



Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

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PRESS RELEASE

44 days have passed since the ethnic violence erupted in Manipur. Over 100 lives have been lost, more than 300 Churches gutted down, 200 villages burnt and many properties destroyed. Yet, the Prime Minister has not made any comment on the Manipur crisis to date. Law and order have completely collapsed in Manipur and yet President's Rule is not imposed in the state.

The ITLF requests immediate action from the Chief Minister of Manipur and the Home Minister of India to address the ongoing ethnic cleansing faced by the indigenous Kuki-Zo tribes in Manipur since 3rd May 2023. We call upon them to answer the following questions:

1. Is it true that a relative of the Chief Minister of Manipur is a prominent drug lord in Imphal?
2. Is it true that a relative of the former Chief Minister of Manipur is a prominent drug lord in Imphal?
3. Are you ready to disclose the report made by the Former Additional SP Brinda Thongnaojam to the Chief Minister where she gave the names of politicians and drug lords engaged in the drug business in Manipur?
4. Are you aware that in Thoubal District right under your nose there is a drug manufacturing facility that converts poppy produce into brown sugar/ heroin for years?
5. Can you explain that though over 3000 FIRs have been filed there is not a single FIR against the Arambai Tenggol members and its head Kourounganba Khuman?
6. Photographs of Arambai Tenggol members and its head Kourounganba Khuman carrying sophisticated weapons have appeared in the media. Is it the Government's view that their possession of such weapons is lawful?
7. Can you explain why no FIRs have been filed against Pramot Singh the head of the Meitei Leepun who has been video-graphed in a TV interview saying that they will annihilate and wipe out all the Kukis (Kuki-Zo people) from Manipur?
8. Are you aware of the judgment of the Supreme Court where Justice KM Joseph & Justice BV Nagarathna in an order directed police and authorities to "immediately and suo-motu register cases against hate speech makers without waiting for a complaint to be filed"? Why was this not done in the case of Kourounganba Khuman and Pramot Singh?
9. Is it correct that after Mr. Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India, gave solemn assurances to the Supreme Court on 8.5.2023 and 17.05.2023 that all killings would be stopped and that all killings had in fact stopped, that about 100 killings (including women & children) and burning down of villages of Kuki-Zo have happened after the assurance?
10. Can you confirm that over 90% of those killed are of Kuki-Zo community?
11. Media has widely reported that certain groups looted the armories of the police stations, Indian Reserved Battalions, and Manipur Rifle Camps. Can you provide the names of the police stations and camps where there was no resistance by the Officers in-Charge at all and not a single shot was fired to prevent the looting?

12. Was any action taken against those in charge of the police stations for not resisting the looting?
13. On what basis were the members of the Commission of Inquiry chosen when reputed and unbiased Mr Justice Retd A.P. Shah former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court and former Chairman of the Law Commission of India was available?
14. Is it true that even though the Indian Army which is trusted by the people was stationed in Imphal before 3.05.2023 when the killings began, orders were not issued by the Chief Minister for the army to intervene at will to prevent bloodshed even till today?
15. Is it true that Art 355 of the Indian Constitution which requires the Central Government to take charge of the public order situation in the State, has been declared? If yes why did the Chief Minister order the Army Commanders not to act without his order?
16. How many more Tribals must be killed before the Central Government imposes President Rule?
17. Is it justified for the Chief Minister against whom there are serious allegations as the instigator of the violence, to include himself in the Peace Committee?
18. How many Tribal dead bodies are still lying in the mortuaries and since when? How many are in cold storage and how many are outside and since when? How many post-mortems are yet to be done?

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