

# Thingkho *Le* Malcha

A Daily Newsletter by KSO Media & Documentation Cell



## AWAITING JUSTICE



### HAOGOULEN DOUNGEL (27 YEARS)

S/O HOLMANG DOUNGEL

ADDRESS: YANGNOMPхай VILLAGE, LAMKA

DATE OF INCIDENT: 07<sup>TH</sup> 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.



# SADAR HILLS KUKI MLAs CONDEMN MEITEI AGGRESSION DURING CHRISTMAS, CALL FOR RESTRAINT AND VIGILANCE

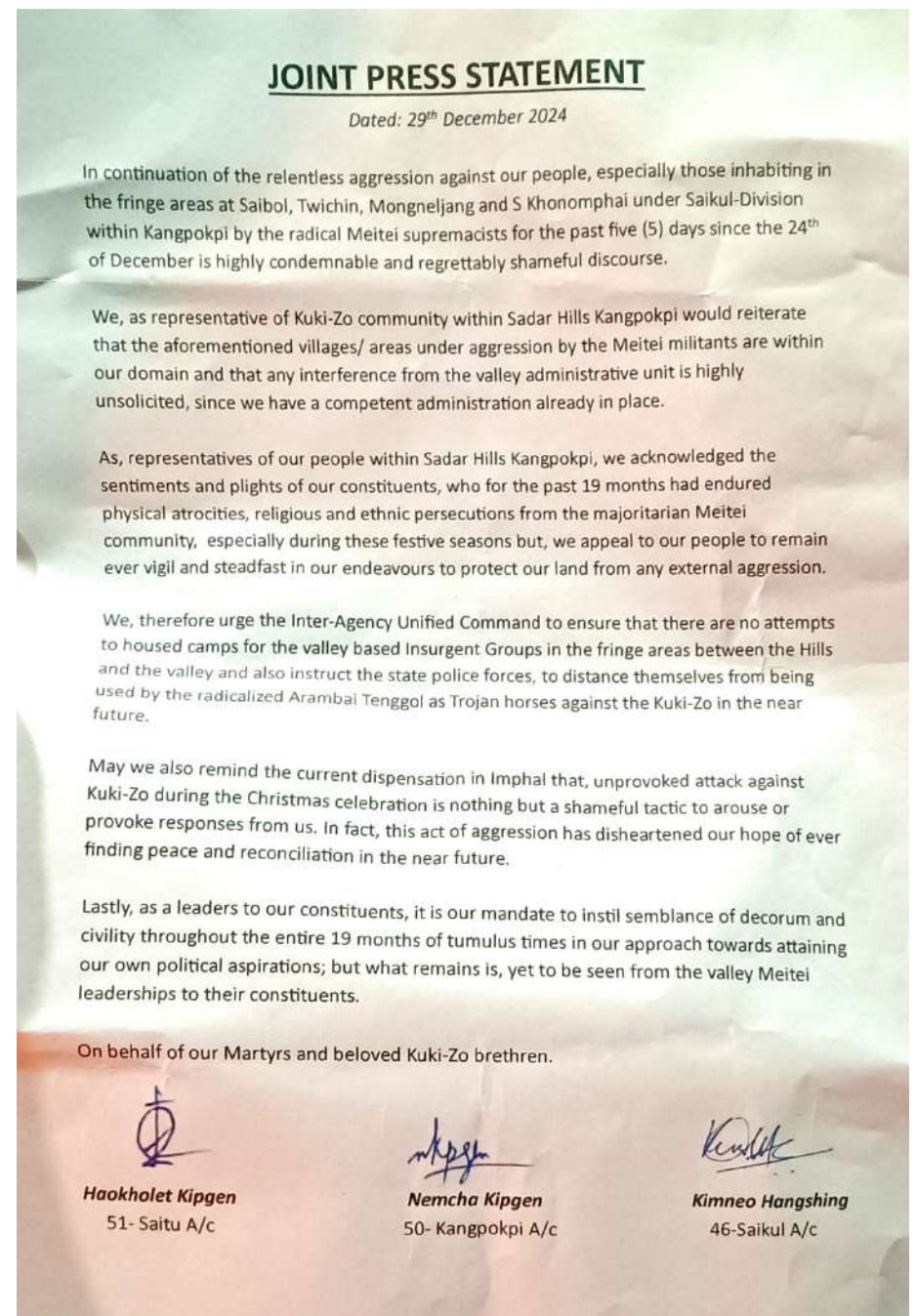
The Kuki-Zo leadership in Sadar Hills, Kangpokpi, has strongly denounced the ongoing attacks on their communities in fringe areas such as Saibol, Twichin, Mongneljang, and S. Khonomphai. These assaults, allegedly carried out by radical Meitei groups since December 24, have cast a shadow over Christmas celebrations, drawing sharp condemnation.

