THIS KIOLE MORESDAY DECEMBER 04, 2024

ISSUE No. 403

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell

AWAITING JUSTICE



PAOMINLUN HAOKIP (35 YEARS)

(L) JAMKHOLUN HAOKIP ADDRESS: KUNGPINAUSEN, LEIMATA DATE OF INCIDENT: 1St March, 2024 Place of Incident: Lamka Cause of Death: Died at the line of Duty



ISSUE No. 403 WEDNESDAY | DECEMBER 04, 2024



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 28. 11. 2024







1. Thangtinmang Khongsai



VILLAGES BURNT



200+ 7000+ **HOUSES 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 GROUPS WARN OF INTENSIFIED SHUTDOWN IF MANIPUR GOVERNMENT FAILS TO RESCIND "INSENSITIVE" TRANSPORT POLICIES

The civil society organizations of Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi's 48-hour total shutdown, have been strictly enforced across the entire Kangpokpi District since midnight on December 3.

All shops and markets remained completely closed throughout the day, disrupting normal life in the district. However, schools and vehicular movement were exempted from the purview of the shutdown.

The total shutdown was imposed following the Manipur Government's public appeal notification on the resumption of public transport services along the Imphal-Kangpokpi-Senapati and Imphal-Bishnupur-Churachandpur routes.

Hundreds of Kuki-Zo women were seen congregating at Gamgiphai—a strategic Kuki-Zo village in the fringe area bordering Kangpokpi and Imphal West—to block any attempt to enforce the government's decision to restart public transport services.

Addressing the media, Ng. Lun Kipgen, spokesperson for the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), reflecting the escalating tensions in Manipur, declared the Kuki-Zo community's unwavering opposition to what it deems a "partisan and baseless" government directive.

He recalled that the Manipur Government's order, issued from Imphal, mandates free vehicular movement from Imphal to Dimapur—a route the Kuki-Zo community has never obstructed by their actions.

Lambasting the directive as a deliberate attempt to vilify the Kuki-Zo community and undermine their struggle for separate administration, CoTU spokesperson Ng. Lun Kipgen emphasized, "The order is not only unwarranted but preposterous."



"It serves no purpose other than to project a distorted narrative against the Kuki-Zo people," Kipgen asserted.

Kipgen accused the state's chief minister of persistently attempting to derail the Kuki-Zo movement, stating, "In his fourth desperate attempt, the chief minister has sought to impose vilified and unfounded ideas upon us, further exacerbating the divide."

Reaffirming their defiance, CoTU categorically rejected any orders emanating from Imphal. "We will enforce strict and democratic forms of protest until the government rescinds this partisan order. The Kuki-Zo community will not bow to coercion or manipulation," Kipgen warned.

Meanwhile, the Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills has strongly opposed the Manipur Government's recent directive to deploy Manipur State Transport (MST) buses in violence-affected areas amidst the ongoing Kuki Zo-Meetei conflict.

The Kuki Inpi criticized the move, calling it a reckless and insensitive attempt to restore public services without addressing the underlying political tensions.

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The Kuki Inpi argued that deploying MST buses under heavy security in such volatile regions ignores the ground realities and could escalate an already precarious situation. "This decision risks endangering lives and reflects the state government's insensitivity toward the plight of the Kuki-Zo community," it stated.

The Kuki Inpi warned that any incidents arising from this "ill-conceived" decision would place full responsibility on the state government.

Instead of enforcing transportation services in conflict zones, the Kuki Inpi proposed alternative routes for MST

operations, including Moirang-Imphal-Sekmai; Gamgiphai-Kangpokpi-Tamenglong; Gamgiphai-Kangpokpi-Mao; Lamka (CCPur)-Saungdoh-Lamka; Kakching-Imphal-Moirang; and Pallen-Moreh-Pallen.

The organization urged the government to prioritize addressing the political demands of the Kuki-Zo community and work toward lasting peace in the region. "Deploying buses without resolving the root cause of the conflict will only worsen communal tensions," it stated.

COMMUNAL MSCW FOR MEITEIS; SETS UP FACT-FINDING TEAM For Meiteis' Death

In the latest development of 'selective injustice' being taken up by the communal State machinery under the narcissistic leadership of N. Biren Singh and his political cohorts, the Manipur State Commission for Women (MSCW) have set up a fact-finding team to probe the death of six Meitei women and children who were killed by unknown miscreants in Jiribam recently.

