

# Thingkho Le Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## AWAITING JUSTICE



### HEKIM CHONGLOI (47 YEARS)

D/O VUMKHOPAO CHONGLOI

ADDRESS: LAMPHEL, IMPHAL WEST

DATE OF DEATH: 4TH MAY, 2023

PLACE OF DEATH: URIPOK, IMPHAL

CAUSE OF DEATH: HACKED TO DEATH WITH MACHETE





## KUKI VICTIMS' UPDATE

As on 01.05.2024



**185**  
DEATHS



**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.



# SYMBOLIC 'BANANA STEMS' REPLACE BODIES OF MISSING KUKI VOLUNTEERS KILLED IN PHAILENGMOL REGION

In a heartbreaking event, thousands of Kuki community, together with the family members, loved ones, and close friends of the two Kuki volunteers brutally killed and dismembered in the Phailengmol Region on April 13, held a symbolic burial ceremony today at Martyrs' Cemetery, Phaijang, in Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District, more than a month after their brutal killing, under the aegis of Committee on Tribal Unity, or the CoTU, Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District.

"Banana stems" were placed inside the coffins of the two Kuki volunteers, Kamlengsat Khongsai and Kamminlal Lupheng, whose remains are yet to be found.

This unusual, yet deeply symbolic act underscored the desperation and grief faced by the families who cannot find the remains of their deceased sons.

The practice of using banana stems in funerary rituals is not new for the Kuki community, as their customs, culture, and tradition sometimes involve using symbolic objects in the absence of the body.

The symbolic burials with banana stems also serve multiple purposes, as it allowed the community to perform the necessary rites, which are crucial for a cultural and emotional closure. Additionally, these ceremonies provide a space for mourning, where collective grief can be shared and supported.

The killing of Kamlengsat Khongsai and Kamminlal Lupheng in the Phailengmol Region on April 13 was hailed as "the century's most gruesome human rights offence" considering the brutality and inhumane nature of the crime committed by the Meitei militants over the two dead bodies.

In a chilling act of barbarity, the armed groups, dragged the dead bodies of the two fallen Kuki volunteers,



brutalized their faces, shot them multiple times after desecration, and brutally hacked off their arms with machetes, sending shockwaves across the globe and prompting widespread condemnation for the ruthless violation of human rights.

It may be recalled that CoTU had organized a monumental 2 km long protest rally and imposed a 24-hour total shutdown in response to the gruesome Phailengmol killings. Additionally, CoTU also closed down government offices within the district which remains enforced to date.

In a poignant gesture of honouring their fallen comrades, CoTU enforced a solemn 9-hour Total Shutdown throughout Sadar Hills Kangpokpi District from 9:00 AM till 6:00 PM on May 24, while halting all government and private operations, along with business activities.

Mourning, under the aegis of Kangpokpi Town Committee, KYU, and KWWO, began on Thursday night at Brig. M. Thomas Ground at Kangpokpi District Headquarters, where the coffins of the two missing Kuki volunteers were kept in the office premises of CoTU.

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In Sadar Hills Phaijang's Kuki Martyrs' Cemetery on Friday, thousands congregated for the solemn symbolic burial ceremony, where they paid their respects with heartfelt condolences and a reverent gun salute.

Dr. Rev. Satkai Chongloi, Secretary of the Kuki-Zo Christian Relief Committee, solemnly conducted the symbolic burial ceremony, resonating with the theme "You Sacrifice Your Today for Our Tomorrow."

Family members of the two fallen Kuki volunteers, representatives of the Sadar Hills Chiefs' Association, the Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills, the Phailengmol Core Committee, and leaders from various other organizations, delivered heartfelt addresses at the solemn symbolic event.

At the sideline of the symbolic burial ceremony, CoTU's Media Cell Coordinator, Ng. Lun Kipgen said that together with our people, and the family members have accorded our two fallen Kuki volunteers, Kamlengsat Lunkim and Kamminlal Lupheng, the highest tribute for their selfless sacrifice to defend our land and for our freedom against tyranny and subjugation by the majoritarian Meitei led administration as we have performed their last ritual-rites at Martyrs' Cemetery, Phaijang.

