

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



THANGLALMUON VAIPHEI (31 YEARS)

S/O (L) MANGKHOLIAN VAIPHEI

ADDRESS: P. GELJANG, SADAR HILLS

DATE OF INCIDENT: 3RD MAY, 2023

PLACE OF INCIDENT: SANAKEITHEL, LAMPHEL, IMPHAL WEST

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY MEITEI MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 12. 11. 2024



218
DEATHS

1. Zosangkim Hmar
2. Lalsiemlien Hmar
3. Joseph Lalditum
4. Lalthanei Infimate
5. Robert Lalnuntluong
6. Ramneilien
7. Francis Lalzarlien
8. Elvis Lalropui Zote
9. Henry Lalsanglien
10. Ruolneisang
11. Fimlienkung



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.

COFFIN RALLY AT LAMKA TO PAY TRIBUTE TO 10 MARTYRS TOMORROW

A 'coffin rally' will be held on Tuesday at Churachandpur to pay tribute and show solidarity to the 10 Kuki-Zo youths, who were killed in an alleged gunfight with CRPF in Jiribam district of Manipur. The rally will be held under the aegis of Joint Philanthropic Organization (JPO).

In a 'joint public notice' on Monday, Zomi Students' Federation (ZSF), Kuki Students' Organisation (KSO) and Hmar Students' Association (HSA) directed schools and colleges to send pupils from class 10 onwards to participate in the event wearing black shirts.

As per the organizer, they will symbolically carry 10 dummy coffins to pay their respect for the slain youths as the bodies are still lying in the morgue of a local hospital.

After the autopsy conducted at a hospital in Assam's Silchar, the bodies reached Churachandpur, a Kuki-



majority district, on Saturday afternoon.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF), a key organisation of the Kuki-Zo community in Manipur, on Sunday, decided that the funeral of 10 youths will not be conducted till their postmortem examination reports are handed over to the families.

The suspected militants abducted six civilians - three women and three children - from the same district, police had claimed.

KUKI-ZO FATHER MURDERED BY MEITEI MILITANTS, LEAVING PREGNANT WIFE AND CHILD IN RELIEF CAMP

In a shocking and brutal act of violence, Mr. Haojoel Doungel was lynched to death by Meitei militants on the night of November 16, 2024. The incident occurred as Haojoel, who had been sheltering with his wife and young child at a relief camp in Hmarkholien, Assam, left in search of financial assistance to cover the expenses of his wife's impending delivery.

According to reports, Haojoel was abducted from Jirighat, Assam, by militants linked to the Meitei community and members of the militant group

Arambai. Sources indicate that he was subjected to extreme violence before being killed in what witnesses described as a "barbaric" manner. His mutilated body, showing signs of torture and blunt-force trauma, was discovered in a culvert near Anglapur village in Jiribam. The body is now in the custody of the Jiribam Police station.

Haojoel's wife, who is currently pregnant, is living at the relief camp in Assam with their child. The couple had been among the many

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displaced families fleeing violence and insecurity in the region. Haojoel had hoped to raise enough money for a safe delivery before Christmas. His tragic death has further highlighted the grave dangers facing the Kuki-Zo community amidst ongoing ethnic violence in Manipur.

This incident comes amidst growing concerns

over the state of law and order in the region, where reports of targeted violence against Kuki-Zo individuals have been increasing in recent months. The death of Haojoel follows a pattern of violence against members of the Kuki-Zo community, who have been caught in the crossfire of the conflict between Meitei militants and the Indian state.

SUPREME COURT COLLEGIUM RECOMMENDS MADRAS HIGH COURT JUDGE D. KRISHNAKUMAR FOR MANIPUR HIGH COURT CHIEF JUSTICE

The Supreme Court Collegium, in its first resolution after Justice Sanjiv Khanna took over as Chief Justice of India on November 11, recommended the appointment of Madras High Court judge, Justice D. Krishnakumar, as the Manipur High Court Chief Justice on Monday.