In a joint statement, the three MLAs, Nemcha Kipgen, Minister for Textiles, Commerce and Industries and Cooperation, Haokholet Kipgen and Kimneo Hangshing called the aggression “shameful and condemnable,” asserting that the targeted areas lie firmly within their administrative domain. They rejected interference from valley-based authorities, emphasizing the competence of their governance structures.

For 19 months, the Kuki-Zo community has endured ethnic and religious persecution, the statement highlighted, with the recent violence adding to their suffering during a season meant for peace. Yet, the leadership urged their people to remain vigilant and steadfast, prioritizing the protection of their land without resorting to retaliation.

The leaders also appealed to the Inter-Agency Unified Command to prevent the establishment of camps for valley-based insurgent groups in the sensitive hill-valley border areas. They further cautioned state police against becoming tools of radical organizations like Arambai Tenggol, which they accused of acting as “Trojan horses” in the conflict.

“This unprovoked aggression during Christmas is a deliberate provocation designed to erode our hopes for peace and reconciliation,” the statement declared. The Kuki-Zo leadership expressed deep disappointment



with the valley-based Meitei leadership’s failure to foster harmony, contrasting it with their own commitment to pursuing political aspirations through civil and restrained means.

The message concluded with a call for resilience and unity, urging the Kuki-Zo people to rise above provocations and continue their dignified fight for justice and self-determination.

# KUKI-ZO COUNCIL CONDEMNS RELENTLESS ATTACK ON ITS COMMUNITY

The Kuki-Zo Council condemns in the strongest terms the ongoing and relentless attacks on Kuki-Zo communities, particularly the recent violent incidents in the Saibol-Twichin area. These attacks, carried out by Valley-Based Insurgent Groups (VBIGs) demonstrate the continuous, insidious efforts to destabilize and disenfranchise the Kuki-Zo people, says KZC.

The Kuki body, rejected as a legitimate organisation based in the state by the Manipur government, says that the calculated attempt to undermine the safety, security, and dignity of the Kuki-Zo people, particularly during Christmas is not only a blatant disregard for the lives and well-being of the Kuki-Zo community but is a grievous case of religious oppression of the minority Christian community. The coordinated and relentless attacks by the combined force of VBIGs, Arambai Tenggol, and Meitei Police commandos against the Kuki-Zo people demand a fitting response from the central government.



Further, the Kuki-Zo Council expresses grave concern over the partiality and bias displayed by the Central Security Forces deployed in the region. While the Kuki-Zo people continue to face terror and violence, the Central Forces seem to focus their operations within Kuki-Zo areas, as though punishing the very victims of these attacks. It is deeply troubling why the Kuki-Zo community is subjected to increased security.

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## STATIONING VBIGs IN FRINGE AREAS FUELS NEW UNREST IN MANIPUR CLAIMS COTU

In a bold demonstration of unity and defiance, the Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU) organized a 12-hour total shutdown across Sadar Hills in Kangpokpi District, alongside a public protest at Gamgiphai. The action was in response to alleged ongoing attacks by armed miscreants from the valley, which began on Christmas Eve in the Bungpi region.