A serious question thus arises: Where were the Manipur State Commission for Women when their fellow Kuki-Zo women were gangraped, paraded naked, burned alive, brutally murdered and mutilated the dead bodies in broad daylight by Meitei radicals?

This biased development shows that the so-called Manipur State government is only for the Meiteis, by the Meiteis and from the Meiteis. It clearly manifests the inevitability of separate administration for the Kuki-Zo people, and the Government of India must prioritise the people's demand and take urgent action for the same.

In a press statement, W.Phajatombi Devi, Member Secretary, MSCW, stated that a fact finding team consisting of the Chairperson and two Members of the Manipur State Commission for Women(MSCW) was set up regarding the brutal murder of three women and three Children.

The bodies of the three women and three children were recovered in Jiri and Barak rivers in Manipur and Assam, respectively, last month. They had earlier gone missing from a relief camp in Jiribam district.

"On November 29, a meeting chaired by DC Jiribam was held with the MSCW team, and officials of various departments directly involved in dealing with daily affairs of the relief camps were also present," the commission said in a statement.

The team has met with police personnel and officials of the social welfare and medical departments, it said. Discussions were also held about administrative issues and ways to improve the living condition of inmates in relief camps, the statement said.





GOVERNMENT GIVES ANOTHER EXTENSION TO THREE-MEMBER PANEL PROBING MANIPUR VIOLENCE

The Centre has given another extension till May 20, 2025 to a Commission of Inquiry to submit its report on the investigations into the series of violence in Manipur that has claimed at least 258 lives so far.

The Commission of Inquiry, headed by former Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court Ajai Lamba, was set up on June 4, 2023.

The panel, also comprising retired IAS officer Himanshu Shekhar Das and retired IPS officer Aloka Prabhakar, was mandated to inquire with respect to the causes and spread of the violence and riots targeting members of different communities, which began in Manipur on May 3, 2023.

The commission was supposed to submit its report to the central government "as soon as possible but not later than six months from the date of its first sitting", according to the notification issued on June 4, 2023.

In its last extension, the Ministry of Home Affairs had given the commission time till November 20 to submit its report.

According to the fresh notification issued by the MHA, "The commission shall submit its report to the central government as soon as possible but not later than the 20th May, 2025".

According to the terms of reference of the Commission of Inquiry, it would probe the sequence of events leading to, and all the facts relating to such violence.

The panel would also find out whether there were any lapses or dereliction of duty on the part of any of the responsible authorities/individuals and adequacy of the administrative measures taken to prevent, and to deal with the violence and riots.

complaints or allegations that may be made before it by any individual or association.

According to the June 4, 2023 notification of the home ministry, large scale violence broke out in Manipur on May 3, 2023 and as a result of the violence, many residents of the state lost their lives and several others got seriously injured.

"Their houses and properties were burnt down as a result of arson and many of them were rendered homeless," it said.

The notification said the government of Manipur recommended on May 29, 2023, for the institution of the Judicial Inquiry Commission to look into the causes and associated factors of the crisis and the unfortunate incidents that happened on May 3, 2023 and afterwards under the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

"On the recommendation of the government of Manipur, the central government is of the opinion that it is necessary to appoint a commission of inquiry for the purpose of making a probe into a definite matter of public importance, namely, incidents of violence in Manipur," it said.

Manipur has been witnessing sporadic violence ever since ethnic clashes broke out on May 3. The ethnic violence first broke out after a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

At least 258 people were killed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hillsbased Kuki-Zo groups since May last year.



The inquiry by the commission shall look into the





BODIES OF 12 KUKI-ZO MEN SENT TO FAMILIES, MIZORAM CM'S Adviser to attend funeral on thursday

Bodies of the 12 Kuki-Zo youths, whose funeral will take place on Thursday, were taken out from the morgue and sent to the respective families, a leading organisation of the community said.

The funeral of the youths, including the 10 killed in the gunfight with the CRPF in Jiribam district, will take place in Churachandpur, in which Mizoram Chief Minister's Adviser H Ginzalala will also participate, it said.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) has also called for a complete shutdown in Churachandpur from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm in honour of the deceased men.

"The bodies were taken to the respective families at 2 pm today. As they will be put to rest tomorrow, the family will spend the last night with them," ITLF spokesperson Ginza Vualzong told PTI on Wednesday evening.

The families will bring the bodies of their loved ones on Thursday morning and thereafter everything will proceed as per plans, he said.

