

Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



AWAITING JUSTICE



LHUNKHOHAO HAOKIP (34 YEARS)

S/O HEMTINTHANG HAOKIP

ADDRESS: SEJANG VILLAGE, JIRIBAM

DATE OF INCIDENT: 07TH SEPTEMBER, 2024

PLACE OF INCIDENT: JIRIBAM

CAUSE OF DEATH: KILLED BY UNLF/MPA



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 WOMEN PROTEST UNRELENTING ATTACKS IN BUNGPI; COTU DECLARES 12-HOUR TOTAL SHUTDOWN

Hundreds of Kuki-Zo women from Bungpi Region in Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi District, staged a resolute protest against continuous attacks on the Kuki-Zo community in Saibol, Twichin-Phaimol, and Khonomphai. The assaults, allegedly carried out by armed miscreants from the valley, have disrupted the Christmas celebrations since December 24, plunging the community into turmoil during what should have been a season of peace and joy.

The protest, which saw women from all walks of life uniting in defiance, highlighted the unabated violence that has plagued the region. The demonstrators expressed outrage over the security forces' attempts to demolish community bunkers during combing operations. These bunkers, the women emphasized, are not mere structures but their sole line of defense against the recurrent attacks.

"Kuki-Zo women are the protectors of their land and people," said a protestor, her voice trembling with emotion. "If anyone dares to destroy our bunkers, they will have to step over our bodies first. These bunkers are our only fortress in the face of relentless aggression."

The protests underscore the deteriorating security situation in the region, with the women urging authorities to recognize their plight and take immediate action to safeguard the Kuki-Zo community. Calls for justice and a cessation of violence were loud and clear, with banners and slogans condemning the attacks and demanding accountability.

The demonstration also drew attention to the broader issues of systemic neglect and inadequate protection by the authorities. As tensions rise in Bungpi, the protest by Kuki-Zo women serves as a poignant reminder of the resilience and determination of a community fighting for its survival amidst ongoing adversity.

Meanwhile, in a bold response to the ongoing attacks on the Kuki-Zo community in the Bungpi Region, the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) has declared a 12-hour total shutdown across Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi District. The shutdown will take place from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on



December 29, marking a unified stand against the violence allegedly perpetrated by armed miscreants from the valley since Christmas Eve.

The shutdown is aimed at drawing attention to the escalating situation, which has disrupted the lives of the Kuki-Zo community in Saibol, Twichin-Phaimol, and Khonomphai. CoTU stated that the attacks have not only marred the festive season but have also threatened the safety and dignity of the Kuki-Zo people.

During the shutdown, all vehicular movement along the National Highway - 2 passing through Sadar Hills will be strictly prohibited. Business establishments and markets will remain closed, with CoTU emphasizing the need for solidarity among the tribal population to send a clear message to the authorities and perpetrators.

"This is not just a protest; it is a cry for justice and survival," stated a CoTU spokesperson. "The unabated attacks on our community are unacceptable, and we demand immediate intervention to stop this violence and protect our people."

The shutdown is expected to bring daily life in the region to a standstill, reflecting the gravity of the situation and the collective anger of the tribal community. CoTU has called for support and cooperation from all sections of society, urging them to recognize the plight of the Kuki-Zo people and stand with them in their struggle.