The shutdown, which lasted from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., brought normal life in the district to a standstill. Vehicular movement was completely halted, and business establishments and markets remained closed



for the day. The protest signaled a unified stand against the escalating violence and the forced

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demolition of defensive structures in Kuki-Zo fringe areas.

Adding to the resistance, hundreds of Kuki-Zo women took to the fringe area in the Bungpi region, forming human barriers to prevent security forces from demolishing community-built bunkers. Their collective action underscored the community's determination to defend its territories amidst ongoing aggression.

At the protest site in Gamgiphai, demonstrators raised powerful slogans such as "Meitei Narrative - Wrong Narrative," "Our Volunteers - Our Shield," and "Let Us Celebrate Our Festival - Without Fear!" These chants highlighted the community's rejection of alleged false narratives and their demand for peace and security during the festive season.

CoTU leaders reiterated their call for the central government to address the root causes of the conflict, particularly the presence of valley-based insurgent groups in the fringe areas. They emphasized that the Kuki-Zo community would continue to defend their land and stand against any attempts to undermine their rights and safety.

The protest and shutdown reflect the mounting frustration and resilience of the Kuki-Zo community, which has endured months of violence and instability. CoTU called on the government to prioritize dialogue and take immediate action to ensure peace and security in the region.

Addressing the media, CoTU Spokesperson Ng. Lun Kipgen condemned the relentless assaults on the Kuki-Zo community's fringe areas, including Saibol, Twitchin, S. Khonomphai, and Mongneljang, even on Christmas Day.

"Today, we gather to voice our deep resentment against these unabated attacks. It is not us, but the valley-based

insurgent groups, who initiated aggression on Christmas Eve, persisting for five consecutive days," Kipgen declared.

"Despite their provocations, we chose peace, honoring our festive season of harmony," he added.

The spokesperson appealed to the central government for immediate intervention, emphasizing that the continued presence of valley-based insurgent groups in fringe areas is the root cause of unrest.

"As long as these groups remain in our regions, we will defend our land. No force—whether the army, central, or state—has the right to dismantle our defensive positions unless these insurgents are first removed," he asserted.

Kipgen also highlighted discussions with the Centre-appointed DGP of Manipur, reinforcing the urgent need to address this issue.

Addressing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah directly, Kipgen expressed the community's exhaustion after enduring 19 months of ethnic and religious persecution.

"Isn't it shameful that this conflict has dragged on for nearly two years? This issue can be resolved in a single day through political dialogue. No amount of military intervention can bring peace—it must be dialogue-driven," Kipgen emphasized.

The Kuki-Zo community's message is clear: remove the valley insurgents, restore peace, and end this prolonged conflict, he asserted.

# FROM TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH: ARMY SEPOY WHOSE HOME WAS DESTROYED IN MANIPUR VIOLENCE, SET TO BECOME OFFICER

Solomon, an Army sepoy whose home was destroyed by a mob in his native village of Songgel in Manipur's Churachandpur district at the height of the strife in the state in May 2023, is now set to become an officer.

Despite facing numerous challenges back home, the 24-year-old remained focused and passed the Army Cadet College (ACC) exam and the Services Selection Board (SSB) interview. He is currently assigned to his battalion, the 15 Assam Regiment, in Mumbai.

"We lost everything in the conflict. We don't have anything left. He was our only hope, and he accomplished something that nobody in the village could have imagined," Solomon's mother, Grace Chinkhonei told TOI from Manipur. "It's a proud moment for me and the entire village as he will be the first person from our village to become an army officer."

