

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



DEMKHOGIN KHONGSAI (39 YEARS)

S/O LHUNKHOKAM KHONGSAI

ADDRESS: J. GAMNGAI VENG, WARD NO. 11, SAIKUL

DATE OF INCIDENT: 13TH FEBRUARY, 2024

PLACE OF INCIDENT: SATANG, SAIKUL, SADAR HILLS

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY MEITEI MILITANTS



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 25. 11. 2024



221
DEATHS

- 1. Lungin Singson
- 2. Paotinlal Gangte



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.

IMPHAL VALLEY IN LIMBO: GOVT OFFICE SHUTDOWN REFLECTS FAILURE OF CURRENT LEADERSHIP, BIREN SINGH LOSES CONFIDENCE OF THE MEITEI PEOPLE

The Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI) today proceeded with its plan to shut down government offices, disregarding an appeal from Chief Minister N Biren Singh to refrain from protests.

The shutdown of government offices across the region has exposed the deepening crisis within the state administration, highlighting the failure of the current leadership to control its own people. The protests and unrest, which have intensified in recent days, underscore the growing disillusionment with Chief Minister Biren Singh, once hailed as a savior of the Meitei community.

The students' wing of COCOMI led the charge, closing several government offices including the Secretariat.

They vacated staff and locked the premises, following through on their previous announcement.

Thokchom Dhanachandra, Convenor of COCOMI's students' wing, stated that the shutdown was a protest against the state and central governments for not addressing their demands.

He expressed disappointment that many offices continued to function, ignoring the committee's decision, which led to their closure. "Opening government offices despite announcing to the public is very unfortunate," he remarked.

Chief Minister N Biren Singh had appealed to COCOMI and other civil society organisations to avoid violence or protests, citing the centre's progress in implementing resolutions from a high-level meeting of NDA legislators on November 18. Despite once enjoying overwhelming support from the Meitei people, Singh's inability to effectively address the concerns of his constituents has led to a significant loss of faith in his ability to govern.

He mentioned that the NIA has re-registered cases related to the Jiribam violence and that security forces have commenced mass operations to apprehend



those responsible for the deaths of six hostages in Jiribam.

Furthermore, Biren assured that the state government and NDA legislators are prepared to support the public in pursuing remaining demands, such as declaring the involved organisations as terrorists and repealing AFSPA from the jurisdiction of six Police Stations.

The closure of government offices shutdown highlight the abject failure of the current dispensation in controlling its own people. Chief orchestrator of violence Mr. Biren Singh has lost the confidence of its own people. He failed to convince his people whom at once adore him as savior of the Meiteis.

Local observers believe that the present unrest is a direct consequence of Singh's failure to manage the delicate balance of power and address the grievances of various communities in the region. As public dissatisfaction grows, many are calling for a change in leadership, with some questioning whether Singh can still retain his position as the state's chief minister.

The continued closure of government offices is seen as a powerful statement by the people, signaling their growing frustration with the leadership's inability to restore peace and order.

KUKI-ZO GROUPS UNITE TO CONDEMN MES EMPLOYEE'S ABDUCTION IN LEIMAKHONG, DEMAND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE

The Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) Sadar Hills Kangpokpi, along with its subsidiary area units in Leimakhong, including the Leimakhong Area Protection Committee (LAPC), has strongly condemned the reported abduction of an MES employee stationed at Leimakhong on November 25 by unidentified miscreants.

CoTU, LAPC and Kuki-Zo civil society organizations expressed their support for ongoing search and rescue operations being conducted by the authorities. They pledged their full cooperation in efforts to locate and rescue the missing individual, who is believed to have been taken from the Army cantonment area.

They also appeal to the suspected abductors,

urging them to release the MES employee unconditionally on humanitarian grounds and reunite him with his family.

In addition, the CoTU cautioned against drawing conclusions or propagating ethno-centric narratives targeting any specific community. The committee emphasized the need to avoid escalating tensions between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities and called for patience until official confirmation of the incident is provided by competent authorities.

The committee also urged all stakeholders to act responsibly in this sensitive situation.

BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT ADJOURNED TILL 28 NOV AMID NOTICES ON MANIPUR, ADANI & SAMBHAL CLASHES

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday was adjourned for the day amid a huge ruckus over the opposition's demand to discuss various issues, including the Adani indictment.