TERROR IN THE SEASON OF JOY: MEITEI FORCES' BRUTAL ASSAULT ON KUKI VILLAGES DURING CHRISTMAS

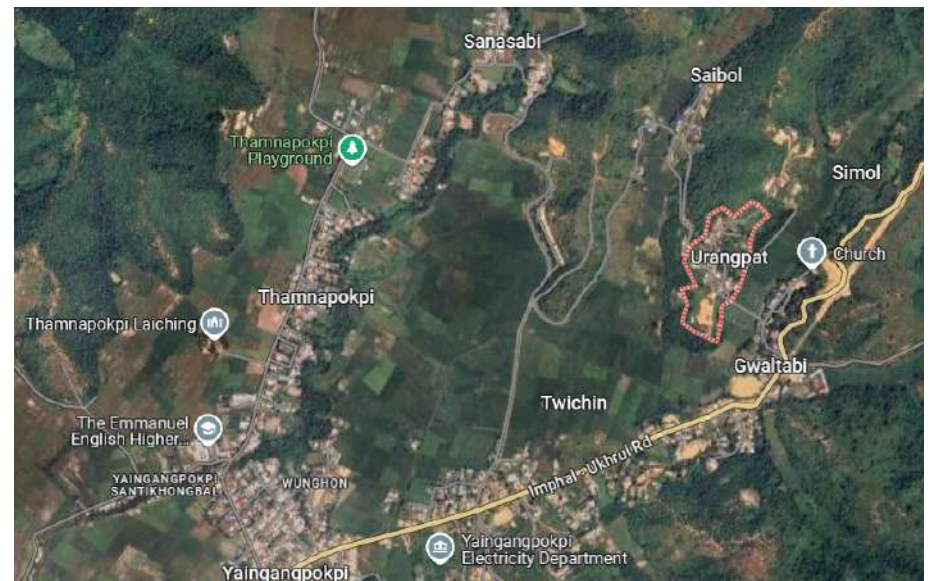
In a shocking and heartbreaking violation of the spirit of peace that defines the Christmas season, the Meitei State Forces have unleashed a violent and devastating attack on Kuki villages. Starting on the evening of December 24, this brutal offensive has targeted the innocent residents of Urangpat, Phaipijang, Twinomjang, Bungpi, and Lhungtin Block Saikul in the war-torn district of Kanggui, leaving destruction and terror in its wake.

In a macabre twist, the Meitei State Forces, including the Police and Commandos, have allegedly formed a dangerous alliance with the radicalized Arambai Tenggol militants and notorious Meitei terrorist groups such as UNLF, KCP, and PREEPAK. This collaboration has given rise to a relentless onslaught against the Kuki people, whose peaceful Christmas celebrations were shattered by the sound of gunfire and explosions.

The attacks have been unrelenting, with civilians bearing the brunt of this offensive. Witnesses report a harrowing barrage of violence—gunfire, bomb explosions, and a constant state of terror that has turned the region into a war zone. Despite the unprovoked aggression, the Kuki Volunteers have demonstrated remarkable restraint, resisting the urge to retaliate. Their commitment to a just and peaceful defense of their people remains unbroken, with the unit's leader asserting the importance of avoiding further escalation.

"We must exercise utmost restraint and refrain from retaliating, lest we unwittingly play into the hands of our adversaries. They will undoubtedly spin our justified defensive measures as an act of aggression, further manipulating public perception to suit their malevolent agenda," said the Commander of Kuki Volunteers, urging his comrades to stay firm in their principles.

The Kuki Volunteers' decision to avoid retaliation, even in the face of relentless violence, is a powerful testament to their commitment to peace and their dedication



to justice. Their actions stand in stark contrast to the violence being perpetuated by the Meitei forces, who are seen as pursuing a strategy of ethnic cleansing aimed at displacing the Kuki community from their ancestral lands.

The brutality of these attacks is further underscored by video footage circulating on social media, where a Meitei militant openly boasts about the operation, indicating the premeditated nature of the assault and exposing the Meitei forces' blatant disregard for human life. The video serves as a damning confirmation of the coordinated nature of the attacks, casting a spotlight on the grave human rights violations taking place in the region. The situation remains dire, with the Kuki people resolute in their fight for justice and equality, determined to resist the forces of oppression and terror that seek to erase their existence.

The Christmas season, which should be a time of peace and goodwill, has been marred by the atrocities committed by the Meitei State Forces and their militant allies. The Kuki people's resilience, however, shines brightly as they continue their fight for dignity, justice, and the right to live in peace.

