

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



JOHN THANGGINLAL CHONGLOI (42 YEARS)

S/O (L) PAOMANG CHONGLOI

ADDRESS: LHANDJOL, LAMKA

DATE OF INCIDENT: 15TH JULY, 2024

PLACE OF INCIDENT: LAMKA

CAUSE OF DEATH: DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY (SICKNESS)



KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 13. 12. 2024



223
DEATHS

1. Lunkhohao Haokip



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.

KUKI-ZO COUNCIL RESPONDS TO CLAIMS OF NON-EXISTENCE AND DENUNCIATION BY MANIPUR GOVERNMENT

The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) has issued a formal statement responding to recent allegations questioning its authenticity and existence. A press release from the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), dated December 18, 2024, which circulated widely on social media and was later picked up by mainstream media, has challenged the legitimacy of the KZC, denouncing its activities.

Initially, the KZC regarded the DIPR press release as fake due to its lack of a signatory and the absence of an official designation. However, with the press release now being carried by major media outlets, the Council has found it necessary to address the issue publicly.

Founded on October 11, 2024, in Lamka after extensive deliberations, the KZC officially began its operations as a governing body for Kuki-Zo cognate tribes. Its first General Body Meeting was held on December 8, 2024, at S. Molnom village, Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi. The Council was formed as a political platform to represent the shared interests of the Kuki-Zo community and to advocate for their collective well-being and progress.

The Kuki-Zo Council is composed of all tribe presidents, three additional members of the Governing Council, and three representatives from district frontal organizations. A Cabinet, nominated by constituent members, handles the day-to-day management of the Council. This structure is designed to ensure that the KZC remains inclusive and serves as the sole authoritative body for the Kuki-Zo civil society.

The KZC also criticized the investigation by the Meitei-led Manipur Government, which concluded that the KZC does not exist in the state. The Council argued that the government's statement was biased and flawed, asserting that the location of Lamka as the headquarters of the KZC is not in question, especially given that other regions in Manipur have been renamed without objection.

Further, the Kuki-Zo Council condemned the actions



PRESS RELEASE
Lamka, the 20th December, 2024

No. 03/KZC/PR/24-09: The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) has recently taken note of certain quarters questioning its origin and authenticity. Notably, a press release issued by the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), dated 18th December 2024, and circulated on social media, challenges the existence of the KZC and denounces its activities.

Initially, the Council considered the DIPR's press release to be fake, as it lacked a signatory and the designation of the responsible officer. However, with the press release now being carried by mainstream media, including print and electronic outlets, the Kuki-Zo Council can no longer ignore the matter and finds it necessary to set the record straight.

The Kuki-Zo Council was officially established after months of deliberations on the 11th October 2024 in Lamka. Its first historic General Body Meeting was held on 8th December 2024 at S. Molnom village, Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi. Comprising representatives from various Kuki-Zo cognate tribes and Inpis. The Council acts as a common political platform for addressing shared political concerns and advocating for the collective interests of the community. It serves as a formal governing body, fostering dialogue, and highest decision-making bodies representing the Kuki-Zo kindred tribes. The Council is dedicated to promoting unity, upholding traditional values, and ensuring the progress and well-being of the community.

As the highest decision-making body for the Kuki-Zo kindred tribes, the Council includes all tribe presidents and three additional members as members of its Governing Council and three representatives each from districts frontal organizations. A Cabinet is responsible for day to day management of the Council who are nominated by constituent member's as per the council structure. This structure ensures that the Council remains an inclusive and the sole authoritative body representing Kuki-Zo civil societies effectively.

It is not surprising that the communal, Meitei-led Manipur Government conducted a flawed and biased investigation into the Council and hastily concluded that "no such organization (KZC) exists in the state of Manipur."

Furthermore, the headquarters of the KZC is located in Lamka and the question of whether Lamka is a district or not is irrelevant. If the Meiteis can rename the valleys of Manipur as "Kangleipak," what objection can there be to the name "Lamka"?

