

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



HENLALMUON HAOKIP (16 YEARS)

KAILENTHANG HAOKIP

ADDRESS: P. KAMDOUNG, LAMKA

DATE OF INCIDENT: 25TH MARCH, 2024

PLACE OF INCIDENT: LAMKA

CAUSE OF DEATH: DIED AT THE LINE OF DUTY (ILLNESS)



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 28. 11. 2024



222
DEATHS



200+
VILLAGES BURNT



7000+
HOUSES BURNT

1. Thangtinmang Khongsai



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.

JOURNALISTS REPORTING ON MANIPUR WIN ACCOLADES AT IPI INDIA AWARDS

The Hindu journalist Vijaita Singh's reporting on the ethnic strife in Manipur, under way for over 18 months now, won accolades at the International Press Institute India Award for Excellence in Journalism, 2024 on Saturday (December 7, 2024).

The IPI, in a statement, said that there were several entries in the print, digital, and broadcast categories, covering different angles of the strife in Manipur and as a result, the Jury had decided to recognise the five best entries for cash prizes and citations as a "mark of appreciation and acknowledgement of the media's efforts to bring out the various facets of the human tragedy caused by the civil strife".

The citation for Ms. Singh, Deputy Editor at The Hindu, came along with recognition of the reporting done on the conflict by other journalists and newsrooms, which included, The Print, The Caravan (Greeshma Kuthar), Scroll.in (Arunabh Saikia and Tora Agarwala), and India Today (Ashutosh Mishra).

This year awardee

The IPI India Award for Excellence in Journalism, 2024, was awarded to photojournalist Bhanu Prakash Chandra for his account of the war in Ukraine – Sunflower fields and no man's land, published in The Week. This award comes with a cash prize of ₹1 lakh, a trophy and a citation.

The Jury for the awards was headed by former Supreme Court judge Madan B Lokur. Other members of the Jury included Riyad Mathew, Chairman, IPI-India & Chief Associate Editor & Director, Malayala Manorama; Shobhaa De, eminent columnist; and Vijay Joshi, Editor-in-Chief, Press Trust of India.

Ms. Singh's reporting on the ethnic conflict in Manipur



has spanned the length and breadth of the issues facing the north-eastern State – from the granular details of the brutality of the conflict to the broader themes of how it began and has been playing out over the last 18 months, including covering the humanitarian tragedy faced by tens of thousands of civilians across communities in the strife-torn State.

Ever since the conflict began on May 3, 2023, over 250 people have been killed, thousands more injured, and over 60,000 people have been left internally displaced.

After the awards were announced, Ms. Singh said, "I am very grateful to The Hindu for consistently providing space to report on an issue that I believe ought to be etched in public memory."

The IPI added, "The Jury was unable to select any entry in the broadcast category deserving the award."

The award was instituted in 2003 and has been given to 20 media organisations and journalists in print and electronic media so far.

KOM TRIBE COUNCIL DEMANDS RECTIFICATION ON CNPO'S LIST OF NAGA TRIBES

Strongly condemning an irresponsible inclusion of Kom tribe in the list of Naga Tribes on a monolith erected by the Chandel Naga People's Organisation, the Kom Tribe Council (KTC) has demanded immediate rectification as it hurts and offends Kom people.

In a statement on Saturday, the General Secretary of Kom Tribe Council, Athang Kom stated that the unilateral decision of Chandel Naga People's Organisation to include Kom tribe in the list of Naga tribes without consultation or consent has deeply offended and hurt the Kom people.

In an engraved monolith erected by the Chandel Naga People's Organisation on December 6, 2024 (a photo of which went viral on social media platforms), some independent/recognised Tribes including Aimol, Anal, Chothe, Kom, Lamkang, Maring, Monsang, Khoibu, etc., are listed under the umbrella of the Naga, most whom the Colonial writers called them as 'Old Kukis', and they are more closely linked with the Kuki ethnic groups - linguistically, culturally and in blood-relations - than the actual Naga Tribes.