Meanwhile, Rajya Sabha was also adjourned for the day. Earlier, the lower house was adjourned till 12:00 in the afternoon on the second day of the winter session of Parliament. After Union Minister Jitendra Singh's motion was passed, sitting in the chair, BJP MP Dilip Saikia announced that the lower house has been adjourned for the day till November 28 at 11:00 AM.

This comes after the opposition MPs gave notices to move an adjournment motion in both the lower and upper houses to discuss issues related to Manipur, the Adani indictment and the ongoing violence in Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal.

Earlier, Congress MPs Manickam Tagore and Manish

Tewari moved for an adjournment motion in Lok Sabha before the commencement of the session today.

Congress MP Hibi Eden moved an adjournment motion notice in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday demanding a discussion on the 'deteriorating condition' in Manipur. In his notice, Hibi Eden urged the government to "take accountability and implement immediate measures to restore peace and justice."

In Rajya Sabha, Congress MP Randeep Singh Surjewala also issued a notice on the same subject and said, "I hereby give notice under Rule 267 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) to move the following motion for the suspension of business listed for November 27, 2024. (ANI)

APHLC RESPONDS TO CEM TULIRAM RONGHANG'S STATEMENT ON KUKI-ZO DISPLACED PERSONS IN KARBI ANGLONG

The All Party Hills Leaders Conference (APHLC) has issued a statement addressing comments made by the Chief Executive Member (CEM) of Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC), Mr. Tuliram Ronghang, regarding the influx of Kuki-Zo displaced from Manipur. During a land patta distribution function in Centre Bazar, Karbi Anglong, on November 25, 2024, Mr. Ronghang expressed that he would not allow the Kuki-Zo refugees to remain in Karbi Anglong, citing concerns about potential ethnic conflicts between the Kuki-Zo and the Karbi communities.

In response, the APHLC condemned the CEM's remarks, stating that it is not the role of a responsible leader to decide whether refugees should be allowed to stay in the region. The APHLC emphasized that the Assam government and the KAAC are legally obligated to offer shelter and protection to any displaced persons, including the Kuki-Zo displaced people. The statement also called for a strong condemnation of the Manipur state government for its failure to prevent the ongoing ethnic violence between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities in Manipur.

The APHLC further urged that the KAAC and the Assam government should prioritize humanitarian aid to the Kuki-Zo displaced person, who are presumed to be in distress. Relief camps should be established to provide them with shelter, food, and other necessary support.

Additionally, the APHLC pointed out an apparent inconsistency in the CEM's stance, noting that Mr. Ronghang has not raised concerns about the entry of large numbers of Hindu Bengali refugees from Bangladesh or illegal immigrants from the neighboring country. The statement highlighted the presence of Bangladeshi nationals in Karbi Anglong, citing reports that up to 150,000 Bangladeshis are in the district, many of whom are not listed on the National Register of Citizens (NRC). The APHLC questioned why the CEM



had not taken action on these illegal immigrants while focusing solely on the Kuki-Zo refugees.

The APHLC also expressed concern over the potential for political manipulation, suggesting that the CEM's remarks could be part of a larger agenda aimed at inciting ethnic tensions, possibly at the instigation of national political groups such as the RSS and Bangasena. The APHLC emphasized that the people of Karbi Anglong, including various indigenous communities, will not be provoked into conflict and remain united against divisive forces.

Finally, the APHLC reiterated its support for the demands of the Uripok Apunba Lup and Uripok Nupi Apunba Lup in Manipur, opposing the re-imposition of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) and condemning the violence against innocent civilians in the region. The statement called for peace and reconciliation between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities and criticized the central government's handling of the unrest in Manipur.

The APHLC's statement concluded with a call for the restoration of peace and the return of displaced persons to their homes once stability is achieved in Manipur.

L. CHAJANG VA DENOUNCES FALSE MEDIA REPORT OF MEITEI NEWS CHANNEL

A press release issued by the L.Chajang Village Council has condemned a misleading news report broadcast by the Meitei-centric INN ICHEL News Network, accusing the channel of inflaming ongoing ethnic tensions in Manipur. The report in question allegedly claimed that Kuki militants had constructed bunkers in the Sanbungkhoh hill areas, a region that the council asserts lies within the jurisdiction of L.Chajang Village in Kangpokpi District, not the Imphal East District as suggested by the news report.

The council vehemently denied the claim, describing the structures in question as a makeshift relief camp and a volunteer camp meant for the resettlement of displaced Kuki villagers. They further stated that the land in question is within the borders of L.Chajang Village, and not connected to the Meitei village of Sabungkhoh, as implied by the broadcast. The council urged INN ICHEL News Network to verify its sources before disseminating reports that could exacerbate the violence in the region.