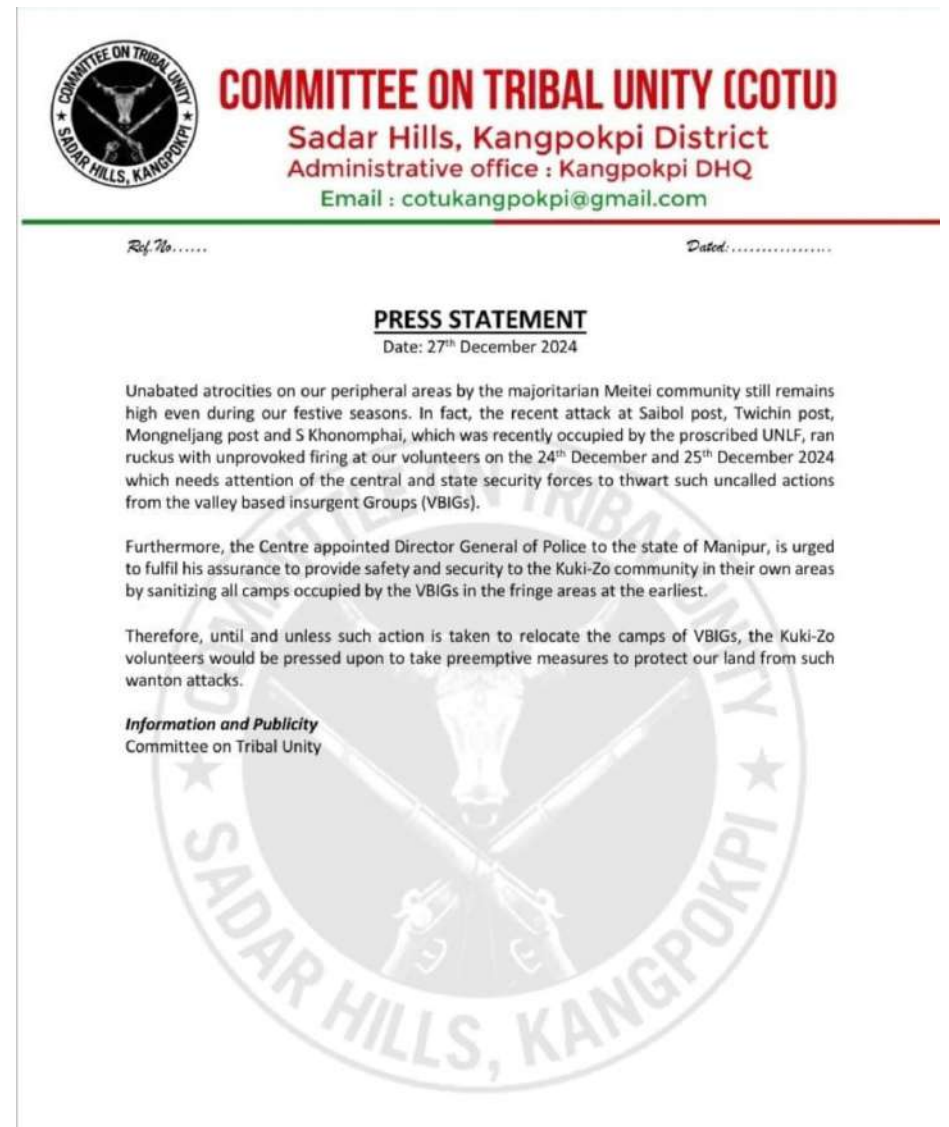
KUKI BODY URGES IMMEDIATE ACTION AMID RISING ATTACKS IN MANIPUR'S PERIPHERAL AREAS

Despite the festive season, unrest in the peripheral areas of Manipur continues to escalate, with fresh reports of violence and attacks by insurgent groups. The Kuki-Zo community has raised alarm over unprovoked assaults by the majoritarian Meitei community, which have reportedly intensified during the Christmas holidays.

On December 24th and 25th, violent clashes erupted at multiple posts, including Saibol, Twichin, Mongneljang, and S Khonomphai, areas recently occupied by the proscribed United National Liberation Front (UNLF). These attacks saw unprovoked firing at volunteers, leading to heightened tensions in the region. The Kuki-Zo community has called for immediate intervention from central and state security forces to address these recurring assaults from valley-based insurgent groups (VBIGs).

The Information and Publicity Committee on Tribal Unity has issued a statement urging the Centre-appointed Director General of Police (DGP) for Manipur to fulfill the promise of ensuring the safety and security of the Kuki-Zo people. The community has specifically demanded the sanitization of camps occupied by VBIGs in the fringe areas to prevent further escalation of violence.

The Kuki-Zo community has warned that, unless action is taken to relocate these insurgent camps, their volunteers will be compelled to adopt preemptive measures to safeguard their land and people from



what they describe as “wanton attacks.” The plea for action underscores the growing unease and desire for protection among the tribal populations in the region.



It is an unfortunate fact that we can secure peace only by preparing for war.