The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) vehemently condemns the dictatorial governance of N. Biren Singh's Meitei-led Manipur Government for attempting to suppress the voice of the Kuki-Zo people. This includes urging both local and national media houses to refrain from publicizing KZC press releases by labelling them as unauthorized and appealing to the Central Government and its agencies to disregard KZC claims as unverified. Such actions are unbecoming of a democratically established state, as they suppress the voices of the people and attempt to control the media, which is regarded as the fourth pillar of democracy.


(KHAIKHOHAUH GANGTE)
Secretary Information,
Kuki-Zo Council (KZC)

of Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's government for what it called a dictatorial stance aimed at suppressing the Kuki-Zo people's voice. The Council expressed concern that the state government was attempting to control the media by labeling KZC press releases as unauthorized and urging national and local outlets to disregard them. The KZC described this as an attempt to undermine democratic principles and suppress dissent, particularly by challenging the role of the media as the fourth pillar of democracy.

In a final statement, KZC's Secretary Information, Khaikhohauh Gangte, urged both local and national media to resist attempts to delegitimize the KZC and to uphold the democratic values of free expression.

KUKI INPI ISSUES STATEMENT URGING HALT TO CRPF DEPLOYMENT IN MONGBUNG VILLAGE, JIRIBAM

The Kuki Inpi of Jiribam, Tamenglong, and Noney has issued a strong statement urging authorities to halt the planned deployment of CRPF personnel at an unfinished building in Mongbung village. The Kuki Inpi expressed serious concerns over the past actions of CRPF personnel, who are often accompanied by Manipur Police Commandos, and have previously worked in collaboration with groups such as Arambai Tenggol and Meetei militants.

According to the statement, the Kuki Inpi believes the presence of these forces in Kuki-Zo areas has proven to be more of a source of insecurity rather than protection. They pointed to the recent events in Jiribam, where Kuki-Zo localities were vandalized and burned down despite the presence of Central forces, including the CRPF. The statement specifically mentioned the tragic incident in Zairon village, where more than 18 houses were burned, and a woman was brutally murdered under the watch of CRPF troops.

The Kuki Inpi emphasized that Mongbung village already has central forces stationed, and deploying additional troops so close to the village is seen as unnecessary and potentially part of a larger, sinister agenda involving the Biren-led BJP government and



local militant groups. They called for a halt to any further deployment and urged the authorities to focus on addressing the threat posed by Arambai Tenggol and Meitei militants who have been attacking Kuki-Zo villages.

In addition, the Kuki Inpi appealed to the authorities to consult local leaders before making any further security decisions, emphasizing that the village authorities have consistently informed the concerned authorities in the past when there was a need for additional forces.

The statement concluded with a call for stringent action against the militants to de-escalate the situation and restore normalcy in the region.



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

— *Thomas Paine*

CENTRE REIMPOSES PROTECTED AREA REGIME IN 3 NORTHEASTERN STATES, INCLUDING MANIPUR

The Manipur Government said Wednesday the Centre has re-imposed the Protected Area Regime or Protected Area Permit (PAP) in the state as well as Mizoram and Nagaland amid growing security concerns arising from the influx from neighbouring countries.

In a statement, the Manipur Government said with the reimposition of PAP, the movement of foreigners visiting the state will be closely monitored, and they are required to obtain the necessary Protected Area Permits (PAP) in accordance with the Foreigners (Protected Areas) Order, 1958.

PAP was scrapped from Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland in January 2011 by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs to boost tourists in the Northeastern states. A foreign national is required PAP to visit certain areas of India mainly the Northeast after meeting certain requirements. The permit normally has a duration of 10 days which can be extended. The Union Home Ministry and authorities of the states concerned can issue the Protected Area Permits.

Against this backdrop, the Manipur Government also said it would address certain claims made by an organisation that recently identified itself as the Kuki-Zo Council. The state government said it was found that no such organisation exists in Manipur after an investigation. The origin and authenticity of this group are highly questionable, it said.