Expressing strong discontentment over the Government's failure to locate the bodies of the two Kuki volunteers, Ng. Lun Kipgen recalled that fervent appeals have been made to locate the dismembered bodies and be handed over to the families for an honourable burial while adding that a monumental 2 km long rally was organized and Government offices in the district have been shut to pressure the government, but despite waiting for more than a month, their bodies could not be traced to this day.

"By failing to locate the dead bodies of our two fallen heroes and showing a complete lack of concern over the closure of Government offices in the district, the



Manipur Meitei Government has once again proven our complete separation. In acknowledgement of this divide, we have decided to conduct a symbolic burial ceremony for our two fallen heroes", he asserted.

He further said that the current dispensation's inability to address crimes against the minority Kuki community is a clear indication of the existence of a Separate Administration between the Kuki tribal Christian community-dominated hills and the valley predominantly occupied by the majoritarian Meitei community.

Therefore, reaffirming our faith in the Central Government and with the mandate of our people, the Committee urged the Central Investigative Agency/Agencies to take up the case of (L) Kamlengsat Lunkim and (L) Kamminlal Lupheng, who were brutally murdered in the most gruesome violations of human rights and human decency, he further added.

In connection with the closure of Government offices, Ng. Lun Kipgen said that having now performed the burial rites for our beloved fallen heroes, we have resolved to reopen Government offices, which were previously shuttered indefinitely, on May 27 as these institutions no longer hold significance for the Kuki community.



# DELHI PASTORS STRENGTHEN UNITY EFFORTS IN MANIPUR: CONDUCT PRAYER SESSIONS AND SYMBOLIC ACTS OF SERVICE

In a bid to foster unity and bolster the efforts of Civil Society Organizations advocating for a Separate Administration in Manipur, the Pastor Prayer Fellowship Delhi traveled from Delhi to Manipur to conduct prayer sessions with leaders of various organizations.

A group of 13 pastors arrived in Lamka on May 25 and held meetings with leaders from organizations like the Kuki Inpi and Zomi Council, emphasizing the importance of unity, comfort, and camaraderie.

As a part of their outreach, they organized a gathering and feast at EBC Gospel Centenary Hall, New Lamka, where they symbolically washed the feet of CSO leaders as a gesture of humility and service, mirroring Jesus's action with his disciples.

Tomorrow, they will split into three groups to visit the frontline areas, and from May 27-29, they will host



fasting prayers at Gospel Centenary Hall, New Lamka, in collaboration with various CSOs.

## ASSAM RIFLES REBUTS NSCN ALLEGATIONS

The Public Relations Officer, Headquarters Inspector General (South), has rubbished the allegations of the NSCN, Government of the People's Republic of Nagaland (GPRN) that the "Indian Forces is using Myanmar militants for proxy war in Manipur."

The IGAR (South) rebuttal on Friday, pointed out the NSCN's 23rd May 2024 allegations which mentioned that "Assam Rifles (AR) and the para-regiment are colluding with Kuki militant groups against NSCN and that AR, Territorial Army, and para-regiment facilitated free entry and exit of Kuki militants. It further states that Indian security forces are raining bombs in Myanmar using drones."

The Assam Rifles noted "that these allegations were already mentioned in the press release of GPRN dated 15 May 2024. Assam Rifles has already rebutted the allegations and the same was published on 20 May

23 in Ukhrul Times and by other media houses."

"It is reiterated that these allegations which have been repeated are baseless and unfounded. Media houses are requested to verify the content before publishing the same. Accurate reporting by media is crucial to avoid sensationalism that could exacerbate an already fragile situation," stated Assam Rifles.

Notably, NSCN alleged that Indian forces are using Myanmar militants for proxy war in Manipur, alleging that Indian armed forces are using a Kuki extremist outfit and a pro-democracy armed group in civil war-torn Myanmar to wage a war against the Naga Army along the India-Myanmar border, the National Socialist Council of Nagalim (NSCN) said on Thursday.