— John F. Kennedy

MEITEI MILITANTS ARRESTED FOR EXTORTION ACTIVITIES

Manipur police have arrested two active members of the proscribed outfit Kangleipak Communist Party (People's War Group) from Imphal West district who were involved in extortion, a police statement on Friday informed.

The arrested duo have been identified as Md Imtiaz Khan and Irengbam Gulapi Singh. Reportedly, the two militants involved in extortion activities were arrested from the Awang Wanagai Lamkhai area of the district on Thursday, the statement said.

According to the statement, they were involved in extortion activities from various brick farms, schools, and oil pumps in the Pangei and Khongampat areas (in the Imphal East district) and a health centre at Sekmai (in the Imphal West district).

Following the arrest, two mobile handsets and other items were seized from their possession. Earlier on December 17, Manipur Police arrested eight cadres of the proscribed militant outfit Kangleipak Communist Party (People's War Group) (KCP-PWG) in connection with the killing of two migrant labourers from Bihar in Kakching district. The arrests were made during large-scale operations following the gruesome incident, which occurred on the evening of December 14 near Keirak. According to a police statement, the operation commenced after the armed miscreants fatally attacked the two labourers. The victims, who were non-locals, were shot dead, sparking outrage.

CM BIREN'S CLAIM THAT ONLY BJP CAN SAVE MANIPUR ON GOOD GOVERNANCE DAY WAS IRONIC AS VIOLENCE PERSISTS UNDER 'DOUBLE-ENGINE' RULE

On Wednesday, Manipur's Chief Minister N Biren Singh claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the only political party capable of bringing peace to the state, which has been grappling with ethnic violence for over 19 months. Speaking at the Good Governance Day event at the BJP's state headquarters, Singh emphasized the party's belief in the "idea of living together," stressing that the BJP's sense of nationalism and commitment to social justice could restore stability in the troubled region.

"Only BJP can save Manipur...BJP leaders have a high sense of nationalism and social justice. They do reality-based politics in the interests of the nation," Singh stated. He also reassured that if he were not given a ticket by the BJP, he would continue to remain with the party, reflecting his unwavering loyalty.

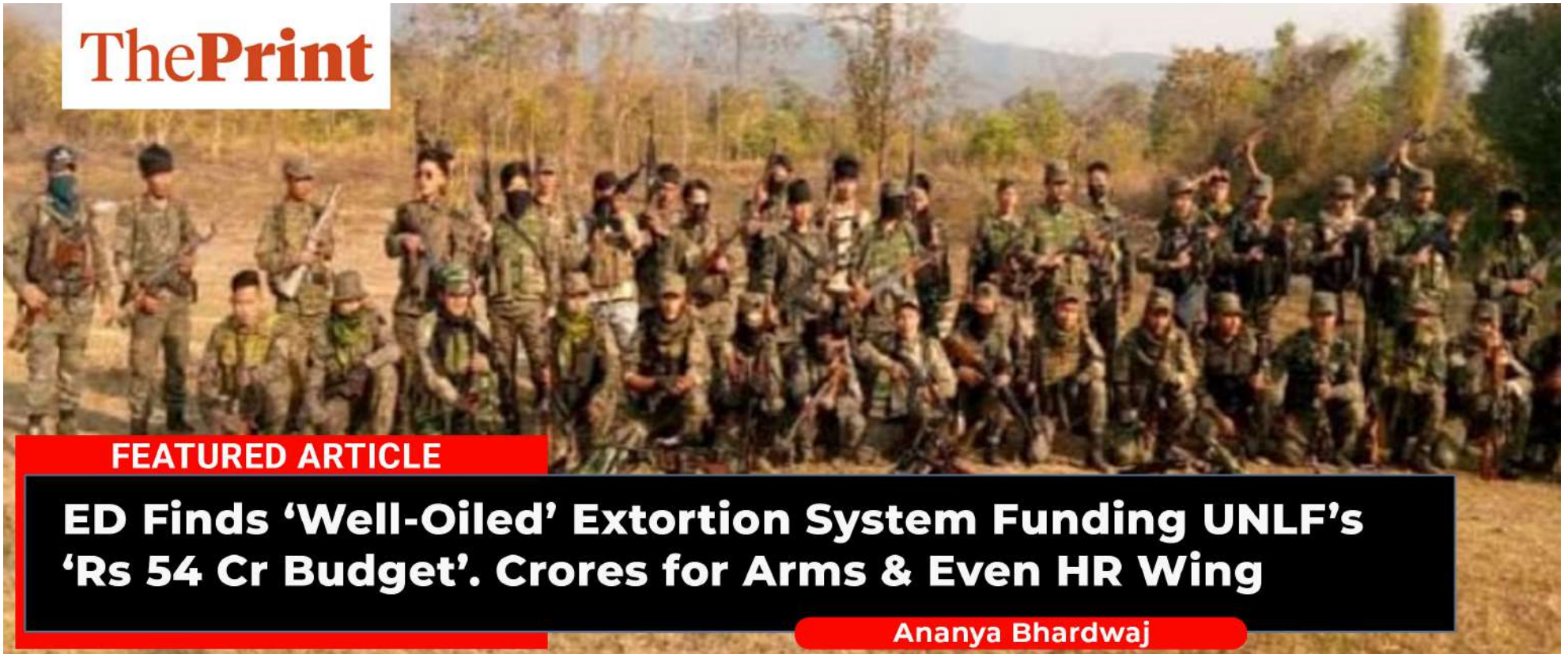
Singh's call for peace came as the state remains divided, with ongoing tensions between the Kuki and Meitei communities. The CM urged both groups

