



Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

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Sunday June 11th, 2023

CONDEMNATION

It has come to the notice of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF) of the constitution of a Peace Committee by the central government. While the ITLF stands firmly on the need for peace in the region, it cannot overlook the fact that Kuki-Zo villages across the foothills in Kangchup, Sugnu, Kangvai, and other areas have faced constant attacks by Meitei militants in the last few days. At present, more than 160 Kuki-Zo villages have been burnt and continue to be under constant attack from Meitei militants backed by the State Police.

The ITLF strongly reiterates the need for normalcy to prevail before the constitution of any such Peace Committee in the region. No such normalcy can be maintained as long as the state police and Meitei militant groups are given free rein to terrorize Kuki-Zo tribal villages in the foothills, preventing the Central Armed Forces from taking control of the situation. This necessitates the immediate imposition of President's Rule in order to curb the incursions made by Meitei Militants and state police on Kuki-Zo tribal lands, as well as the Meitei's allegations of Kuki-Zo village volunteers (termed by state media as 'Kuki militants') attacking Meitei villages.

The ITLF strongly reiterates its position that the state machinery under the Chief Ministership of N. Biren Singh is directly responsible for the engineering and escalation of the violence. His constant rhetoric and hate speech against the Kuki-Zo community, the wholesale tagging of Kuki-Zo community as drug peddlers, terrorists, and illegal immigrants directly shadow the open declaration of genocide by the Meitei Leepun's chief Pramot Singh on National Media and the declaration of proxy war of "Chin-Kuki Narco-terrorism" by fringe Meitei groups like the COCOMI and other radical groups like Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun.

Reiterating the urgent need for peace, ITLF strongly condemns the inclusion of CM N Biren Singh, the very perpetrator of the current violence in the Peace Committee. The creation of such a Peace Committee, made by the central government, must be made only after conditions of normalcy and security for the Kuki-tribal villages have been secured for a certain period of time.

Ginza Vualzong,

Media & Publicity,
Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

Email: itlfmediacell@gmail.com | Phone: 8826532299
Office: 203, LMC, Lamka, Outer Manipur.