The monolith was inaugurated by SS. Olish Lamkang, MLA of the Chandel (ST) Assembly Constituency. During the event, Ng. Lorho, President of the United Naga Council (UNC), released a souvenir and memento, while Rev. Shonnai Saka, President of Chandel Naga Christian Forum (CNCF), blessed and dedicated the monolith.



In this regard, the Kom Tribe Council has issued Key Demands:

- 1. Immediate Rectification:** The Kom Tribe Council (KTC) views Chandel Naga People's Organisation's actions as an attempt at "dirty politics" and demands immediate rectification.
- 2. Recognition of Autonomy:** The KTC requests recognition of the Kom tribe's distinct identity and autonomy.
- 3. Removal from the List:** The KTC urges the removal of the Kom name from the list on the stone.

The Kom Tribe Council has also requested the Chandel Naga People's Organisation to acknowledge the Kom tribe's self-identification and self-determination, and urged all Kom people to unite in solidarity and advocate for their rights.



To forgive and accept injustice is cowardice.

— Mahatma Gandhi

RONGMEI NAGA GROUP DEMANDS REOPENING OF HILL DISTRICT COURTS AMIDST MANIPUR CRISIS

The Rongmei Naga tribe, primarily residing in the hill districts of Manipur, has raised concerns over the dysfunctionality of district session courts due to the ongoing ethnic crisis in the state.

Ashinpou Gangmei, spokesperson for the Rongmei Naga People Organisation, highlighted on Saturday that the tribe, spread across various hill districts in Manipur, Assam and Nagaland, has faced significant obstacles in accessing legal services since May of last year.

Gangmei pointed out that 90% of legal professionals, including advocates and counsels in Manipur, belong to the Meitei community. However, due to the ethnic unrest, many have been unable to travel to the hill districts, resulting in a backlog of cases in the district courts, particularly in the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) court of Tamenglong and other session courts in the region.

In response, the Rongmei Naga People Organisation has sent a letter to the Chief Justice of Manipur High Court, requesting that the district session courts in hill districts, especially in Tamenglong, be opened for fifteen days.

The same arrangement would apply to the capital city, Imphal, for the subsequent fifteen days. Gangmei argued that this would allow Rongmei Naga people in the hill districts to access legal services in the capital while also addressing the grievances of the Kuki Zo community.

“If court sessions are held for fifteen days each in the valley and hill districts, it will allow the Rongmei Naga people to travel to Imphal and access legal experts. At the same time, it will address the grievances of the Kuki Zo community as well,” Gangmei said.