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The incumbent, Justice Siddharth Mridul, retires on November 21. If the government approves the Collegium's recommendation, Justice Krishnakumar would take over on the retirement of Justice Mridul.

"It is proposed to appoint Mr. Justice D. Krishnakumar, presently serving as a Judge of the Madras High Court, as the Chief Justice of High Court of Manipur with effect from the date on which the incumbent Chief Justice demits office on retirement," the Collegium resolution, signed by the Chief Justice, and Justices B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant, recorded.

Justice Krishnakumar was appointed as a Madras High Court judge on April 7, 2016 and is due to retire on May 21, 2025. He is the senior-most puisne Judge in



his parent High Court and belongs to a Backward Community.

As a lawyer, Justice Krishnakumar had extensive practice in Civil, Constitutional and Service matters in the High Court, with specialisation in Constitutional law.

"He is a competent judge with a sound legal acumen. He is endowed with a high level of integrity and honesty," the Collegium said.

The resolution said the Collegium also took into consideration the fact that, at present, there was only one Chief Justice from the Madras High Court among the Chief Justices of the High Courts.

NPP WITHDRAWS SUPPORT FROM BIREN SINGH-LED BJP GOVERNMENT AMID STATE CRISIS; NPF REAFFIRM SUPPORT

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma-led National People's Party (NPP) has withdrawn its support from the BJP-led government in Manipur, citing dissatisfaction with the handling of the state's ongoing ethnic violence and deteriorating law and order situation.

In an official communication addressed to BJP national president JP Nadda, Conrad Sangma, who is also the Chief Minister of Meghalaya, announced his party's decision to pull out its seven MLAs from the coalition. The letter expressed "deep concern" over the failure of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's government to restore normalcy amidst the ongoing crisis.

"The situation in Manipur has spiralled out of control, with innocent lives lost and communities suffering. We strongly believe that the current leadership has failed to address these critical issues," the letter stated.

Despite the withdrawal of the NPP's seven MLAs, the BJP-led government in Manipur remains secure. With a comfortable majority of 37 seats in the 60-member Assembly, the BJP is well above the halfway mark of 31.

Additionally, the BJP continues to enjoy the support of its regional allies and independents, including- the Naga People's Front (NPF) with five MLAs, one JD(U) legislator, and three Independent MLAs.

The NPP, which played a key role in the previous coalition government, has the following MLAs in the Manipur Assembly- Sheikh Noorul Hassan (Kshetrigao AC), Khuraijam Loken Singh (Wangoi AC), Irengbam



Nalini Devi (Oinam AC), Thongam Shanti Singh (Moirang AC), Mayanglambam Rameshwar Singh (Kakching AC), N. Kayisii (Tadubi AC) and Janghemlung Panmei (Tamenglong AC).

On the other hand, when questioned about the party's stance on the BJP-led state government amid the ongoing crisis, Minister Newmai reaffirmed the NPF's commitment to the alliance.

"NPF is one of the oldest allies of the BJP. At this critical juncture, withdrawal of support does not arise. We will continue to stand with the BJP government and work jointly to find solutions to the crisis," he clarified.

The NPF's statement comes amidst heightened tensions in Manipur following the Jiribam killings and a surge in protests across the state.



If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

— African Proverb

CONTROVERSIAL SHOOTING INCIDENT IN JIRIBAM THROWS FORMER OFFICER – NECTAR SANJENBAM, REPUTATION INTO TURMOIL

Colonel (Retd.) Nectar Sanjenbam, a former police officer hailed as a hero and reinstated as Senior Superintendent of Police (Combat) by the Manipur government last year, is now under intense scrutiny following a deadly incident during a protest in Jiribam.

The retired officer, who had only rejoined service in August 2023, was involved in a shooting that left one protester dead and another injured. The fatal incident occurred during a peaceful protest against the recent abduction and killing of six women and children in the Borobekra Sub-Division by suspected miscreants. The crowd was reportedly unarmed, seeking justice for the victims, when tensions escalated with the police.