“There is no district by the name Lamka, mentioned as a headquarters in Manipur. This raises strong suspicions regarding the external origins of such organisations that appear to operate outside legal and administrative frameworks,” said the statement.

The statement said the Manipur Police are actively looking into this matter and an FIR will be lodged to ascertain the true nature and intent behind such



misleading activities. It urged the people of Manipur to exercise caution and not to pay heed to statements or claims from organisations of dubious origins, which have been surfacing recently with the apparent intention of creating confusion and unrest.

“The Government remained committed to maintaining peace and harmony in the State and advised the citizens to remain vigilant and trust only credible sources of information. Further updates will be shared as investigations progress,” the statement said.

The state also urged the media, both national and local, to refrain from giving publicity to such press releases from unauthorised organisations or individuals. The Centre and its agencies are also appealed to disregard such claims from unverified organisations.

The restoration of peace and harmony amongst the communities is of utmost importance at this juncture more than ever, and the government will not tolerate any action that threatens to disrupt the peace process, it said. (The Indian Express)

MANIPUR POLICE RAIDS MEITEI INSURGENT HIDEOUTS, SEIZES WEAPONS, ARRESTS MULTIPLE CADRES

Security forces raided two camps, suspected to be used by proscribed Meitei insurgent groups, at Makou Pourabi in Imphal on Wednesday. The search operations were carried out in vulnerable areas of the hill and valley districts, said an officer on Thursday.

Police have recovered an INSAS (Indian Small Arms System) LMG (light machine gun) magazine, 47 fired cartridges, one bayonet, two Baofeng walkie-talkie sets, two four-wheelers, one two-wheeler, bulletproof helmet, cadre uniforms and other incriminating documents and materials from the camps.

Meanwhile, six suspected cadres of the Meitei insurgent group were arrested from Bijoypur Mamang Leikai and Makha Leikai in Kakching district. “Three mobile handsets were recovered from them,” said a Manipur Police officer.

Police said that they also arrested two suspected active cadres, who were allegedly involved in extortion activities targeting the general public, private firms, and government offices, from Mantripukhri Bazar in Imphal East district.



“Two demand letters, 16 cash receipts of uniforms, three mobile phones, a wallet containing ₹2,200, two ID cards, and one scooter (Honda Activa) were recovered from their possession,” the officer added.

Additionally, three active cadres from another faction of the insurgent group were arrested at Thangmeiband Watham Leirak crossing in Imphal West on Wednesday.

THREE ARRESTED FOR THREATENING CM, MINISTERS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Three individuals were arrested for allegedly posting threatening and abusive content targeting Manipur Chief Minister N Biren and his Council of Ministers. The threats were made on a Facebook page called “Manipur News Group 2024.”

The arrested individuals have been identified as Ningombam Dingku (22) from Lairongthem Mayai Leikai, Malemnganba Leithangbam (21) from Kwakeithel Makha Thokchom Leikai Heinoukhongnemi, and

Thongam Romen (39) from Keirak Mayai Leikai.

The trio was brought before the Duty Magistrate of Imphal West, who granted police custody for five days, with their remand set until December 23.

According to sources, the Court reviewed the case and accepted the police’s request for custody to facilitate further investigation. (NE Now)



FEATURED ARTICLE

Manipur Ethnic Divide: Reconciliation Yet a Far Cry

Rabindra Nath Sinha

Manipur, a victim of ethnic conflagration for the past 19-and-a-half months – it all started on May 3, 2023 – has become a test case for the reconciliation skills of the N Biren Singh-led state government and the Union Home Ministry; to be more specific, its boss Amit Shah, who is de facto in-charge of law and order in the North-Eastern state and “as a matter of courtesy keeps Biren Singh informed”.