The L.Chajang Village Council also provided historical context, citing boundaries demarcated by the Deputy Commissioner of Manipur in 1956, which outline the territorial limits of the village and neighboring Kuki areas. These boundaries are located far from the areas mentioned in the news report. The council also noted that the region has been a frequent target of attacks by Meitei militants, including groups such as Arambai Tenggol, VBIGS, and other Meitei militia forces.

The press release goes on to recount several instances of violent attacks on Kuki villages, including bombings, shootings, and the destruction of property such as houses, churches, schools, and community halls. These attacks, the council claims, were supported by the Meitei police and state forces, leading to widespread damage and violence against Kuki communities. The council characterized these actions as “ethnic cleansing” and strongly condemned the attacks.

In light of these ongoing threats, the L.Chajang Village Council made it clear that they are prepared to defend their ancestral lands, vowing to protect the lives and property of their villagers. The council also expressed distrust toward the Manipur state government, specifically its handling of the Meitei-Kuki conflict, and warned that any further intervention by Meitei forces or the state police in Kuki areas would be met with resistance.

The statement ended with a stern reminder to the Manipur government and Meitei organizations not to interfere in Kuki affairs, asserting that the Kuki people are now physically and geographically separated from Meitei communities, a divide that has been in place since May 2023. The council stressed that the responsibility for any further violence in Kuki territories lies solely with the state government.



An army of principles can penetrate where an army of soldiers cannot.

— *Albert Camus*



Manipur's Descent into Chaos: A Call for Separate Administration and Justice

Once a symbol of cultural diversity, Manipur has descended into a grim battlefield of anger, hatred, and violence. The conflict, simmering for 19 months, has escalated over the past 15 days into brutal atrocities—villages torched and communities torn apart by ethnic animosity. Beneath the visible violence lies a web of misgovernance and bias approach in handling the situation of the state.

To restore peace, a comprehensive strategy is essential—one that ensures justice, equality, and impartial governance while addressing external forces driving the unrest. Ethnic tensions between the Meiteis in the valley and the Kuki-Zo and Naga tribes in the hills, long fueled by disputes over land, identity, and representation, have spiraled into unprecedented violence.

The removal of the incompetent head of the state, Nongthombam Biren Singh, could be one step towards solution. Neutrality in governance is vital to rebuilding trust. Allegations of bias against state institutions have deepened mistrust among Meiteis, Kuki-Zo, and Nagas, driving communities to armed conflict. The government must adopt impartial policies, ensuring law enforcement serves all equally.

Addressing developmental disparities is equally crucial. Tribal hill districts have lagged in infrastructure, education, and healthcare, fueling resentment. Equitable development, improved connectivity, and economic

opportunities can bridge gaps. Meanwhile, cultural and political disputes, such as the Meiteis' demand for Scheduled Tribe status, require dialogue and consensus to balance aspirations and rights.

Justice for victims is non-negotiable. Thorough, impartial investigations into massacres, rapes, and arson, coupled with restorative justice mechanisms, can help heal communities. However, **President's Rule must be imposed and the separate administration demand of the Kuki-Zos must precede before anything else.**

Countering hate rhetoric through media, education, and cultural programs can foster unity and inclusivity. Rebuilding trust will require sustained efforts—inter-community dialogues and collaborative development projects can pave the way for shared purpose and peace.

Manipur's future depends on its ability to rise above division. By embracing neutrality, delivering justice, and addressing external threats, the government and citizens can rebuild a state where everyone feels safe and valued. With commitment and resilience, Manipur can once again stand as a beacon of hope and unity.

THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



Makepeace Sitlhou
@makesyoucakes

Just spoke to the DC of West Karbi Anglong who said there's no permanent settlement of Kukis in the district. About a 100 had come to celebrate their harvest festival and went back. Also to note: Not one reporter called her to fact check this claim



indianexpress.com
'1,000 Kukis from Manipur came here': In Assam's Karbi Anglong, new claim and new row

18:51 · 27 Nov 24 · 3,645 Views



Sagarika Ghose
@sagarikaghose

Follow

20 months of civil conflict in #Manipur, 1000s are in relief camps, killings have started again. Today when opposition MPs demanded a discussion on #ManipurViolence and why the PM has not visited Manipur even once, Parliament was abruptly adjourned. Why celebrate #ConstitutionDay if people's issues are not allowed in Parliament?