Eyewitnesses allege that Colonel Sanjenbam, during a confrontation with the protesters, drew his firearm and opened fire on the crowd. Twenty-two-year-old Khundrakpam Athouba Ningthouja was fatally shot, while 24-year-old K. Bison Singh sustained injuries. Both men were reportedly unarmed at the time of the shooting. The incident has sparked outrage throughout the region, further inflaming tensions in an already volatile environment.

In the wake of the shooting, protests have erupted in Jiribam, with demonstrators demanding justice for the victims and the immediate accountability of the former officer. Several groups, including the prominent women's group Meira Paibis, have staged sit-ins outside the Public Works Department guesthouse in Babupara, where Sanjenbam and his team are believed to be seeking refuge. Protesters have also gathered outside his residence in Imphal, attempting to storm the property, although police forces have managed to protect the house from vandalism.

The shooting incident has ignited a firestorm of public anger, with questions mounting over Colonel Sanjenbam's actions and the circumstances surrounding his controversial reappointment.



Sanjenbam, who was brought out of retirement in August 2023 by the Manipur government to oversee the combat operations in the region, was originally regarded as a respected officer. His reappointment, however, has drawn sharp criticism due to the questionable nature of his recruitment and the manner in which the decision bypassed other senior in-service officers.

Sanjenbam's tenure as Senior Superintendent of Police (Combat) was intended to bolster law enforcement in the conflict-prone areas of Manipur, particularly in the aftermath of rising violence between Meitei and Kuki communities. However, the incident in Jiribam has raised suspicions over the true motives behind his deployment. Critics allege that his appointment may have been politically motivated, with claims that he was placed in the role to strengthen military-style tactics against the Kuki community, especially amid increasing ethnic tensions.

Now, the state government announced the formation of an Inquiry Committee to investigate the incident and the broader context surrounding Colonel Sanjenbam's actions. The committee, chaired by Kabib K, IPS (Intelligence), and with

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Ningshen Worngam, IPS, DIG as a member, is tasked with assessing the circumstances that led to the fatal confrontation. In a significant move, the government has also decided to discontinue Sanjenbam's service in light of the incident.

This tragic event is not an isolated incident, but rather a part of a growing wave of violence and unrest in the region. Since his reappointment, Colonel Sanjenbam has been linked to a number of controversial incidents, including the killing of Kuki civilians and the Sniper killing of a Kuki police officer last year. Some analysts suggest that the government's decision to appoint a retired Meitei Army officer to oversee combat operations could be seen as a deliberate move to assert control over

Kuki-dominated areas, particularly in the wake of increasing ethnic strife. Critics argue that this may be part of a larger strategy to undermine the Kuki community, pointing to earlier incidents such as the assault on Pallen Village and the killing of a Kuki volunteer, which they claim were directly linked to Sanjenbam's leadership.

As protests continue to grow in intensity, the future of Colonel Sanjenbam remains uncertain. His once-praised reputation as a seasoned officer has been severely tarnished, and his reappointment is now under serious question.

NIA TAKES OVER INVESTIGATION OF VIOLENCE CASES IN MANIPUR

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the investigation of three cases related to recent acts of violence in the northeastern state of Manipur. These incidents, which occurred earlier this month, led to the loss of lives and significant disruption, sources reported.

The central agency took over the investigation from the Manipur Police following instructions from the Ministry of Home Affairs.

On Saturday, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs announced that important cases had been handed over to the NIA to ensure a more effective investigation into the violence, which resulted in tragic loss of life and disturbances to public order in the state.

The cases include one filed at the Jiribam Police Station on November 8, regarding the murder of a woman by armed militants; another involving an attack on a CRPF post at Jakuradhor Karong and Borobekra Police Stations in Jiribam by armed militants; and the third case concerning the burning of houses and the killing of civilians in the Borobekra area, sources said.



The Ministry of Home Affairs also stated on Saturday that the security situation in Manipur had remained fragile in recent days, with armed miscreants from both communities engaging in violent acts.

The ministry directed security forces to take necessary measures to restore order and peace, while strict action would be taken against anyone attempting to engage in violent or disruptive activities.