Grace and Solomon's two brothers live in a house on rent in Molnoi village in Chandel district. "We don't know what our house [in Churachandpur] looks like because tension persists. We are not allowed to visit due to safety and security reasons. Solomon took a loan to build the house. We lost everything when the mob attacked, forcing us to leave the house and flee to the forest for safety. My son has given us great hope for a brighter future," she added. Solomon joined the Army in 2020 as a recruit in the Assam Regiment Centre, Shillong. After training, he was inducted into the 15 Assam Regiment Battalion.

According to Army regulations, Other Ranks (ORs) personnel can take the ACC exam to become officers. Solomon's family said the commanding officer of his battalion helped him prepare.

"Without unit support, Solomon would not have prepared well for the examination and SSB interview. He could not clear the first attempt. In the second attempt, he got



guidance from his seniors in the unit and that proved decisive for him," Solomon's brother Daniel said.

According to an army source, Solomon is the first in the unit who cleared ACC and got selected. "It is an inspirational achievement as other personnel will also get motivated to opt for this entry," the source said.

The Army's Southern Command also lauded Solomon's feat on its official X handle: "Amid the turmoil in his home state of Manipur, Sepoy Solomon of 15 Assam exemplifies resilience. After losing everything, he transformed adversity into strength by clearing the prestigious ACC exam. Now on the path to becoming an officer, his journey is a testament to hope and determination. Inspirational."

ACC entry is a service entry, and only serving personnel, with at least two years of experience, are eligible. Once a soldier clears SSB interview, he has to complete three years of military training at the Army Cadet College in Dehradun.

After that, he has to undergo a year of training at the Indian Military Academy. He will then be commissioned into the Army. (TOI)



# KANGPOKPI MOURNS LOSS OF HAOKHOLAL HANGSHING, A BEACON OF HOPE AND PROGRESS

The town of Kangpokpi was shrouded in grief as news broke of the untimely demise of Haokholal Hangshing, a towering figure in the region's history and former Chairman of the Sadar Hills Autonomous District Council (SH-ADC).

He tragically passed away in a fatal accident on the evening of December 29 at Kangpokpi, just days before his 78th birthday.

The incident occurred while Hangshing was returning home from the Sunday evening church service, a routine that reflected his deep faith and commitment to his community.

As he walked along the highway, he was struck by a two-wheeler. The impact was severe, and Hangshing was immediately rushed to a local hospital. Due to the gravity of his injuries, he was transferred to a hospital in a neighboring district, where he fought valiantly but succumbed to his injuries later that evening.

Born on January 2, 1947, Haokholal Hangshing was a pillar of strength to his family, and a beacon of hope for his community. He was the eldest son among the eight siblings of the late Khatkhopao Hangshing and Dimting Hangshing. Despite losing all his siblings in earlier years, he remained a steadfast figure for his family and community.

Haokholal's remarkable journey began with his graduation from St. Edmund's College, Shillong, in 1971. He later married Tingneihing Hangshing on August 6, 1975, building a loving family that includes two sons, two daughters, and seven grandchildren.

His professional life was marked by dedication and service. Starting as a Progress Assistant in SH-ADC, he climbed the ranks to become the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from 1994 to 2006. He entered the political arena as a Member of the District Council (MDC) and served as Vice Chairman (2010) –2012) and Chairman (2012–2020), leaving an indelible mark on the region's governance and development.

The accident that claimed his life has left Kangpokpi in



mourning. As a mark of respect, the Kangpokpi Town Committee (KTC) called for a complete shutdown of the town. Thousands gathered to pay their last respects to a man whose life was defined by humility, resilience, and a profound commitment to his people.

Hangshing was considered the backbone of Kangpokpi Town and a faithful servant of Sadar Hills. In a final act of reverence and sorrow, the volunteers of the Kangpokpi Town Committee raised their weapons to the sky, delivering a solemn gun salute that echoed through the silent town, a haunting farewell to a leader whose absence will forever leave a void in their hearts.

Haokholal Hangshing was laid to rest in Kangpokpi, the land he loved and served until his last breath. His legacy will live on in the hearts of those who knew him, a reminder of a life dedicated to progress and unity.