to reach an understanding and emphasized the urgent need for peace in the region.

However, there seems to be irony in Singh's remarks, given that the violence has persisted for over 19 months under the watch of the BJP-led state and central governments. The BJP's control over both levels of government, often referred to as a "double-engine government," has done little to quell the violence. In fact, the state has been split into two, with a buffer zone now separating the hills from the valley.

Questions are also being raised about the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, as he has yet to visit the state despite the ongoing crisis. The lack of decisive action from both the state and central governments has led to widespread skepticism about the BJP's ability to resolve the situation.

ThePrint



FEATURED ARTICLE

ED Finds 'Well-Oiled' Extortion System Funding UNLF's 'Rs 54 Cr Budget'. Crores for Arms & Even HR Wing

Ananya Bhardwaj

An investigation into the activities of the United National Liberation Front (UNLF) has revealed that the insurgent group spent Rs 13 crore in 2023 on training cadres, purchasing uniforms, travel to Myanmar, acquiring arms—including INSAS rifles and light machine guns—and procuring drones.

According to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) probe into a money-laundering case involving UNLF cadres operating in the Manipur valley, the insurgent group extorted crores from schools, colleges, training institutes, hospitals and individuals, including serving politicians, in the guise of “donations”.

The group also raised funds by collecting unauthorised taxes from liquor shops, highways, and betel nut and tobacco transporters as part of its wider efforts to intensify tensions in Manipur.

Crucial evidence was found in various documents titled ‘Arms Report’, ‘Arms Budget’, ‘Donation Report’, ‘Daily Collection (read, Daily Collection)’ and ‘Estimated budget for training arms and ammunition’ recovered from the digital devices of two alleged UNLF cadre members arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

This evidence forms part of a chargesheet submitted by the ED as part of its investigation. ThePrint has a copy of the chargesheet.

According to the ED’s probe, funds extorted by UNLF cadres from the general public and businessmen and through the unauthorised collection of toll taxes at national highways were “part of a larger conspiracy” and aimed at exacerbating the ethnic unrest in Manipur.

“These valley-based insurgents raised funds by threatening people in the name of protection from militants and generated money in the guise of donations. They carried illegal weapons with them to threaten the public,” said an ED source.

The ED source said the UNLF ran “a well-oiled system” with dedicated wings for finance, HR, family welfare and operations. Each had a budget of crores allocated to it.

“They first raise money in the name of donations by threatening people including big businessmen, school owners and even politicians, and then use that fund to procure illegal arms, recruit youngsters and train them,” said the ED source. “No one was spared. Right from small shop owners to transporters of tobacco, cement dealers, sawmill owners.”

The ED began its investigation in July 2023 based on a case registered by the NIA which involved

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a “transnational conspiracy” hatched by Myanmar-based terror outfits that were operationally active in the northeast states to “exploit the ethnic unrest in the state of Manipur” and “wage war against the government of India”.