According to the schedule shared with the press, the funeral will be attended by Ginzalala, who is the Adviser (Technical) to Mizoram CM Lalduhoma, and also a ZPM MLA.

"Yes, Mr Ginzalala has confirmed his presence and it is a big support to us. It shows that the Mizoram government is with us in our crisis period," said a senior ITLF leader, who did not wish to be named.

The entire funeral programme has been divided into two sessions. The first one will begin at 11 am in Peace Ground in Tuibuong, where people from all sections of society will pay their respects.

The second session will be from 2 pm at Martyrs Cemetery in Sehken, where the deceased will be given a "gun salute by village volunteers", followed by the burial of the bodies.



The ITLF had at first said the funeral of the Kuki-Zo youths would not be conducted till their postmortem reports were handed over to the families. After the bodies were airlifted from Silchar to Churachandpur on November 16, they were kept in the Churachandpur District Hospital morgue.

After receiving the post-mortem reports, the ITLF on November 30 announced that the funeral would take place on December 5.

The Manipur Police on November 11 had claimed that 10 suspected militants were killed in a fierce gunfight with security forces after insurgents in camouflage uniforms and armed with sophisticated weapons fired indiscriminately at Borobekra police station and an adjacent CRPF camp at Jakuradhor in Jiribam district.

The other two deceased were Kuki youths killed by suspected armed Meitei men when they were visiting their families.

According to the autopsy reports, the 10 Kuki-Zo youths killed in the alleged gunfight received multiple fatal bullet injuries and most of them were fired from their back.

All bodies bore the wounds of multiple bullet entry and exit marks, even more than a dozen in some of the deceased, the post-mortem examination reports mentioned. (Deccan Herald)





Thingkho Le Malcha

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FINAL TRIBUTE TO OUR 12 MARTYRS

First Session

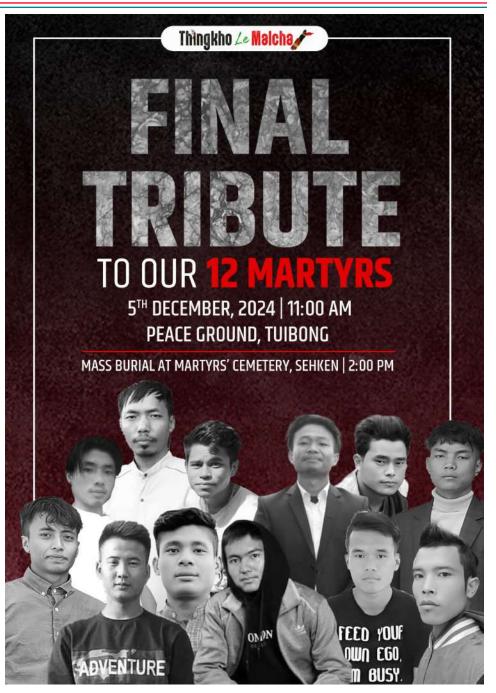
Date: 5th December 2024 Time: 11:00 AM Venue: Peace Ground, Tuibuong

Masters of Ceremonies	Samuel T. Haokip & Sharon Parmawi
Program Coordinator	Ginza Vualzong, Spokesperson ITLF
Opening Prayer	Rev. J.F. Lalropuia, Senior Executive Secretary, Presbytarian Synod Church, Lamka
ITLF Theme Song	Mizo Zaimi Inzawmkhawm (MZI)
Keynote Address	Chin Ngaih Pau, Chairman, ITLF Steering Committee
Tribute to our Martyrs	i. One minute silenceii. Puandum & Garland homage to our martyrs
Choral Singing	Joint Artistes Association
Speeches	 Kuki Inpi Manipur Zomi Council Special Guests
Condolence Message	Rev. Dr. S. Vung Minthang, President, Goodwill Council
Choral Singing	Joint Artistes Association
Speech on behalf of the Martyrs families	Rev. Zakapthuom
Vote of Thanks	Rev. Ros Infimate, President Hmar Inpui GHQ
Closing Prayer	Rev. Th. Khuala Vaiphei,General Secretary, Kuki Christian Leaders Fellowship

Second Session

Date: 5th December 2024 Time: 2:00 PM Venue: Martyrs Cemetery, Sehken

Conductor	Lianzalal Suantak, Secretary JPO
Special Number	Vahboi Haokip
Tribute to the Martyrs	Martyrs Families
Farewell Song	Blessed Choir
Gun Salute	All Village Volunteers
Burial Minister	Rev. Dr. Lalrosiem Songate, Chairman, Hmar Christian Leaders Forum



The patriot's blood is the seed of Freedom's tree.