CONGRESS ASKS PM MODI TO VISIT STATE; DEMANDS AMIT SHAH'S RESIGNATION

Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of “outsourcing” the management of Manipur solely to the Home Minister, Congress on Monday demanded the resignation of Union Home Minister Amit Shah over surging violence in the north-eastern state, his “singular achievement” was protecting Chief Minister N Biren Singh from ouster and not people in the state.

While reiterating the demand for the Chief Minister’s ouster, Congress also demanded that the Prime Minister visit Manipur immediately, meet an all-party delegation from the state and then also call an all-party meeting at the national level before the start of Parliament’s Winter Session on November 25.

Congress General Secretary (Communications) said, “from May 3, 2023, Manipur is burning and Modi visits various countries, gives sermons, but could not find time to visit Manipur. So, our first demand is that he should take time out before the Parliament session to visit Manipur and meet parties, politicians, civil society groups, and people in relief camps there.”

Pressing for Shah’s resignation following the “double engine government’s complete failure”, Ramesh said at a press conference along with Manipur Congress chief K Meghachandra Singh and Manipur in-charge Girish Chodankar that the Prime Minister has in the past 18 months “outsourced” Manipur affairs to the Home Minister, who is having a “jugalbandi” with the “failed” Chief Minister.

“Why is the Home Minister not taking cognizance of the Chief Minister’s failures and why has he been trying to save him?...The Home Minister must resign. The double-engine government has derailed. The Home Minister is directly in charge of Manipur...The singular achievement of the Home Minister is to protect the Chief Minister. He has not protected people, women, children and families,” he said.

In Ranchi, top Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said,



“Manipur has been burning for the last one-and-a-half years but PM Modi did not visit the state even once. I went there, saw the situation and urged the government to control the violence. The Home Minister should have done his work but he is not taking interest. Some vested interest is at play.”

Ramesh said the state, which has been witnessing ethnic violence-hit since May 3 last year, has “no full-time governor” after Anasuiya Uikey was transferred to Madhya Pradesh and additional charge given to Assam Governor Lakshman Prasad Acharya since July 30. “Before that an ST person (Uikey) was governor but she was removed within 18 months. We demand that immediately a full-time governor be appointed,” he said.

To a question on imposing President’s Rule in the state, Ramesh asked whether there was a government in the state. “The Home Minister is running the government. The state cabinet does not have any responsibility,” he said, indicating that the union government is calling the shots even without a formal proclamation of President’s Rule.

Singh said there is “unprecedented violence” and “complete anarchy” in Manipur, which is witnessing

a “horrific human tragedy”. He said, “there is no law and order at all. It is really very painful what the entire people of Manipur have to endure. Abductions of innocent people and killing of innocent people, particularly women and children, is very unfortunate.”

Recalling Modi’s statement on 25 February, 2017 when violence erupted in the state when Congress was in power that those who cannot ensure peace in Manipur have no right to govern the state, he said he wanted to ask the Prime Minister whether the “double engine government” was ensuring peace in the state.

“Manipur is a state in the unit of India, so why is the PM neglecting the state of Manipur. Manipur is becoming a forgotten state by this Modi regime. Modi never

speaks about Manipur. There is a total failure of law and order. The Chief Minister has no right to continue. I want to urge the PM to immediately visit Manipur and give an appointment to Manipur leaders, including BJP ministers and Congress leaders,” he said.

Calling the violence in Manipur a “tragic byproduct” of the double engine government, Chodankar said, “the state has become headless. It has failed to protect the lives of people. There is no leader who can take out the state from this violence and unrest. Frustration is leading to abduction and violence. It is an indication of the failure of the double engine government and also a humanitarian crisis prevailing there,” he said. (DECCAN HERALD)



K C Venugopal
@kcvenugopalmp



The ongoing surge of violence in Manipur shows the extent to which matters have gotten out of control. The killings have once again become an everyday occurrence and the mobs rule the streets.

When even ruling party MLAs are not safe in Manipur, how can the ordinary citizen have any hope for peace?