The ED arrested Thokchom Gyaneshor and Laimayum Anand Sharma on 16 October under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), following which a chargesheet was filed on 12 December.

According to the chargesheet, Gyaneshor and Sharma are trained UNLF cadres involved in the procurement, collection and illegal acquisition of arms to “threaten the unity, integrity, security, sovereignty of India and to strike terror”.

The ED alleged that they used the funds raised by extortion to procure arms and ammunition, with some weapons stolen from government armouries. Gyaneshor, it added, was involved in the recruitment and training of new UNLF cadres.

A well-oiled network

Formed in 1964 to establish an “independent, sovereign Manipur”, UNLF is the state’s oldest valley-based armed group. It was among the nine Meitei extremist groups banned by the Centre last year.

In 1990, UNLF launched an armed struggle for the ‘liberation’ of Manipur from India. According to security sources, the outfit has several camps in Myanmar’s Sagaing Region as well as in parts of Bangladesh.

According to the ED’s chargesheet, the UNLF has several wings including an armed unit, the Manipur People’s Army (MPA), and departments for family welfare and health, organisation, HR, finance, valley operations and projects, and external regional affairs. Each of these departments has a hefty annual budget.

The ED found that the MPA has an annual budget of Rs 36 crore, or Rs 3 crore a month, and the family welfare and health department’s annual budget is Rs 18 crore, or approximately Rs 1.5 crore a month. This works out to a total of Rs 54 crore.

DEPT OF DEFENCE: MPA-UNLF

JANUARY 2024 CONSOLIDATED SANCTION OF DOD-MPA-GHQ

SANCTION NO 11-01/24

Particulars	Amount	Total
MPA GHQ	7984900	
GHQ PAKHANGBA BN	288000	
GHQ NONGPOKNINGTHOU BN	185100	
GHQ KOBRU BN	394000	
GHQ ZULLU BN	82000	
GHQ TRAINING	2503200	11447200
GRAND TOTAL	11447200	11447200

ThePrint

Breakdown of fund allotted to UNLF’s armed unit Manipur People’s Army, details of which were mentioned in ED chargesheet | Gfx: Shruti Naithani/ThePrint

The chargesheet also mentioned that the organisation department and the HR wing have a monthly budget of Rs 1 crore and the external regional and affairs department has a monthly budget of around Rs 3-4 lakh.

According to investigators, all these funds are provided to various units in cash only.

Interestingly, one of the documents dated 25 October 2023, showed that the cadres collected Rs 80 lakh from “corrupt people”.

Reports on arms purchase, money extorted Among the records recovered by the investigation agencies are documents related to the purchase of illegal arms, training expenses, procurement of new technology, budget allocation for UNLF units, a detailed list of MPA cadres and payments made to camps.

A 32 GB document, titled ‘Arms Report’, contains detailed records of arms and ammunition purchased by different UNLF cadres, including the quantity and costs.

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The document details the arms that were purchased, including INSAS rifles and SLRs. It also specifies the number of arms collected from the public, those looted from the police and the quantity of old arms already in the possession of the cadres, the chargesheet says.

Additionally, the document contained a list of arms and ammunition held by UNLF camps with details of the type of arms along with their serial number and the number of bullets.

Another document, titled 'Arms Budget', outlines an estimated budget for the training and acquisition of arms and ammunition.

According to the ED, the funds were allocated to MPA-UNLF units for the maintenance of camps in India and Myanmar, salaries, and recruitment and training of new cadres, all running into crores.

"These reports that we recovered during the investigation show how meticulously the cadres planned their operations," an ED source said.

Funds for arms purchases were raised through an unauthorised toll tax on vehicles on national highways, and from individuals, institutions, shops and coaching institutes in 2023.

"More than Rs 8.5 lakh was collected from toll tax. Almost Rs 7 lakh was collected from tobacco transporters and lakhs were made from schools and hospitals," the source said.

Another document, titled '2nd phase Donation', listed funds raised from various schools, hospitals, and various stores and coaching institutes in July and August 2023. According to the chargesheet, the total amount collected in this period was Rs 1.1 crore.

It also mentions a document titled 'Donation Report' dated 25 October 2023, which shows that Rs 1.13 crore was raised from various sources, including individuals, factories, liquor shops, sawmills and toll taxes on goods-carrying vehicles on national highways.