– Thomas Campbell





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Thingkho Le Malcha



On the evening of November 15, Roneihpuii joined hundreds of others on the streets of Aizawl, a candle flickering in her hand. Near Vanapa Hall, she stood among a solemn gathering of around 400, mourning the death of a Hmar woman, reportedly raped and killed by armed Meitei miscreants, and the loss of 10 Kuki men who, earlier that week, fell in an encounter with security forces in Manipur's Jiribam district. Protesters claim these men were village guards, unfairly labelled as militants by the police.

"We stand in solidarity with the victims of the Zo community across Manipur, Myanmar and Bangladesh," says Roneihpuii, a familiar face in the crowd who represented Mizoram at an international beauty pageant in Jaipur only two months ago. "Chins, Kukis and Bawms are our siblings—oppressed, tortured, burnt and killed. Borders may divide us, but our hearts remain united," she tells ET. While Kukis mostly reside in Manipur, Chins and Bawms are from Myanmar and Bangladesh, respectively.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), which spearheaded the operation in Jiribam, maintained that all 10 men were militants, pointing to the recovery of weapons such as AK rifles, INSAS and SLRs as proof. The Manipur Police airlifted the bodies from Silchar Medical College to Churachandpur, bypassing demands from Kuki civil society groups to transport them by road through Mizoram. Authorities feared that a road procession could stir emotions among the Mizo population.

HEAVY SOLIDARITY

Caught between the conflict zones of Manipur and Myanmar, Mizoram stands at a crossroads. The looming question is how far can the Mizos extend their hand to their ethnic kin, the Kukis and the Chins, without jeopardising the nearly fourdecade-long peace.

The candlelight gathering that had the aspiring Miss Universe stand shoulder to shoulder with her ethnic brethren was organised by the Mizo Defence League, a relatively obscure group led by Raphael Lalrinmawia. However, his fiery rhetoric sparked a controversy after he allegedly demanded that the Meiteis leave Mizoram by the month's end, prompting a warning from the state police. While this writer could not verify the specifics of his speech delivered in Mizo, thunderous applause from the crowd left no doubt about its impact.

The local English daily Newslink ran the story under the headline: "Mizoram Govt Urges Calm, Vows Action Against Hate Speech." The report cited a statement from the state home department

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and quoted a police official confirming that criminal proceedings would be initiated against Lalrinmawia.

Mizoram has a turbulent past. It was home to one of the first insurgencies in India's Northeast that started in 1966 and was resolved in 1986. The bloody decades also saw the unprecedented bombing of Aizawl by the Indian Air Force, the only time in independent India's history when they dropped bombs on home soil. That bombing in March 1966 came in response to the Mizo National Front (MNF) guerrillas' siege of the hill city. The unrest came to a decisive end on June 30, 1986, when the MNF signed the landmark Mizo Accord.

PEACE AT A PREMIUM

"Mizoram's peace is always at risk of being shaken, but I remain hopeful it continues," says Zoramthanga, former chief minister and current MNF chief. He was once a key guerrilla under MNF founder Laldenga. "For the past 38 years, the Mizos have tasted the sweetness of peace," he adds.

Regarding the aspirations of Kukis living in Manipur bordering Mizoram, he is unequivocal: "If they wish to merge with Mizoram, they are welcome. Should they prefer a Union territory of their own, that too is acceptable." The former CM emphasises that both options align with the Indian Constitution, underscoring his stance on the matter.

Such ideas are not new, but they face staunch opposition from the Meiteis of the Imphal Valley — a small plain accounting for just one-tenth of Manipur's total land, yet home to over half the state's population. For decades, the Meiteis have fiercely resisted any proposal to divide Manipur, a deeply contentious issue that surfaced during the MNF's push for a Greater Mizoram ahead of the 1986 peace accord. It re-emerged during the Centre's peace talks with the Naga militant group NSCN (I-M), which seeks the establishment of Nagalim—a greater Nagaland consisting of Nagainhabited parts of Manipur and other neighbouring states.

In the past, a significant section of Kukis backed the idea of a Greater Mizoram. Notably, Demkhosiek Gangte—a prominent MNF leader who led a group of guerrillas

to China for training in 1974—was himself a Kuki.