Kangpokpi AC MLA Nemcha Kipgen, who is also the Minister for Textiles, Commerce and Industries, and Cooperation, along with Saitu AC MLA Haokholet Kipgen and many other prominent Kuki-Zo leaders, attended the burial ceremony of Haokholal Hangshing at Kangpokpi Town.

Kuki Inpi Manipur, Sadar Hills Chiefs' Association, Kuki Inpi Sadar Hills, Committee on Tribal Unity, KSO Sadar Hills, Thadou Youth Association General Headquarters, and numerous other civil society organizations and local bodies express their profound sorrow over the untimely demise of Haokholal Hangshing, a visionary leader and dedicated servant of his people.



THE HINDU



FEATURED ARTICLE

## Restoring Constitutional Order in Manipur

John Simte

An editorial titled 'Welcome spotlight: On the Supreme Court directive to Manipur government' published in The Hindu on December 14, 2024, rightly mentions that the executive's reticence and lack of accountability, both at the federal and State levels, for the unrelenting ethnic violence in Manipur has again forced the higher judiciary to intervene. However, we must be circumspect in projecting the Supreme Court as a benevolent institutional actor that has dutifully responded with alacrity matched by requisite conviction, and concern to consistently hold the executive to account.

A thorough assessment of the Supreme Court's interventions in Manipur over the last 18 months and the incremental steps it can take to rebuild trust in the rule of law is at least merited. In general, we can witness a gradual slide towards institutional dereliction, complacency, and apathy that is unbecoming of a Constitutional Court meant for all Indians. This is evident from the fact that, except for the last hearing on December 9, where it sought details of destroyed and encroached properties, the court did not hold any effective hearings or pass corresponding orders in 2024.

Throughout this year, the main batch of petitions on Manipur was heard only six times. In other words, the court functioned as if its writ jurisdiction had ceased to extend to Manipur, even as 2024 saw some of the bloodiest phases of violence and gruesome killing of innocent victims belonging to both warring ethnic communities. Adding to this are the continuation of

various events that emerged on or after May 3, 2023, and are unprecedented in the life of our republic. The list of illustrations is lengthy and extensive — the demographic and geographical separation of the State and its enforcement through a militarised buffer zone, the State's complete surrender over the monopoly of violence and law and order to armed militant groups, and the administration of an illegal, hateful ethno-cultural oath to legislators by the Arambai Tenggol.

On some occasions, the Supreme Court did respond, especially when it took suo moto cognisance after a video depicting tribal women being sexually assaulted and paraded naked by a mob went viral on social media. But its responses were episodic across several months in 2023, only to remain largely absent in 2024. This is evident as magisterial courts in Assam, to whom the Supreme Court had given charge of pre-trial procedures, await its directions to take cognisance of the chargesheets filed and begin the trial. For instance, the trial is yet to begin in the case of the sexual assault and naked parade of two tribal women, even though the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) had filed chargesheets against six accused persons, including a juvenile, in October 2023.

In an order dated August 7, 2023, the Supreme

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Court had directed: the formation of a committee of three retired judges, led by Justice Gita Mittal, to look into all matters of relief and rehabilitation; the constitution of 42 Special Investigation Teams (SITs) in six groups based on the crimes, comprising CBI officers drawn from cadres/States and headed by a retired Director-General of Police. By all accounts, the functioning of the former has been reduced to a mechanical, bureaucratic ritual of filing occasional reports. Several tribal student organisations have since also filed separate pleas before the Supreme Court for relocating displaced students to other universities and professional institutes. Simultaneously, a report in *The Hindu* (December 18, 2024) stated that chargesheets for only 6% (192 cases) out of 3,023 registered cases have been filed by the SIT till November 20, 2024. It remains unclear how much of the structure envisioned for the SITs by the Supreme Court is still intact, as publicly available information suggests that multiple IPS officers on deputation to the SITs from Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, and Delhi have either sought repatriation or have already been repatriated back to their home cadres.