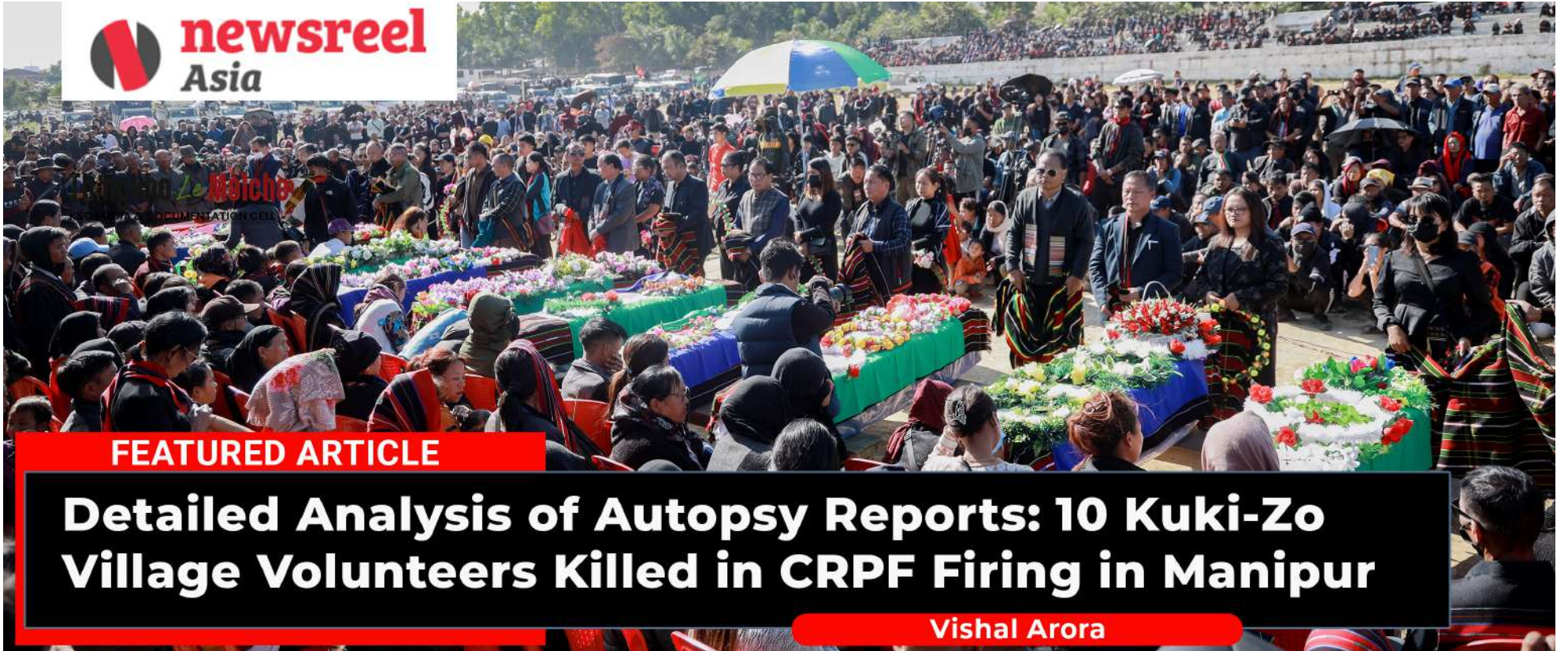
Gangmei also noted the challenges faced by Kuki people in districts like Tamenglong and Noney, who cannot easily travel to Imphal for legal proceedings.

He stressed that the lack of functioning courts in the hill districts has made it difficult for the tribal communities to seek justice, with many cases remaining pending.

The Rongmei Naga People Organisation has been advocating for this solution since March 11, 2024, but has yet to receive a positive response from the authorities.

Gangmei lamented the heavy financial burden on people in remote areas, who often have to spend significant amounts of money travelling to Imphal, only to find their cases adjourned repeatedly.

The ongoing ethnic tensions in Manipur have deeply affected the administration of justice in the hill districts, and the Rongmei Naga People Organisation is urging the Manipur High Court to take swift action to address these issues. (The Assam Tribune)



FEATURED ARTICLE

Detailed Analysis of Autopsy Reports: 10 Kuki-Zo Village Volunteers Killed in CRPF Firing in Manipur

Vishal Arora

A thorough analysis of the autopsy reports for the 10 Kuki-Zo “village volunteers” killed in Manipur during an alleged gunbattle with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) suggests that the young men were shot from behind or from multiple directions and at close range. Some of them also sustained injuries that cannot solely be attributed to gunfire.

Let’s first establish the context.

The shooting incident occurred on Nov. 11, 2024, amid an ongoing ethnic violence involving the Kuki-Zo tribes and the majority Meitei community in Manipur, over land right and identity. The violence started on May 3, 2023, and has resulted in over 250 deaths. Hundreds of villages and thousands of homes have been burned, leaving tens of thousands displaced.

Four days before the incident, a 31-year-old Kuki-Zo woman and mother of three, Zosangkim Hmar, was allegedly assaulted, raped, tortured and burned to death by an armed Meitei group without any clear provocation. Further, five Kuki-Zo churches, 14 homes and a petrol pump were set ablaze. At least six innocent Meitei civilians – women and children – were also tragically killed, and a Kuki-Zo man was found dead, among other violent incidents.