Tribal Kuki-Zo groups are in no mood to tolerate any more the majority valley-based Meiteis’ administrative autocracy. They are firm in their demand for a separate administrative arrangement for tribals.

The Meiteis, 53% of Manipur’s population, are all for an integrated Manipur, as it is now. They also want ST (Scheduled Tribe) classification in view of their “disadvantaged position” in regard to resource-related matters, particularly land. It is this demand coupled with a High Court observation that was seen as favouring this demand which is behind the conflagration since May 3, 2023.

The state government and New Delhi (both ruled by the Bharatiya Janata Party) have all along been treating Manipur as a law and order case and have been relying on the unified command of the Army, the state police

and the Central paramilitary forces, such as, Assam Rifles, BSF, CRPF and CAPF.

Reluctantly taking note of public demand and suggestions of civil society groups, Shah and Singh have made some attempts to bring the two warring sides to the negotiation table but in view of a firm ‘no’ from the Kuki-Zo leadership, they cut a sorry figure.

Instead of renewed efforts with stress on a ‘healing touch’ and involving respected community leaders as also the academia, Shah has been arranging additional security forces and, over a period of time, has manoeuvred to acquire full control over the unified command, although protocol has it that the unified command reports to the Chief Minister and functions under his superintendence.

November and the current month so far have proved administratively more challenging and politically more damaging events for both Singh and Shah. The epicentre of violence for a long time since May 3, 2023 has remained the tribal-dominated Churachandpur district and surrounding areas.

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But, judging by the events that have unfolded, it may be said that the epicentre has shifted over 200 km away to Jiribam district, which was witness to violence and merciless killings on November 7, 2024, at Zairwan village and on November 11 at Borobekra sub-division.

The victims of the violence were a Hmar woman on November 7 and two Meitei civilians on November 11. On December 14, two migrant construction workers from Bihar were killed in Kakching district and a Meitei youth was killed in an encounter with the police in the adjoining Thoubal district. Both Kakching and Thoubal are Meitei-majority districts.

All these tragedies indicate that peace in Manipur remains a far cry despite deployment of massive forces and combing operations by the Army. Already 260 lives have been lost and over 60,000 have to contend with difficult existence in relief camps.

Much to the discomfiture of Singh and Shah, on November 17 Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma's National People's party (NPP), the second largest ally with seven MLAs of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance ministry of Manipur, withdrew support to the Singh ministry, citing its failure to resolve the crisis and restore normalcy. Of course, NPP's action has not posed a threat to the BJP government as the party itself has 37 MLAs in the 60-member Assembly. But the fact also remains that the Meitei Chief Minister's relations with seven Kuki MLAs are under severe strain in the given situation.

Perhaps, more damaging for the Chief Minister and Union Home Minister has been the recent suggestion of Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma that the incumbent Chief Minister Singh is a liability to Manipur and that he would prefer Manipur being brought under President's rule. This evoked a strong reaction from the Manipur government, which also asserted that it does not follow an anti-tribal policy (Page 1, The Telegraph, December 1).

People in the know, who spoke with NewsClick,

contended that there was no doubt that Shah was backing Biren Singh to the hilt and the latter was no hindrance to Shah's controlling the law and order apparatus. However, they also acknowledged that Singh was trying hard to check illegal immigration and drug smuggling from neighbouring Myanmar. Also, he is trying his best to reclaim encroached reserved forests.

The functioning of certain arms of parliamentary democracy has been suffering as the BJP-led government that grabbed power in 2017 in Manipur for the first time, did not bother to take necessary administrative steps.

Elections to Hill Areas Autonomous District Councils (ADCs), urban civic bodies and panchayats have been delayed by two to four years and, as a result, the state government is not able to access an estimated Rs 500 crore it is entitled to under the 15th Finance Commission recommendations, Manipur Congress president Keisham Meghchandra told NewsClick.