Manipur's current crisis erupted in May last year, unleashing violent clashes between Meiteis and Kukis, driven largely by disputes over land and reservation. The unrest has claimed over 250 lives and displaced thousands and still continues, albeit with less intensity. The demand of Meiteis currently categorised as Other Backward Classes (OBC)—for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status has been staunchly opposed by the Kukis. Adding to the fire is religious fuel: Meiteis are mostly Hindus while the Kukis, like the Mizos, are predominantly Christians, and are already categorised as STs.

BURNING EMBERS

The latest wave of violence in Jiribam district claimed the lives of six members of a Meitei family, including a 10-month-old infant, believed to be killed by armed Kuki groups. The tragedy sparked outrage across the Imphal Valley, with enraged mobs setting fire to the homes of ministers and MLAs for their perceived inaction.

While the fallout of Manipur's unrest is evident on the ground, Mizoram bears the brunt of yet another escalating conflict in its neighbourhood. In Myanmar's Chin State, rebels pushed back the army last November, triggering a fierce retaliation as Naypyidaw unleashed aerial bombings. The fallout has driven thousands of Chin refugees across the border into Mizoram. The state has also grappled with a surge in the smuggling of drugs and exotic animals from Myanmar in recent years.

Meanwhile, New Delhi has maintained a studied neutrality on Myanmar's deepening crisis, even as Beijing is openly arming the United Wa State Army (UWSA)—a powerful rebel faction descended from the Mao-inspired and now-defunct Communist Party of Burma (CPB).

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The twin crises in Manipur and Myanmar have reignited momentum for the Zo Reunification Organisation (ZORO), a movement that began in 1988 under the leadership of retired Indian Army brigadier and former Mizoram chief minister T Sailo. "ZORO has long championed a nonviolent campaign for reunification," says Jangkhongam Doungel, professor of political science at Mizoram University. "Civil society and political parties, including national parties, support this vision of uniting various tribes and their ancestral lands," he adds.

Doungel traces the roots of the idea to the British era. "In 1892, the Chin-Lushai Conference passed a resolution to unify the entire Chin-Lushai Hills under a single administrative province. Unfortunately, that resolution was never implemented," he says. The Zo identity encompasses a constellation of allied tribes with shared dialects and cultural ties, including the Mizo (formerly called Lushai), Chin, Kuki, Bawm and others.

Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma's contentious remarks in Indianapolis, US, this September must be viewed against the backdrop of the growing political sentiment for Zo reunification. Lalduhoma, an IPS officerturned-politician and leader of the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM, with Zoram signifying the land of the Zo people), spoke passionately about the theory of "a true nation" that transcends borders. "We have been unjustly divided, forced to exist under three different governments in three different countries, (India, Myanmar and Bangladesh) and this is something we can never accept," he declared, sparking a wave of debate. The remarks raised pointed questions about whether the chief minister's rhetoric veered dangerously close to the language of secession of the MNF era.

Lalmuanpuia Punte, an MLA from the ruling ZPM and political adviser to the chief minister, argues that Lalduhoma's remarks in the US have been grossly misinterpreted. "The chief minister never spoke of secession," Punte clarifies, adding, "In fact, he advocated for an expansion of India into Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh and Chin State in Myanmar."

Punte, who also serves as vice-president of ZORO, defends the feasibility of such a vision. When asked whether it is plausible for New Delhi to annex parts of Myanmar and Bangladesh to unify the Zo tribes, he responds sharply: "Goa, a Portuguese colony, joined India in 1961, and Sikkim merged in 1975. Redrawing borders is not unprecedented." The chief minister declined ET's request for an interview.

Then there is another elephant in the room: New Delhi's plan to fence the 1,643-km-long India-Myanmar border, which was officially announced in February this year. It is strongly opposed by the likes of Punte, who represented ZORO at the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in 2002 and 2003. "Civil societies and political parties are firmly against this move. I can confirm that no construction of the proposed fence has begun on the ground," he says.

Professor Doungel echoes the sentiment, warning that any attempt to impose a fence on traditional lands is certain to face resistance. "If the fencing is built by force, its impact won't be good," he cautions.

Zoramthanga recalls explaining the deeprooted connection between the Mizos and Myanmar to Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he was the chief minister. "Look at my own family, I told the PM," says the former CM, "Two of my maternal uncles chose to live and die in Myanmar whereas my mother and her sister lived and died in India. To me, refugees coming from Myanmar are like family—my own cousins."