# SUPREME COURT REFUSES TO ENTERTAIN CONTEMPT PETITION ALLEGING INACTION BY MANIPUR GOVT IN PROTECTING PROPERTIES OF DISPLACED PERSONS

The Supreme Court on Friday (May 24) refused to entertain a contempt petition alleging inaction on part of state of Manipur to protect the properties of displaced persons amidst the ongoing ethnic violence in the state. Considering that the alleged encroachers to the property were not made party in the present contempt proceedings, the Court dismissed the petition and asked the petitioners to first seek appropriate legal remedies against the alleged encroachments.

The petitioners contended that there has been an alleged non-compliance and contempt by the state authorities of Manipur in light of the Supreme Court's order dated September 25, 2023. The main direction highlighted by the petition reads :

*"4(iii). The Government of Manipur should ensure the protection of the properties of the displaced persons as well as the properties which have been destroyed /burnt in the violence and prevent their encroachment. In case any property has been encroached, the encroachers be directed to forthwith remove their encroachment, failing which the person concerned would be liable for contempt of court for non-compliance of the orders of the Supreme Court of India"*

The petitioners contended that the state authorities have failed to take any action towards the protecting such properties as per the above direction.

During the hearing, the State informed the bench that the Governor of Manipur subsequently issued directions on October 10, 2023 to the respective Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police to take actions and implement the directions as per the Court order. Furthermore directions were also issued to the general public/Organizations that nobody without any exception shall violate the orders passed by the Top Court under any circumstances. In the event of any violations, the accused shall be booked under relevant laws and face contempt of the Court's order.

The vacation bench of Justices Bela M Trivedi and Pankaj Mithal was of the view that a case of contempt

could not be initiated against the State Secretaries. The Court stressed that since the main encroachers have not been made party to the contempt petition, the ideal approach should be to firstly seek legal remedy against them.

"How can contempt be issued against the secretaries? ....until encroachers are made party, nothing can be done.....if this order is simply read, no contempt is made out, they (State authorities ) are duty bound to protect the properties no doubt, but do not pressurise the officers like this."

"You may file appropriate proceedings before the law, but contempt is not made out ....if we go by the order, no contempt."

Appearing on behalf of the State, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Ms Aishwarya Bhati submitted that the Union and State were doing their best to ensure that the Court's orders are complied with and if the need be the State can submit an updated status report on the steps been taken so far.

During the hearing, the counsel for the petitioners mentioned that properties belonging to the members of the Kuki-Zo community were allegedly encroached by persons belonging to the Meetei armed groups of Arambai Tenggol, and UNLF (P).

The written submissions stated : "In fact, to marked their territories, these groups had engraved the names of their groups on the entrance gates of the said properties. The properties that have not been occupied by them are also all illegally occupied by Meetei miscreants.

Even religious places of worship are not spared by them. In fact, a Church located in the heart of New Lambulane, Imphal belonging to the Kuki -Zo community has been illegally occupied and is operating as a headquarters of the said armed

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militia group Arambai Tenggol. Few more churches located in New Lambulane, Imphal East has also been completely vandalized and looted by Meetei miscreants.

Most of the internally displaced persons belonging to the Kuki – Zo community of New Lambulane, Imphal had also registered Zero FIRs with regards to their properties and houses that have been completely looted and occupied illegally by Meetei miscreants.

However, no enquiry or action has been taken by the Manipur police for protecting and safeguarding the said properties.”

The bench disinclined to issue notice, dismissed the petition while observing the following :

“The learned counsel for the petitioners has not been able to point out who the encroachers are of the property of the displaced person...The State and Union are taking all steps to protect the properties of the displaced persons observed by the order passed on October 10, 2023 by the Governor of Manipur. We are not satisfied that any contempt proceedings would be maintainable against the respondents in connection with the impugned order dated September 2023 as raised by the Petitioners. Hence the present proceedings are dismissed subject to the above observations.... the petitioners are at liberty to take recourse to appropriate legal remedies as may be available.”

Source: [Live Law](#)

## MEITEI'S IMMORALITY: 60 YEARS OLD RAPIST SHOT IN THE LEG

A 60-year-old man was shot by cadres of the proscribed People's Liberation Army (PLA), the armed wing of the banned Revolutionary People's Front (RPF) in Manipur's Bishnupur district on Friday afternoon, according to reports.