"I have raised the issue at the platforms available to me and talked to the Chief Minister. But nothing is happening. Ad hoc arrangements are in vogue; the systems are not functional. In regard to ADCs, is it wrong to contend that the government is being anti-hills, anti-tribals? Meghchandra said.

There are six ADCs: Chandel, Churachandpur, Sadar Hills (Kangkokpi), Manipur North (Senapati), Tamenglong and Ukhrul.

'A Complex Situation'

Asked about the Manipur situation, Prof Surajit C Mukhopadhyay, dean at the School of Social Studies of Kolkata-based Sister Nivedita University, said: "It's a complex situation arising from illegalities on a

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large-scale – unchecked immigration, drug smuggling and free flow of arms from neighbouring Myanmar. As it is, Manipur is backward on every count; no industry to speak about, large-scale unemployment. Administrative lapses have accentuated the state’s problems”.

In the context of the overdue ADC elections, and asked if tribals would take part if the Chief Minister expedited the process, Ajang Khongsai, president of Kuki Inpi, the apex body of Kuki outfits, told NewsClick: “Where is the question? We are asking for separation from Meitei-dominated administration”.

A Legal Take

Dheeraj Murthy, an advocate of the Telangana High Court and Faizan Mustafa, Vice Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University, Patna, observed in an edit in

The Hindu of October 24, 2024: “Tripura emerged as an example of peace brokered through the Constitution at the height of the insurgency movement”.

The Tripura Accord was signed in 1988 between the Union government, the state government and the Tripura National Volunteers, a militant group which even sought secession. “The Constitution, as a living and transformative document, has repeatedly evolved its capacity to adapt to demanding circumstances”. ... Ultimately, peace will have to be evolved through the Constitution ... they opined.

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The writer is a freelance journalist based in Kolkata.



The Hills Journal
@HillsJournal

Kuki-Zo Council Responds to Claims of Non-Existence and Denunciation by Manipur Government



From thehillsjournal.com

11:41 PM · Dec 20, 2024 · 51 Views

Serto Chungneireng Kom
@Areng_Kom

An old leak video surface from RPF/PLA #MeiteiMilitants back by PLA of China attacking @official_dgar camp in Chandel District of North-east which resulted in the heavy casualties of the central forces. We also see highly mechanised weapons such as RPG, AR etc were used.
@ANI



3:09 PM · Dec 20, 2024 · 790 Views





**KUKI WOMEN ORGANISATION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
KWOHR**

4 PHASE **JANGNA DOPNA**

VENUE B.VENGNOM
COMMUNITY HALL | 21 DEC
2024
SATURDAY

TIME 11:00 AM ONWARDS

Phatvop ding:
Phat pat taona:
Lemna thusei:
Vangthumpehna le
Jangna Dopna lhandohna:
Houlimna:

Secretarial report leh
Jangna Dopna hopdohna:
Phat chai taona:
Lasa ding:

Ng. MERILYN, Exe. Member KWOHR
Pastor LUNKHOSEI HAOKIP
Pi NGAINEIKIM, President KWOHR

Pastor ONKHO HAOKIP
Kuki Inpi Manipur (KIM)
Kuki Inpi Churachandpur (KIC)
Kuki Women Union (KWU)

Ng. KIMNEIHOI, Gen.Secy. KWOHR
Pastor Seiginmang Haokip
Ng. NEIBOI KHONGSAI
Pa BOIJANG HAOKIP

HARASSMENT AND KILLING OF NON LOCALS IN MANPUR BY MEITEI MILITANTS SINCE

2001

FREQUENT KILLING, ATTACK AND HARASSMENT OF MIGRANT WORKERS OR PEOPLE ENGAGED IN BLUE-COLLAR JOBS OR PROFESSIONS FROM MAINLAND INDIA IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY MEITEI TERRORISTS AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC.

THEY ARE COLLECTIVELY BRANDED AS

“**Mayang**” BY THE MEITEIS.