Published by The Economic Times



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Thingkho Le Malcha

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Dhruv Rathee (Parody) 🥹 @dhruvrahtee

THE

Narendra Modi has 3 hours time to watch a propaganda movie #TheSabarmatiReport.

But he has no time to visit Manipur once.



23:33 · 02 Dec 24 · 86.2K Views



SOCIAL

NinglunHanghal @ninglunhanghal



If a meitei venture into kuki area, its not strange, same with Kukis who unfortunately venture into meitei area (this happens and will u talk about them ?) and you are going to speak about one meitei disappearing in the Indian parliament? ! that is (yea, not) so strange



🕂 Press Trust of India 🤣 @PTI_News · 1d

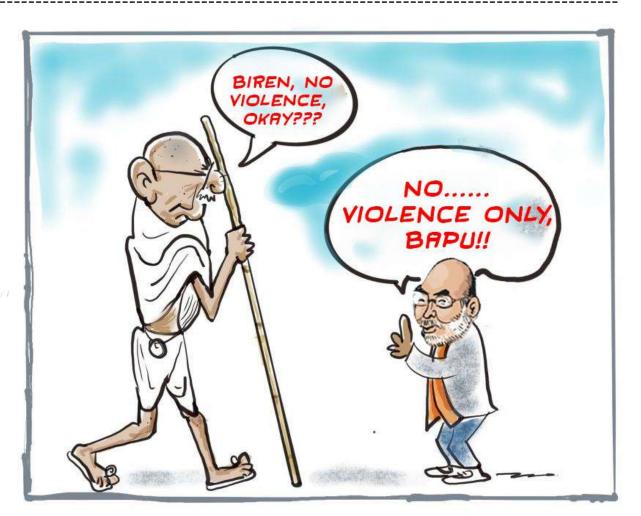
VIDEO | Here's what Congress MP A Bimol Akoijam (@Bimol_Akoijam) said on 56-year-old Laishram Kamalbabu Singh who has gone missing from the Leimakhong Military Station in Manipur's Kangpokpi district.



12:40 · 03 Dec 24 · 2,722 Views



BAPU'S PLEA TO THE MASTER OF VIOLENCE







DO-MYANMAR BORDER FENCING

05.12.2024 9:30AM THURSDAY

Organised by: KUKI CHIEF KCA& all CSO's Of TENGNOUPAL

Venue: MOREH YOUTH CLUB OFFICE (HIGHWAY)

Tentative Programme

Conduct: **Opening prayer:** Welcome Speech: **Keynote Adress:** Speech: Speech: Media Coverage & Speech:

Vote of Thanks: **Closing prayer:**

Pu JAMKHOLUN HAOKIP, Secy. Info & Pub, KCA Tengnoupal District NI. NEMNEICHONG MATE, Vice-President, KWU&HR Tengnoupal District Pu THOKHOTHANG BAITE, President, KCA Tengnoupal District Pu L.S SEIKHOJANG BAITE, President, KCA Tengnoupal District Pu KHAIGINMANG GUITE, President, Kuki Inpi Tengnoupal District (KIT) Pu KAIKHOLAL HAOKIP, President, Hill Tribal Council (HTC) Submission of Memorandum: Pu LETMINLEN HAOKIP, General Secretary, KCA Tengnoupal District (i). Pu THANGMINLEN MATE, Spokesperson KIT (ii). Pu MOMON SINGSON (Media) Pu JAMKHOLEN MATE, Chairman, KCA Moreh Block Rev. NGAMHAO TOUTHANG, Chairman, Moreh Pastor Fellowship (MPF)

Thingkho 12 Malcha

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Thingkho Le Malcha

THE VILLAGE THAT WAS

In my grandfather's village, I found my glee In my grandfather's village, memories are made Echoes of laughter, bonds of friendships Every holiday joy did not just fade away.

The village alive, with stories untold Every house has a chapter of memories to hold Grandfather's wisdom, guided me along In his village, my heart found a home

But now, the village lies in ashes and pain Burnt by hateful Meiteis, leaving only sorrow's stain The houses, that once held laughter and glee Now razed to the ground, a ghost town for me.

I visited, recently, but found no peace Only remnants, of a village, that will never release The memories, I hold, now bring only tears For a village, that was, and will never reappear.

But still, I pray, for a brighter day For the village, to rise, from the ashes For laughter to echo once more And for memories -where love and joy meet.

~ Janggoulen Khongsai