Claiming responsibility for the attack, an RPF spokesperson in Bishnupur district said that the man was shot on his left leg for raping and impregnating a mentally disabled girl in Kumbi village.

He was shot at the bank of Imphal River near Wangoo village in Bishnupur district.

The victim and the accused were neighbors. The names of the rapist and the victim have not been disclosed.

During a media presentation, the accused confessed to his crimes and accepted the punishment imposed by the outfit.

The PLA spokesperson stated that, according to the RPF's decision, the accused has been ostracized from his village for five years. Additionally, Rs 5 lakhs is to be provided to the victim's family by June 3, 2024, with stern warning that a more severe punishment would follow if the deadline is not met. The rapist allegedly



exploited the young girl when she visited his house to watch TV.

However, taking the law into one's own hands without consulting law enforcement agencies is generally considered vigilantism, which is illegal in most jurisdictions. It could lead to serious legal consequences for those involved. It is always best to work with the authorities to address any such concerns or issues.

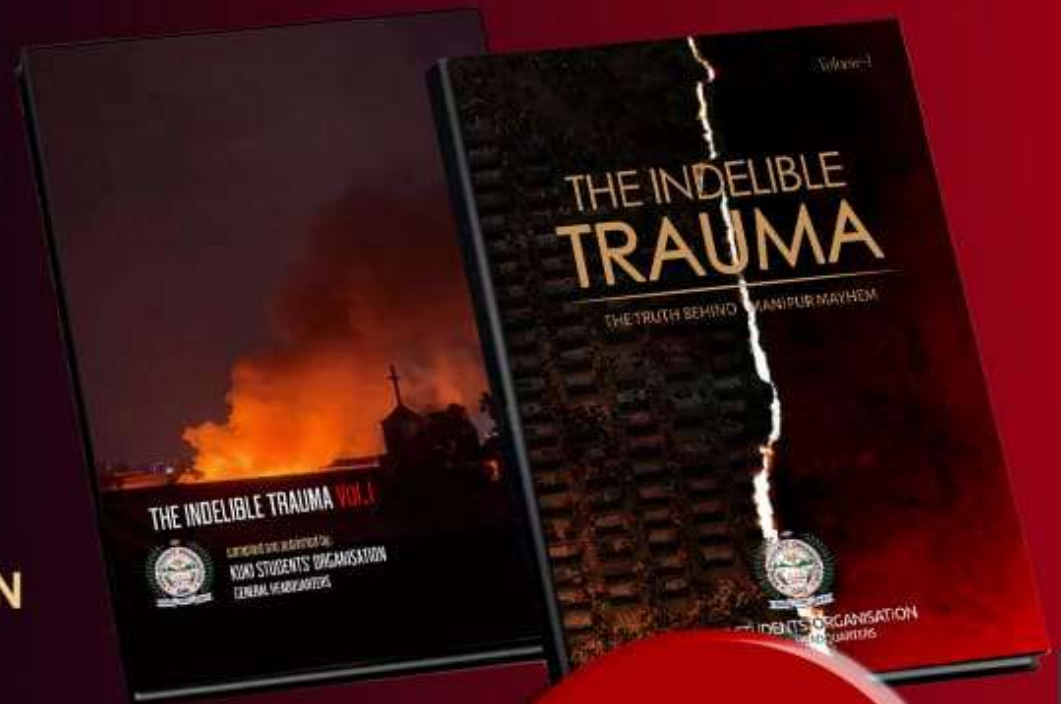
There are several instances of Meitei militant groups acting as vigilantes, which are the bounded duties of law enforcement agencies. This has duly highlighted the failure of law enforcing agencies in performing their primary duties within the Imphal valley.



