



Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

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ITLF Condemns Manipur Government's "No Work No Pay" Order

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) strongly opposes the recent "No Work No Pay" circular issued by the Government of Manipur, dated Imphal, June 26, 2023 (ESTT-302/1/2022-GAD-GAD). This order, which demands the attendance of government employees at their place of posting, is unrealistic, insensitive, and mala fide.

The tribal communities, who constitute a portion of the state government's workforce, have been subjected to inhumane treatment in the Imphal Valley and elsewhere and hunted like animals since May 3, 2023. Their homes, properties, personal documents, and belongings have been looted and burned, leaving them without any means to return to work or their residence.

To highlight a few such examples, a tribal tax assistant Letminthang Haokip was dragged out from his official quarter and burned alive along with his belongings. The Union Minister of Finance, Ms. Nirmala Sitharaman, and the IRS Association mourned his tragic demise. Furthermore, two tribal girls were mercilessly killed by a Meitei mob, and suspected to have been raped as well, while a nursing student was forcefully evicted from her hostel amidst horrifying threats of "rape her" and "kill her." These accounts of violence continue with a construction worker enduring beatings so severe that his barely breathing body was left in the morgue. A petrol pump employee was picked out for a brutal assault at his workplace followed by mistreatment by the Imphal police. Mrs. Hahat from B. Phainom village watched the horror unfold on May 4, 2023, when her brother and his son were killed in front of her eyes. Her niece and the village chief's wife were disrobed, paraded around naked, and raped. During the targeted killings of tribals in the Imphal valley, even police stations were not safe, as many tribals who sought refuge with the police found out. Mobs dragged them out and killed them as men in uniform were either unwilling or helpless to act.

It is utterly insensitive for the Meitei-centric state government of Manipur to expect these traumatized individuals or their families to resume their duties in an environment where their safety and well-being cannot be guaranteed.

The circular is an affront to the principles of equality, justice, and compassion that should guide the actions of any responsible administration, which the state government persistently lacks. We urge the central government in New Delhi to take immediate steps to provide justice, security, and rehabilitation, among many others, to the affected Tribal tribal communities.

We also urge the centre to advise the state administration to withdraw its "No Work No Pay" circular immediately.

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