Last edited 15:38 · 27 Nov 24



News IADN
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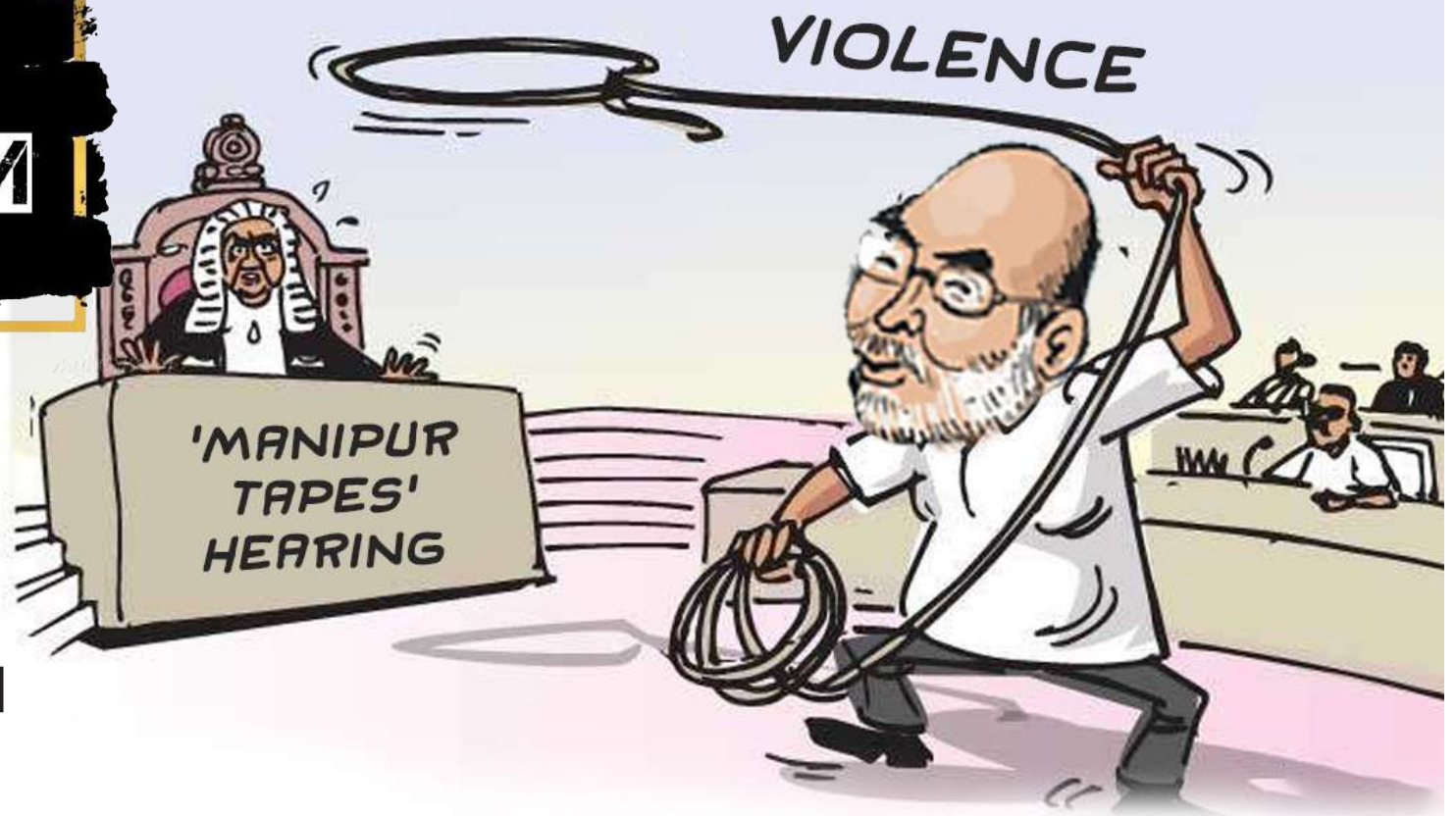
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Manipur : Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) has asked the Govt to 'halt' the construction of border fence along the Indo-Myanmar border in #Tengnoupal district.