# THE INDELIBLE TRAUMA

THE TRUTH BEHIND MANIPUR MAYHEM VOL. I

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY  
**KUKI STUDENTS' ORGANISATION**  
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS



## ABOUT THE BOOK

PAPERBACK COVER &  
HARD COVER PRINT

**AVAILABLE  
NOW**

This treatise is being prepared and published to unravel the lies and perfidy of our adversaries and put in perspective the authentic truth so that it stands as a testimony of the genocide that is being perpetrated on us and our people

With the hope and expectation that the perpetrators of these reprehensible crimes are brought to justice; and ignite a glimmer of solace and consolation to our indignant souls

The treatise also seeks to debunk the patently false canards, innuendoes and narratives that are being peddled as the gospel truth, and the aspersions that are being casted without any substance

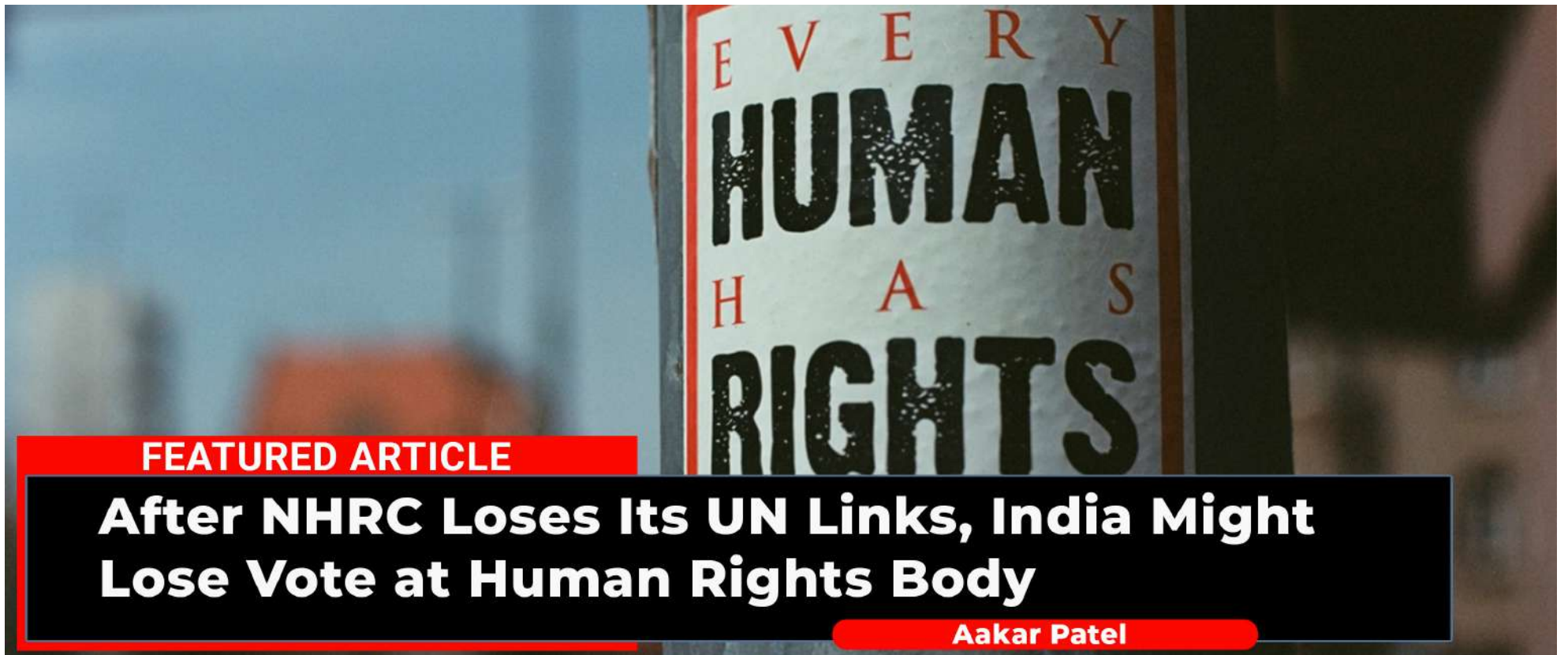
And to put in perspective the historical misdeeds meted out to the tribal society by the extremely self-centered Meitei society with the clarion call to stand united and the urgent need for the convergence of our political position so as to collectively extricate ourselves from this oppressive dispensation

If we are to march forward like our tribal counterparts of Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh- SEPARATION IS THE ONLY SOLUTION.