The Hmar Students’ Association stated that in the

midst of these tensions, the young men had approached a CRPF checkpoint in a friendly and cordial manner on Nov. 11, informing the personnel that they were in pursuit of Zosangkim’s killers, who had been targeting multiple villages in the Kuki-Zo community.

According to media reports, the CRPF claims that the 10 individuals were “militants” who attacked a local police station and a nearby CRPF camp in an effort to divert security forces from a planned simultaneous attack on a relief camp for displaced Meitei people in the area in Jiribam district on Nov. 11. They reportedly died from retaliatory fire. As the CRPF camp came under attack, personnel in a nearby bulletproof multi-purpose vehicle (MPV) responded by opening fire with a light machine gun mounted on the vehicle. The 10 individuals allegedly did not notice the MPV.

Who Were These 10 Young Men?

The “village volunteers” are members of a civilian guard formed to protect Kuki-Zo areas shortly after violence erupted 18 months ago. They were organised in response to frequent attacks by Meitei groups, allegedly supported by members of the

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Manipur police, which continue to this day.

The 10 young men were ordinary residents of Manipur, predominantly from the Kuki-Zo district of Churachandpur, according to the Indigenous Tribes Advocacy Committee (ITAC), which told Newsreel Asia they were on duty in the ethnically diverse district of Jiribam, where the Kuki-Zo community is more vulnerable compared to other Kuki-Zo areas.

The youngest of the 10 village volunteers, 16-year-old Robert Lalnuntluong, had completed his education up to Class 10 and was still considering his future options. Nineteen-year-old Joseph Lalditum was a daily-wage earner performing various odd jobs as he awaited his Class 10 exams from Open School. Twenty-one-year-old Elvis Lalropei Zote, a matriculate, earned his living as a construction worker.

Twenty-two-year-old Lalthanei, having completed his education up to Class 10, often assisted his cousin with tasks like painting and construction. Twenty-five-year-old Francis Lalarlien, who completed his studies up to Class 9, worked as a farmer. Henry Lalsanglien, also 25, worked as a daily-wage worker while having studied up to Class 7. Twenty-nine-year-old Ramneilien, a devoted father of three and a divorcee, was a farmer.

Among the slightly older one, 30-year-old Roulneisang was a daily-wage worker, and also cultivated ginger. Lalsiemlien Hmar, also 30, was a creative spirit, owning and operating his own graphic design business at CISCOM DIGITAL. Finally, 31-year-old Fimlienkung Ngurte was a daily-wage earner and a father of two children.

Details about the Nov. 11 incident are limited and not definitive as no statement has been issued by the paramilitary force, the Manipur government, or the central government. We reviewed the autopsy reports to ascertain the nature of the firing they faced and the injuries they sustained, comparing them with the CRPF's version in the media. We included observations from a forensic expert who chose to remain anonymous, stating that any forensic specialist would offer similar

assessments.

We first examined the nature of the firing as suggested by the autopsy reports.

Direction of Firing

Identifying whether a person was shot from behind can typically be determined by examining the bullet's entry wound, which is generally smaller, features inverted edges and presents cleaner, more uniform margins compared to exit wounds.

According to the autopsy reports, two of the 10 victims – Fimlien and Ramneilien – were shot straight from behind. Six others – Robert, Joseph, Francis, Henry, Lalthanei and Roulneisang – were shot from multiple directions. Lalsiemlien was shot on the right side of his body, and Elvis was shot on the left side of his body.

This raises significant doubts about the bullets originating from a single fixed point, the MPV.

Close-Range

The proximity of the shooter can often be inferred from any blackening around the entry wound. When a gun is fired, not only the bullet but also soot, gunpowder residue and other combustion byproducts are expelled from the barrel of the gun. If the gun is fired close to the target, these residues can deposit around the entrance wound, creating a blackened or smudged appearance.