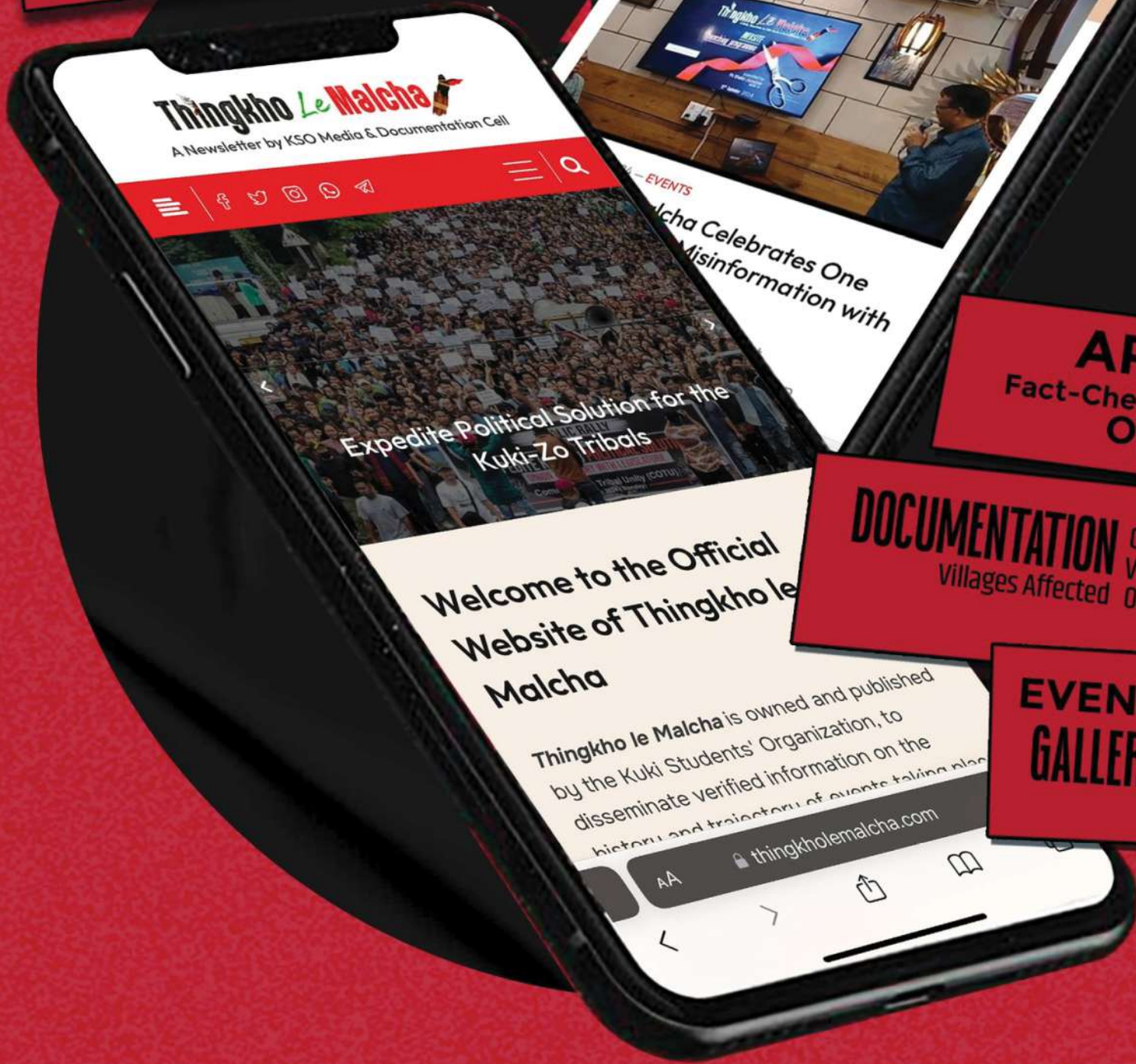


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www.thinkholemalcha.com



THERE WILL BE NO FORGETTING

A wound that time cannot erase,
The Meitei pogrom, a painful, bitter taste.
For the Kuki-Zo, memories still burn bright,
A tragedy that shook their world, a terrible, endless night.

Their loved ones, lost to senseless hate,
Gave their today, for a tomorrow to create.
Their sacrifice, a debt we can never repay,
A legacy of courage, that guides us on our way.

We, the living, vow to never forget,
The price they paid, the struggles they met.
We'll stand tall, united, and strong,
And show our oppressors, where we belong.

Our resilience, a beacon in the dark,
A testament to the spirit, that refused to embark.
We'll rise above, the hate and the pain,
And forge a brighter future, where love and peace reign.

~ Ngamgoumang Kipgen