Issued and published by  
**Kuki Students' Organization- General Headquarters**







FEATURED ARTICLE

## After NHRC Loses Its UN Links, India Might Lose Vote at Human Rights Body

Aakar Patel

On May 13 this year, a headline was published which read: “UN-linked body defers NHRC-India accreditation for second year in a row”. Beneath this was the line: “The decision could now affect India’s ability to vote at the Human Rights Council and some UNGA bodies”.

NHRC stands for the National Human Rights Commission and this column is about why its accreditation was deferred. Last year, on March 9, 2023, a group of non-governmental organisations (including mine) wrote to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), the UN-linked body. We told it to review India’s accreditation status because the NHRC’s lack of independence, pluralism, diversity, and accountability were contrary to United Nations principles on national institutions (called “The Paris Principles”). Taking cognisance of our letter and other civil society submissions, the global body deferred the NHRC’s re-accreditation by 12 months after considering its failure to effectively discharge its mandates to respond to the escalating human rights violations in India. The NHRC was also told to improve its processes and functions, but a year later this had not happened. This is what led to the second deferral of accreditation.

So, what were the things that were contrary to the “Paris Principles”? First was a lack of independence. Both in the appointing of the NHRC’s functionaries and its functioning. The chairperson and other members of the NHRC are appointed by the President, based on the recommendation of a committee consisting of

the prime minister, the speaker of the Lok Sabha, the minister of home affairs, the leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, and the deputy chairperson of the Rajya Sabha. However, since 2019, the post of the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha has been vacant, leaving only a single Opposition voice in the selection committee.

After his retirement from the Supreme Court, Justice Arun Mishra was made the NHRC chair on May 31, 2021, despite strong disagreement by the lone Opposition voice in the selection committee. The second problem was that the NHRC has police officers investigating human rights violations by the State, including by the police. This is a conflict of interest, not independence from government interference. Despite this being pointed out in the 2023 review, the Narendra Modi government did not begin a legislative process to correct it or to invite a consultation to begin it.

In November 2023, seven former IPS officers were appointed by the NHRC as special monitors. One of them, accused of corruption in 2018 while working as special director of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), India’s federal investigation agency, was given the responsibility to oversee the thematic areas of terrorism, counter-insurgency,

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communal riots and violence. A former director of the Intelligence Bureau was made a member of the commission.

India has been repeatedly told of concerns about the lack of diversity in the NHRC, and asked to have a “pluralistic balance in its composition and staff” by ensuring the representation of a diverse Indian society including, but not limited to religious or ethnic minorities. This of course was not done in this country, where the prime minister rants against the minorities constantly, including in his election speeches.

Yet another issue was the NHRC’s lack of effective engagement with civil society and human rights defenders in India. Towards this end, the NHRC was asked to interpret its mandate in a “broad and purposive manner to promote a progressive definition of human rights”, and told to address all human rights violations and ensure consistent follow-up with the state authorities. This may surprise those who have bought this government’s framing of the matter, where all those who oppose its violence are “anti-nationals”. However, that is not how the rest of the world views it, and proper democracies must engage with civil society.

In India, human rights defenders languish in detention for years without trial under various draconian laws, including UAPA, with not a squeal from the NHRC. This includes those detained in connection with the Bhima Koregaon-Elgar Parishad case for more than five years; Kashmiri human rights defender Khurram Parvez, who has been in detention since November

2021; and Umar Khalid. The NHRC has not taken any concrete steps to respond to the situation of the HRDs or to intervene in a timely manner despite various UN special rapporteurs calling on the Indian authorities to release these individuals. The NHRC has been next to useless on the issue of Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir, communal violence in Haryana and Uttarakhand and other ones that made the headlines. It has not covered itself in glory and the predicament it and the government now find itself in is of their own making. India holds an “A” rating currently and the deferral of reaccreditation means its “A” rating is under threat. That further means that the NHRC stands to lose its voting position in the United Nations Human Rights Council and other bodies. This can only be corrected by doing the right thing, which nobody is stopping the government from doing.