Seven of the 10 victims had blackened entry wounds – Joseph, Elvis, Lalthanei, Francis, Ramneilien, Roulneisang and Lalsiemlien.

Francis had as many as 11 blackened entry wounds.

The presence of blackened entry wounds on the victims, all of whom were wearing t-shirts or shirts,

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could strongly suggest that they were shot from close range.

What's difficult to understand is that although the post-mortem reports clearly state the victims were found with their clothes on, they fail to mention any bullet holes in the clothing, despite noting the presence of blood stains.

In any case, close-range shooting often implies a controlled action, where the shooter has direct and close access to the victims. If the bullets originated from the MPV, the close range in the context of a light machine gun used would be within 30 metres—close enough that the village volunteers would certainly have noticed it.

The Trajectory of the Bullet

The trajectory of the bullet involves its movement through the body from the point of entry to the point of exit.

If a bullet moves from a lower point to a higher point relative to the position it entered, it could suggest that the shooter was positioned lower than the victim or that the gun was angled upward at the time of firing, or that the shooter deliberately aimed the weapon in an upward direction to aim at vital body areas that are more accessible from a lower angle, such as the chest or abdomen when aiming from below.

According to the autopsy reports, five of the victims—Robert, Joseph, Henry, Roulneisang and Fimlienkung—sustained penetrative injuries with the bullet traveling upward.

If the bullets originated from the MPV, which typically stands 5 to 6 feet (1.5 to 1.8 meters) tall from the ground to the roof of the vehicle—excluding any light machine gun setup—an upward trajectory of the bullets seems unlikely.

What further complicates the incident is the discovery

in the autopsy reports of several wounds in addition to bullet-related injuries, pointing also to physical assault.

Additional Injuries

To determine whether physical assault was also involved, it is necessary to examine the presence of any additional injuries or wounds that do not conform to the typical patterns of gunshot wounds. It could be a lacerated wound, an abrasion, a pressure abrasion, a diffuse contusion, or a crush injury.

According to the autopsy reports, six of the victims had additional injuries – Joseph, Elvis, Henry, Ramneilien, Lalsiemlien and Fimlienkung.

Lacerated Wound

A lacerated wound – as opposed to “penetrating” wound in case of a bullet or knife injury – is a type of injury where the skin and the tissue beneath it are torn or ripped due to blunt trauma. They occur when the skin is stretched beyond its capacity to remain intact, often as a result of an impact with or by a blunt object.

However, if a lacerated wound is at the exit wound from a bullet, it is part of the bullet injury. When a bullet exits the body, it can cause a lacerated wound, which is typically more extensive and irregular compared to the entry wound. Therefore, we only counted stand-alone lacerated wounds.

The autopsy reports show that five of the victims had such lacerated wounds, caused by blunt objects – Joseph, Elvis, Henry, Ramneilien and Fimlienkung.

Henry had five lacerated wounds, Joseph had three, Fimlienkung and Elvis two each, and Ramneilien one.

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Abrasion

An abrasion is an injury to the skin caused by scraping or rubbing against a rough surface. This type of wound involves the removal of the outer layer of the skin, called the epidermis, and sometimes part of the underlying layer, the dermis.

Elvis, as per his autopsy report, sustained a grazed abrasion measuring 30cm by 21cm – an A4 sheet of paper is about 29.7cm by 21cm. Such an injury often results from dragging a person across a coarse surface like a road, as seen in road accidents where the victim is pulled along for some distance.

Pressure Abrasion

A pressure abrasion is a type of injury where the skin has been worn away due to intense and sustained pressure combined with some movement, typically over a rough surface. Pressure abrasions are often seen in circumstances where a body part is trapped against a hard surface while pressure is continually applied. This could happen, for instance, during a physical restraint, where one's skin is being pressed hard against a surface, or in a scenario where an individual is immobilised under a heavy object.