The crisis has spiralled out of control simply because of the PM and Home Minister’s active choice to fuel the politics of hatred.

The HM is busy campaigning, while the PM is off to yet another foreign visit while Manipur burns again.

It is our urgent plea to the Centre to restore peace in Manipur at the earliest.

11:29 · 17 Nov 24 · 1,313 Views



Sushant Singh
@SushantSin

Follow

Manipur is POLITICAL failure, with security manifestations. Any sensible and lasting solution can only come from the highest political level in the country aka PMO. The buck stops with Modi.

Curfew imposed in Imphal as houses of CM, ministers targeted; Net suspended

Fresh violence after bodies of six missing persons ‘recovered’ in Jiribam

ANIMESH SINGH

NEW DELHI, NOVEMBER 16
Curfew was clamped on two districts of Manipur on Saturday after protesters went on a rampage in the Meitei-dominated Imphal valley region. The violence broke out following unconfirmed reports of recovery of bodies of six persons of a family who had gone missing earlier this week. Besides imposing curfew in Imphal West and Imphal East districts, the administration suspended Internet services in Imphal West, Imphal East, Bishnupur, Thoubal, Kakching, Kangpokpi and Churachandpur districts for two days due to the prevailing tension in the state.

The curfew was imposed as protesters attacked houses of political leaders, including that of Chief Minister N Biren Singh and his son-in-law RK Imo. The security forces had to fire tear gas shells to disperse the protesters outside the CM’s personal residence. Sources confirmed that the bodies of three of the six missing persons were found on Friday near a river in Jiribam district. The victims had gone missing soon after the November 11 encounter between CRPF personnel and suspected militants in Jiribam. As many as 10 militants were killed in the incident amid allegations by tribal groups that the deceased were village volunteers. Large-scale violence was reported in parts of the Imphal valley districts as mobs targeted residences of politicians, including ministers and MLAs. A group of persons attacked MLA Sapam Nishikant Singh’s house and destroyed the gate and bunkers. The protesters, mainly women, demanded



Vehicles set on fire by protesters over the recent killings, in Imphal West, Manipur, on Saturday. REUTERS

ENSURE PEACE, MHA TELLS SECURITY FORCES

Security forces have been directed to take necessary steps to restore peace and order. – MHA

BODIES OF 10 MILITANTS AIRLIFTED

The bodies of the 10 suspected militants, who were killed in an encounter with the CRPF on November 11, were airlifted by the police to Manipur from Assam’s Silchar town, where the autopsies were conducted. Tribal groups clashed with police personnel at Silchar Medical College when the bodies were not reportedly handed over to them.