All of us, including all the signatories to that letter, want to see India accredited at the highest level on the global body. However, such an accreditation should be an honest one, reflective of a strong and independent human rights body in India committed in particular to responding to the rights violations by the State. It should not be an automatic right given to the self-appointed “mother of democracy”.

First published by [The Wire](#)

*Aakar Patel is an author and columnist.*

**We must be free not because we claim freedom, but because we practice it.**

— William Faulkner



## THE SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ



BhaiPal  
@RayiCis

If we're discussing banning an unlawful organization, Arambai Tenggol tops the list, something even @manipur\_police would support.

Is the #Manipur govt overlooking their illegal activities in the valley and their constant attacks on the hill district people?

Double standards? 🙄

www.thehindu.com  
The Hindu

Manipur Police accuse radical outfit Arambai Tengol of extortion, assault

For 2024 — Manipur Police said that Arambai Tengol is engaged in many "anti-social activities".

many anti-social activities like assaulting civilians, snatching of vehicles from public/ govt officials. They are also indulging in extortion from the common public and business men." 29 Feb 2024

https://thehilljournal.com + manip...

https://m.thewire.in > security > m...  
TheWire.in

Manipur Police Registers Zero FIRs on Killing of 2 Kuki-Zo Men

5 Apr 2024 — The cases have been registered under section 16 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, section 3 of the SC & ST (Prevention of ...

https://nagalandpost.com > kuki-b...  
Nagaland Post

Kuki body urges upon Gol to ban Arambai Tengol

6 Jan 2024 — ... Arambai Tenggol as an outlawed and legal arms outfit. Committee on Tribal Unity also questioned the rationality of the visit of the three ...

10:14 AM · May 24, 2024 · 317 Views



Arijit Kuki  
@ArijitNobody

8 villages giving humanitarian shelter to the war affected Myanmar citizens, only one village, Phaikoh is for Kuki. The rest belong to the Tangkhul villages. Out of 5649 refugees in Kamjong district, 28% belong to ethnic Kuki while 72% belong to other .

Illegal?

#Manipur

REFUGEE BIFURCATION IN KAMJONG DISTRICT MANIPUR			
#	Village	Whether Kuki or Non-Kuki Village	# of Refugees
1	Phaikoh	Kuki	1,591
2	Shangkhalok/Khenroram	Non-Kuki	661
3	Skippe	Non-Kuki	356
4	Pilong	Non-Kuki	595
5	Aloyo & Choro	Non-Kuki	414
6	Wanglee	Non-Kuki	570
7	Namlee	Non-Kuki	1087
8	K Ashang Khullen Aze	Non-Kuki	375
	Total		5,649
	Total Refugees in Kuki village		1,591
	Total Refugees in Non-Kuki village		4,058
	% of Refugees in Kuki Village		28%
	% of Refugees in Non-Kuki Village		72%

2:35 PM · May 24, 2024 · 518 Views



## THE HOME DEPARTMENT DRAMA







# WE FIGHT FOR OUR LAND

- Hillsman J. Tearsworth



They say -

Greedy men fight for silver and gold;  
Lustful men fight for flesh and women;  
Hungry men fight for butter and bread;  
Evil men fight to destroy humanity;  
Slaves fight for their freedom and glory.  
Yet, we fight for our land and future!

Oh yes!

Who wouldn't love gold and silver?  
Who wouldn't need butter and bread?  
Yet, it's more beautiful to love our land!  
Where our heroes rest beneath it,  
And wild lilies bloom upon their graves.  
They died while fighting for our future.

They say -

There is always a price to pay for love.  
Be it women or gold, freedom or land!  
The more the love, the higher the price tag.  
How much is the price for our land and future?  
How much have we paid so far to get it back?  
We must pay it all before it's too late!

Never say -

"The price is too heavy to pay!"  
Indeed, our land is too beautiful to say that!  
That means the price can't be less, we know it!  
We must prepare well to pay it off!  
Let's not bargain, nor offer them lesser terms!  
It must be paid in full through our highest sacrifices!