**CRUCIAL MEASURES**

These directions, initially viewed with a high degree of optimism, have overwhelmingly failed to instill any sense of justice among the people of Manipur or arrest their feelings of institutional neglect and the complete erosion of the rule of law. Now that the Supreme Court appears

to have turned its attention back to Manipur, it must undertake the following measures to provide the State with a much-needed healing touch.

First, given the volatile situation in Manipur, inimical to a fair criminal justice system, the trials of cases investigated by the SITs should be transferred forthwith outside Manipur, and the appropriate trial courts should be allowed to take cognisance of chargesheets already filed. Second, the SITs should be directed to fill the existing informational vacuum and provide timely updates to petitioners and the families of deceased victims about the progress of the investigations and trials.

Thirdly, considering the enormity of multi-faceted issues arising from the conflict in Manipur that persist and are likely to continue due to the sharp governance deficit, a bipartisan High Powered Commission comprising eminent persons, including members from both conflicting communities, should be constituted. This commission, in turn, be directed to report its findings directly to a Special Bench of the Supreme Court, which should be given the task of exclusively hearing cases related to the ethnic violence in Manipur.

Published by [The Hindu](#)

(John Simte is a lawyer and researcher)



**The key to successful leadership today  
is influence, not authority.**

— *Kenneth Blanchard*





SOCIAL MEDIA  
THE BUZZ

Ravinder Kapur. @RavinderKapur2

This is how #Metei women led public block Central Forces, sealing their Militants to attack #Kuki-zo Tribal villages since 24th Dec.2024 till today #seperateadminstration4kukizo the only solution to this conflict