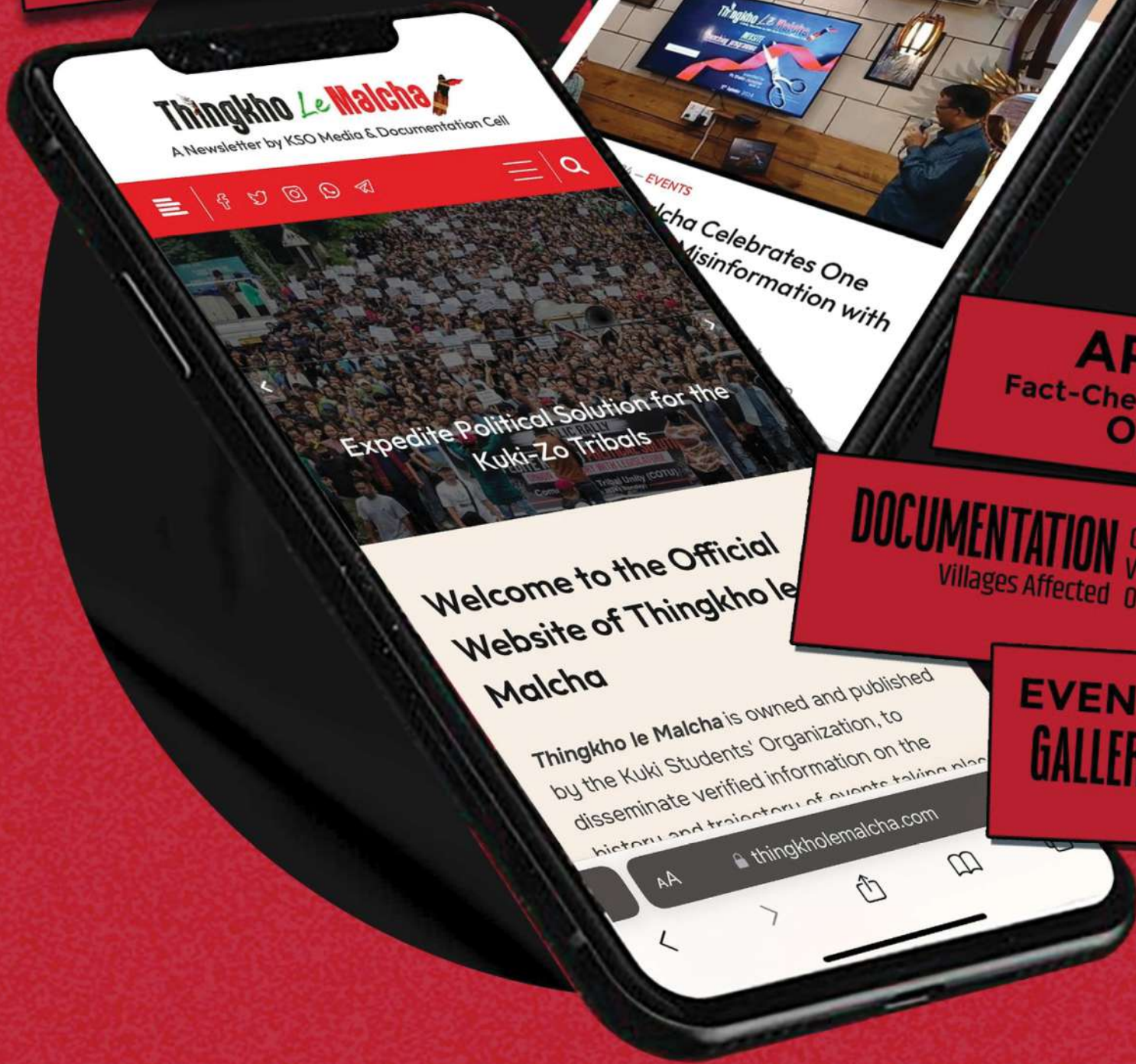
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9:25 · 17 Nov 24 · 4,575 Views

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UNITED WE STAND BRETHREN UNAO

From the hills and valleys that echo Zo's ancient song,
We rise together, where we belong,
Zo descendants rise, our spirits fly high,
Thadou, Hmar, Zou, and Gangte strong,
Aimol, Chiru, Kom, Paite—together we belong,
Bound by blood, through trials we go.

Different tongues, yet understand each other,
in one heartbeat,
Bound by the soil of our forefathers' land.
Amidst the chaos, conflicts, and strife,
Unity will lead us to a brighter life.
Singing the anthem, "Kikhen thei I-hipouve,"
"Nang Laizon, Kei Laizon," all UNAO tribes belong.

Amidst the storms that seek to divide,
We UNAO by blood, must stand as one, side by side,
As for Meeteis, our enemies, strikes, seeing us as one,
Let us prove that unity has begun.
UNAOs, brethren, hear the call,
Together united, we shall not fall.

For Zalen'Gam, our shared destiny,
Let us unite in harmony,
For UNAO brethren, the time is near,
To rise as one, cast off the fear.
A movement anew, "Separate Administration,"
Victory awaits for the steadfast and true.

So let us march, Brethren UNAO, strong and tall,
Together we rise, divided we fall.
For the dream we hold, the land we claim,
Zalen'Gam's promise, in unity's name,
Together we'll reach the common goal,
For United We Prosper, United We Stand.

~ Thongminthang Lhungdim