"The persons who were raising these funds were MPA cadres and Thokchom Gyaneshor being the self-styled chief of army staff of UNLF prepared the report of funds raised for records," the ED said in its chargesheet.

Another document 'Donation Report' contains a detailed list of funds raised from individuals, schools, institutes, universities, brick farms and shops in July and August 2023 on behalf of UNLF.

It detailed how funds were collected from goods vehicles transporting paan leaves on NH-39 from 18 December 2022 to 30 December 2023. The 'road tax' collected was Rs 8.6 lakh.

"The collection is deposited with the finance department in cash," the chargesheet says.

According to the ED chargesheet, another document titled "BUDGET" listed the consolidated budget of February 2024 at Rs 48.56 lakh. "This was related to maintenance of the organisation including salary to cadres of respective units, medical expenses, transport expense, acquisition of arms and ammunition," it says.

'They come in military attire with weapons to extort' The ED's chargesheet includes statements from several protected witnesses, who allege they were threatened by UNLF cadres to pay money or face consequences. It also contains statements from UNLF workers which were extracted from the digital devices recovered during the probe.

One witness, whose statement is part of the chargesheet, said that armed UNLF cadres reached his house and forced him to speak with UNLF army chief Sidabamapu, who threatened him over the phone.

"He was told that if he did not want any trouble and wanted UNLF to stay away from his land dispute case, then he would have to pay Rs 50

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lakh. However, after negotiations he was forced to pay Rs 10 lakh,” the chargesheet says.

Another witness said that UNLF raised funds from the public by threatening them at gunpoint. “The witness said that UNLF is an underground outfit and they threaten by stating that they are the one who are protecting them from militants and if they are not given funds, they may land into trouble,” the chargesheet says.

One witness said that UNLF cadres wore military-like attire and carried arms and ammunition while raising funds from construction companies through demand notes. “They threaten the staff of these companies that if their demands are not met they will shoot them.”

Another witness said that UNLF’s cadres raised

funds from medical institutes by threatening and committing violent acts such as placing grenades and firing shots near the businesses of those who didn’t meet their demands.

One more witness said that UNLF forced him to talk to Sidamabapu over the phone, who said that if pan masala traders wanted to work peacefully in Imphal, they would have to pay ‘funds’ to UNLF.

According to the ED’s chargesheet, UNLF cadres extorted about Rs 2.26 crore in the past year, which was used to fund their terror activities.

(Edited by Sugita Katyal)

Published by [The Print](#)



The Proud Indian
@DynastyDoungel

The Meitei girl in the video request Arambai, UNLF, PLA with help of @manipur_police to come and attack Kuki innocent Villagers. Where their leader CM @NBirenSingh was busy preaching peaceful co-existence.

In Gadho ko kya kia Jai?

@HMOIndia @PMOIndia @official_dgar @adgpi



2:35 PM · Dec 27, 2024 · 3,765 Views

PK Hangmi पीके हांग्मी
@Eager4Justice

#BJP4India #congress4india Since 24th Dec.2024 today Meitei Militants attack Kuki-zo villages,for how long will u keep silent? To live as a neighbor #seperateadminforkukizo is the only option with #meitei @the_hindu @thewire_in @ThePrintIndia @realDonaldTrump @RahulGandhi @UN_HRC



1:01 PM · Dec 27, 2024 · 5,104 Views



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www.thingholemalcha.com



A CRY IN SILENCE

With every step, a cautious glance,
A sense of being preyed upon, a constant sigh.
The crushing weight of unwanted attention's gaze,
A burden borne by women beyond compare.

A soul shattered, a heart torn apart,
A life forever scarred, a tender heart.
The echoes of her own desperate chord,
unable to escape,
A living nightmare, an eternal ache.

No attire invites, no profession deserves;
The violence inflicted, the pain that preserves.
Yet questions linger, a victim's blame.
Was it she who sparked the flame?

Seventy- eight years of freedom's flame,
Yet shadows dance with women's lingering shame.
A beacon so bright, a declaration so bold,
But women's freedom, still young and yet to unfold.

Excuses for the guilty, a lie in disguise
Injustice reigns, truth concealed, in a nation undone.
As he beholds vulnerability, not her radiant soul,
Rape, a choice made by the perpetrator's gaze,
a truth untold.

~ Mames Mate