@RasushAnkita



From PK Hangmi पीके हांगमी

12:48 PM · Dec 29, 2024 · 1,352 Views

The Proud Indian @DynastyDoungel

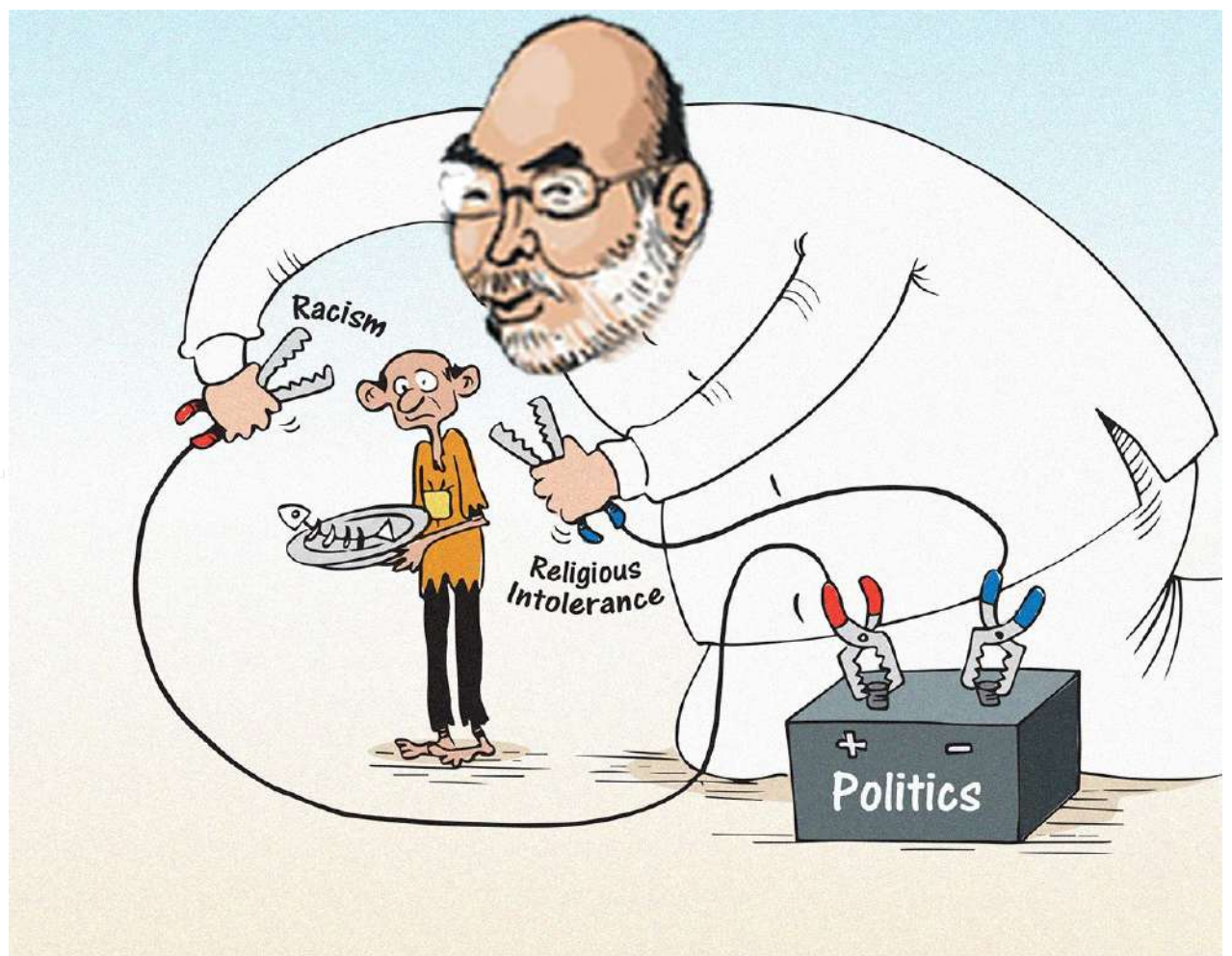
When they were celebrating Christmas, you provoke them by attacking with all your might. When they retaliate, you cry and sent CAPF for combing operation. @AmitShah ji please inform @NBirenSingh, he's dealing with a community who kick out mighty British. @PMOIndia @HMOIndia



11:30 AM · Dec 29, 2024 · 4,756 Views

Post MORTEM

THE TWO  
POLES OF  
PROLONGED  
VIOLENCE:  
ELECTORAL  
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# THE LOST *Together*ness

Oh! the bells ring clear in distant lands,  
Festive joy springs forth, where peace still stands.  
Yet here we sit, our hearts in pain,  
Separated by conflict's cruel chain.

We see the world in festive bloom,  
While we endure our shared gloom.  
Their joy, a dagger sharp and deep,  
As we in fragments strive to keep  
The hope of kin, of hearth, of song,  
Though exiled from where we belong.

The glow of Christmas lights feels dim,  
The carols sung, a distant hymn.  
Their joy reminds us of times gone by,  
When laughter and love filled the night sky.

"LENKHOM," our cherished, joyful nights  
with "LAAMKOUL",  
By the warm hearth's glow, hearts alight.  
God's Word shared, our spirits fed,  
Now echoes faint, where tears are shed.

The feast of Christmas, the New Year's cheer,  
Once brought us close, year after year.  
But now we wander, scattered, apart,  
The loss cuts deep, piercing the heart.

Yet, oh, "KA BOULNA VAANGKHO MITE,"  
Hold fast to faith through this bitter fight.  
For the Father above sees each tear we weep,  
His love a promise, steadfast and deep.

One day the roads will lead us home.  
No more in exile shall we roam.  
Together again, in His embrace,  
Our sorrows erased by eternal grace.

So, keep faith, dear ones, though skies are gray,  
Our deliverance is not far.  
And one day soon, when tears are done,  
A family reunited, our lives restored,  
By the Hand of our faithful, loving Lord,  
We'll sing and celebrate as one beneath the same roof.

~ SD William Haokip