved in the incident.
The three groups also sent a memorandum to Manipur chief minister N Biren Singh through Senapati's district magistrate that mentions the details of the abduction and extortion involving the

3 NAGA BODIES ARE PROTESTING THE ABDUCTION AND ASSAULT OF TWO TRADERS ON OCT 31 ALLEGEDLY BY A MEITEI GROUP
two Naga traders, although it does not name AT. The memorandum claims that there was no attempt by civil society organisations to mediate or redress the issue.
A Saloni Tony, president of the Senapati District Students Association, said, "We want both Meitei and Kuki groups to know through this economic blockade that our patience is running out. Naga traders are being extorted and harassed. Naga people are becoming victims of extortion from both

groups." He said that the group has two demands—a public apology by Arambai Tenggol and action against all those who were involved in the extortion.
Meanwhile, M John Thangal, general secretary of the Naga People's Organisation, said, "All commercial vehicles going to Imphal have been stopped. This will continue unless AT apologises and brings forward those who were involved in the recent case. We are still waiting for the Manipur government to act and book those involved in the case under stringent sections."
The Manipur police said on Sunday said that an AT member named Khatun Saajep aka Bhat (30) was arrested for the assault of the two men from Senapati.
Officials in the Manipur government said backchannel talks are being held with Naga leaders to

diffuse the situation and ensure that the crime is not given a communal or ethnic colour. Talks are being held with Naga civil society organisations. The crime (assault) did not happen because of the victim's ethnicity. It was a crime by criminals," a government official aware of the probe said.
Meanwhile, a senior security officer posted on the ground said there is no change in the security because the government authorities are trying to open the blockade through talks with Naga groups and not use force in the situation.
The Kuki-Zo tribes dominating the hills and the Meiteis, who are a majority in the valley, have been engaged in deadly clashes since May 3, 2023. At least 230 people have been killed and tens of thousands had to leave homes that are now in rival communities' strong holds in the 18 months since.

9:07 · 05 Nov 24 · 7,447 Views



Being Chikim (Chin-Kuki-Mizo-...
@being_chikim

Follow Back

Arambai Tenggol's brutality has led to 203 deaths, 7,000+ homes burned, and mass displacement. They're arming Meitei terrorists to target Kukis, yet media silence persists. When will the government act against these atrocities? #ManipurViolence #JusticeForKukiZo #MeiteiWarCrimes



17:12 · 05 Nov 24 · 297 Views





FEATURED ARTICLE

Idea of United Manipur Increasingly Difficult; GoI Should Address Kuki-Zos' Demand for UT With Legislature

The state-sponsored ethnic genocidal violence against the Kuki-Zo community has entered the nineteenth month this November since it began on May 3 last year. This ongoing structural violence has been prepared by the State in ways that it converges and overlaps with the majoritarian minded Meitei civil society organisations and their heavily armed extremist outfits.

The extent of this ethnic cleansing pogrom becomes apparent not just before the start of the violence but also subsequently for more than one and half years, which suggests the structural forms of violence being validated and has been enforcing till these days. These structural forms of persecution against the minority communities are now endemic to perpetuating aggression across the hills of Manipur.

From the beginning of this violence, there are sets of distorted narratives being spread like wild fire, led by the communal Meitei Chief Minister N. Biren Singh and his cohorts - spreading venomous and vicious propaganda against the hill people in various media platforms, print and digital including social media, thus stereotyping and otherising the minority Kuki-Zo community so as to subserve to the electoral interest of the powers-that-be.

The so-called defenders of the territorial integrity of Manipur should realise that these particular vicious politics and distorted narratives which ethnicised on the issues of “encroachment”, on issues of “poopy cultivation”, or on issues of “illegal immigrants”, etc., are all lopsided arguments, totally unfounded and far from reality.

For instance, barely five years before the violence erupted, the incumbent narcissistic Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, in his interview to India Today’s Conclave, had said that there were “no illegal immigrants” in Manipur. A year before the violence, his government’s appointed Committee had found out some 2000 Burmese refugees inside the territory of Manipur, who were then rehabilitated and had nothing to do with the present violence. On the issues of narcotics, the former decorated Meitei Police officer, Th. Brinda, in charge of Narcotics and Border Affairs (NAB), had categorically indicted N. Biren Singh and other political elite classes for their deep involvement in illegal narcotics trade.

In spite of debunking all of his distorted narratives, N. Biren Singh and his political cohorts continue

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to spread false propaganda one after another by stereotyping against the Kuki-Zo community. This shows that the whole democratic institutional experience under his leadership is in peril and its legitimacy has now been in question. Unless the like-minded populace, irrespective of all ethnic groups, confront all these distorted narratives, what is left to be salvaged should be very less; given that there is a drastic destruction of the State's territorial space and complete breakdown of communal trust in the lowest level.

In terms of the deeper level of penetration of these false narratives and how it leverages mutual distrust, suspicion and full of hatred to the extent of civil war between the two communities, there is no possibility of keeping the idea of united Manipur anymore .

It is clear by now that the geographical, demographic

and emotional deep divide between the Meitei and Kukis has become the new buffer zones which in effect has laid down the foundation of territorial disintegration of the state of Manipur. In fact, it is unprecedented to witness, for instance, in any Indian state of the Country that a reigning Chief Minister is not able to visit even one part of the State, which has about 16 percent of the total population. The Meiteis are confined in their own homeland in the valley areas just as the Kukis in their own ancestral land.

Acknowledging the present circumstances, given that there is no other option to resolve the ongoing mayhem, the Government of India must wake up from its slumber and start addressing the political demand of the Kuki-Zo community, which is Union Territory with Legislature.



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ON THE 65TH DAY

We cry out for a little change of your help and prayer
We long to sleep, eat, wear and go like one
We wanna go kneel down for prayers
And sing His praises together in the church.

Our children say give us books not guns
We wanna wear uniforms and go to schools with school bags
Our classrooms, teachers and friendships
Were just the echoing green now
Help us to answer them.

We were born here
We are not foreigners, we have nowhere else to go
We love the tricolour we are Indian, give us refuge.

We want food not war and bloodshed
Give us time to work and rest, our children are hungry
We've no more bread.

We wanna see a doctor who can treat our ailing people
Lest we die even of mild sicknesses
It's been 65 days we haven't seen a doctor

We wanna have a city where we could earn our livelihood
Where we find minister's secretariat and police
Where we find friends, offices, universities, hospitals, aeroplane,
trains and busses, books, internet and televisions

We want peace and security
We wanna live, we need food,
We need clothes we need cssshelter we need all.

~ Lh Paokhothang Khongsai
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