According to his autopsy report, Lalsiemlien sustained five pressure abrasions at various sensitive points on his body, including the face, head, arms and chest, resulting in a fractured sternum (the breastbone) underneath—a possible indicator of assault.

Diffuse Contusion

A diffuse contusion refers to a type of bruising that covers a broad area and involves damage to the underlying muscle and connective tissues beneath the skin. Unlike more localised bruises, which are typically concentrated in a specific spot, diffuse contusions spread over a larger region and may be more widespread and variable in intensity.

The autopsy report for Elvis says a diffuse contusion was found over the neck tissues extending up to the prevertebral tissue (the area in front of the vertebral column/spine). This suggests that the injury covers both superficial and deeper layers near the spine at the back of the neck. Such extensive bruising typically results from blunt force trauma or strong pressure applied to the neck area. It could be an attempt at strangulation.

Crush Injury

A crush injury occurs when a part of the body is subjected to significant force or pressure, usually when it is squeezed between two heavy objects. Such an injury can cause damage to muscles, bones, soft tissues, and even internal organs depending on the severity and location of the crush.

Joseph's autopsy report shows a crush injury to his thumb and fingers, accompanied by deep muscle damage and lacerations to his index, middle, and ring fingers on his right hand, suggesting that significant force was involved.

Eye Missing

Furthermore, one eye was missing from the bodies of four of the deceased – Lalsiemlien, Henry, Francis and Fimlien. This suggests that their eyes were gouged out after their deaths. Such desecration of the bodies indicates an act of hatred and raises serious questions about whether the bodies were in the custody of CRPF personnel at the time.

The analysis indicated that the CRPF's version, which we know thus far only through media reports, is not consistent with the autopsy reports.

Published by [Newsreel Asia](#)



Corollary: Manipur is no longer part of India's northeast.

Reducing gap of Delhi & 'dil' with Northeast: PM

■ 'N-E top priority' ■ Slams Opp. for neglecting region

SHASHI BHUSHAN
NEW DELHI, DEC. 6

Emphasising that in the last decade, the government had worked tirelessly to reduce the distance between Delhi and the people of Northeast, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said that his government is connecting the region with the trinity of "emotion, economy and ecology".
Inaugurating the Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav in the national capital to celebrate the vibrancy of the Northeast, the Prime Minister said that the government of Atal Behari Vajpayee was the first to create a dedicated ministry for the region and also earmarked 20 per cent of every ministry's Budget for its development.
The Prime Minister said that during the last decade his government



Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits an exhibition during the inauguration of the "Ashtalakshmi Mahotsav" at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Friday. — PTI

THE PM said that the 700 visits to the northeast in the last decade and have spent a long time with the people there, which had created an emotional connection between the government and the Northeast and its development," he said, accusing the previous Union ministers made

9:20 · 07 Dec 24 · 3,722 Views



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VIRAL VIDEO ALERT!

A PREPAK (PRO) militant was caught by Myanmar's militia group (People's Defence Force) in Lallim on 23 Oct 2024. The video, trending across Myanmar's social media and WhatsApp groups, reveals:

- Manipur militants are finding safe haven in Myanmar.
- New recruits are told to bring weapons when joining camps.

Don't miss this shocking confession!