2001

JUN 7: Thoubal District - 4 Killed
JUN 14: Imphal East - 3 Killed
TOTAL - 7 Killed

2004

NOV 10: Imphal East - 3 Killed

2005

MAY 31: Imphal East - 2 Killed

2007

MAR 8: Bishnupur District - 5 Killed
OCT 22: Bishnupur District - 1 Killed
OCT 23: Thoubal District - 1 Killed
TOTAL - 7 Killed

2008

MAR 17: Imphal West - 7 Killed
MAR 18: Imphal East - 5 Killed
MAR 18: Thoubal Dist. - 2 Injured
MAR 19: Bishnupur Dst. - 1 Killed
JUL 15: Imphal West - 1 Killed
JUL 19: Imphal East - 1 Injured
JUL 29: Imphal East - 1 Injured
SEP 06: Imphal West - 1 Injured

2008

SEP 17: Bishnupur Dst. - 7 Killed
DEC 18: Imphal West - 5 Killed
TOTAL - 18 Killed
- 5 Injured

2009

FEB 28: Imphal West - 1 Killed
MAR 01: Imphal West - 1 Killed
MAR 21: Imphal West - 1 Killed
MAR 23: Imphal West - 1 Killed

2009

MAY 11: Bishnupur Dst. - 9 Killed
MAY 14: Imphal West - 1 Killed
MAY 19: Imphal West - 1 Injured
JUN 3: Imphal East - 1 Killed
JUN 04: Bishnupur Dst. - 2 Killed
JUN 5: Thoubal Dst. - 1 Killed
JUN 11: Imphal West - 4 Killed
JUN 11: Imphal West - 1 Injured
JUN 15: Imphal West - 1 Injured
JUL 11: Imphal West - 1 Injured
JUL 27: Imphal East - 1 Injured
JUL 28: Imphal West - 1 Killed
JUL 28: Imphal West - 1 Injured
AUG 9: Imphal East - 1 Injured
OCT 31: Thoubal Dst. - 1 Killed
NOV 2: Imphal West - 1 Killed
NOV 8: Imphal East - 1 Killed
NOV 9: Imphal - 1 Killed
DEC 15: Imphal East - 1 Killed
DEC 16: Imphal East - 2 Killed
TOTAL - 30 Killed
- 8 Injured

JAN 6: Imphal East - 1 Killed
MAR 29: Chandel Dst. - 1 Killed
APR 2: Tamenglong - 1 Killed
JUL 29: Ukhrul Dst. - 2 Killed
AUG 2: Imphal East - 1 Killed
AUG 24: Imphal West - 1 Killed
SEP 16: Imphal West - 1 Injured
OCT 29: Imphal West - 1 Killed
NOV 5: Imphal West - 1 Killed
NOV 6: Imphal West - 1 Killed
DEC 7: Imphal West - 1 Killed
DEC 7: Imphal West - 1 Injured
TOTAL - 30 Killed
- 8 Injured

2010

2011 Nos. of non-locals killed : 3
Nos. of non-locals Injured : 9
2013 Nos. of non-locals killed : 12
Nos. of non-locals Injured : 39
2014 Nos. of non-locals killed : 9
Nos. of non-locals Injured : 47

2015 Nos. of non-locals killed : 0
Nos. of non-locals Injured : 1
2017 Number of non-locals killed : 4
Number of non-locals Injured : 1
2018 Number of non-locals killed : 0
Number of non-locals Injured : 4



He Answers

(Matthew 11:28)

Is your life full of questions?
Filled with unasked explications
Damned in an abyss with restlessness
Brimful of sorrow and glumness

Are you worn out and weary?
Thinking the world not so cheery
Carrying your burdens heftily
Squandering your days forlornly

Do you yearn for solacement?
Looking for your life's contentment
Peeking for joy and fascinations
Wanting a life of elations

Are life's questions answerable?
Yes! Very much! God is able
He'll ceaselessly lead you in your ways
Answering your questions always

~ *Letginmang Singsit*