



## Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

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### PRESS RELEASE

It is unsurprising that Manipur CM N. Biren Singh continues to spew lies and openly display his communal mindset almost three months into the ethnic conflict, of which he is the main architect.

Biren's oft-repeated use of words like "outsiders" and "poppy cultivators", which he mentioned again at his speech during "Observance of Kargil-Diwas" programme on July 26, are becoming tiring and unimaginative. It is the CM's majoritarian agenda, which required a vicious propaganda against minority Kuki-Zo tribals, that created a communal divide in the state and led to the violence..

His statement that "Kukis are not treated as outsiders" is totally opposite to the way his government and the majority community acted. The death and destruction wrought on innocent Kuki-Zo tribals in the valley are visible for all to see.

In regard to his comment about Mizoram's chief minister, Shri. Zoramthanga has every right to be involved and speak out on the atrocities committed against his blood brothers, the Zo- ethnic group (Kuki-Zo).

Regarding his remarks criticising the EU for their concern about minorities, it is to be noted that the brutal killings of their Christian brothers and the burning of 360 churches have deeply wounded their sentiments, leaving them no choice but to speak out.

Biren said he will not tolerate COTU and ITLF, which have rallied the tribals and organised relief measures. We will not tolerate Biren's government either.

The CM's statement that a separate administration will not happen should have been said before his community decided to separate us. Meiteis are the one who drove us out, and led to our geographical separation. The only way forward is for the central government to deliver a political solution.

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