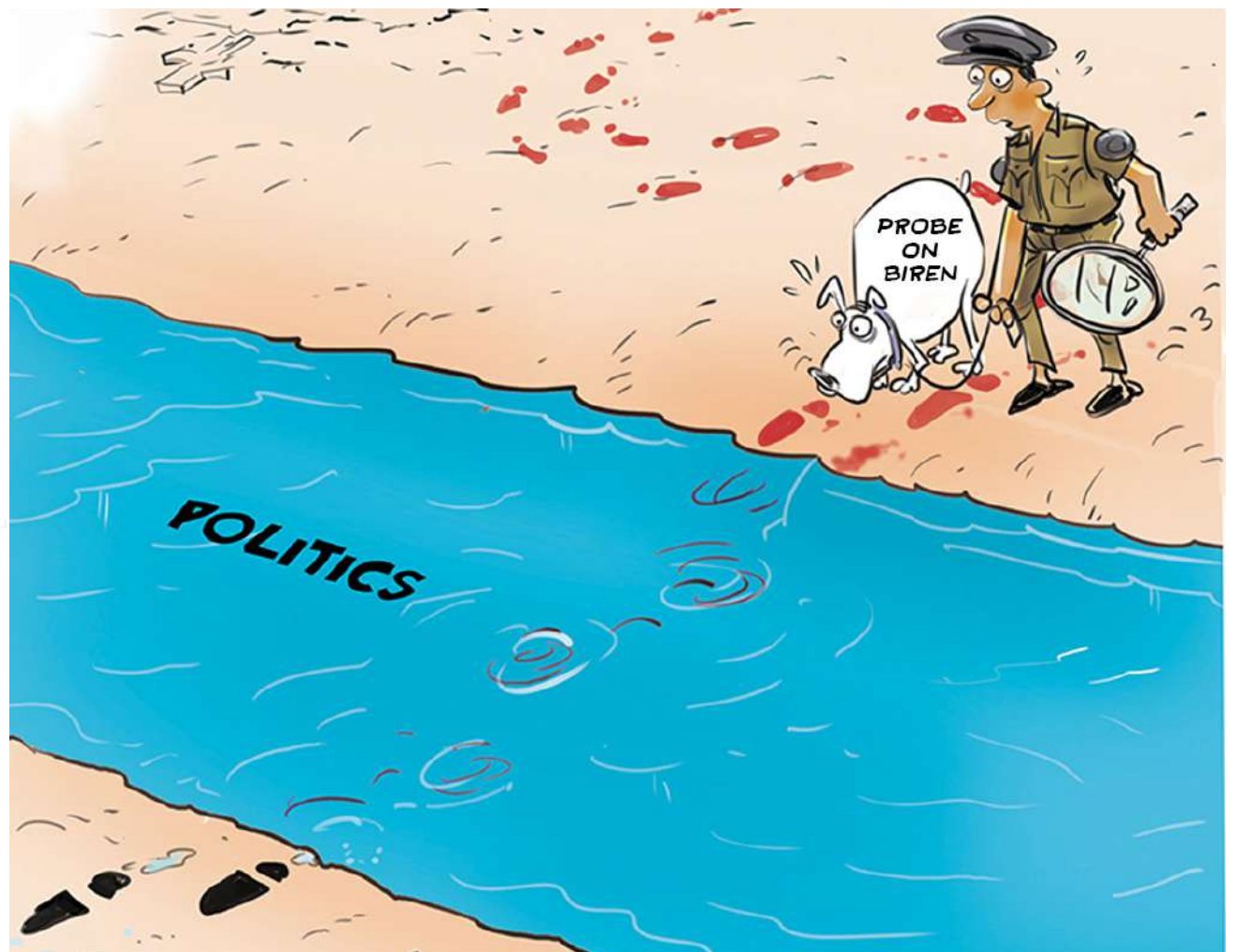
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9:51 · 07 Dec 24 · 247 Views



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UNYIELDING COURAGE

Right there they stood, unshakeable and strong,
Defending ancestral land, where their hearts belonged.
Against marauding Meiteis, they fought with might,
O! Kuki volunteers, you shine so bright.

Your sacrifice will never be in vain,
Your bravery will forever be etched in history.
We will remember your valor,
In the fight for freedom, for me and our future.

In defense of homeland, you gave your all,
Your lives, a testament of courage's call.
Till final breath you kept us safe and sound,
Ultimate sacrifice, on sacred ground.

Thank you, brave Kuki volunteers for your might,
Your sacrifice will never fade from sight.
We remember, we honor, we cherish your name,
As heroes forever in our hearts.

~ Janggoulen Khongsai