## ITLF-PR-202301 PRESS CLARIFICATION 11 May 2023

In the morning of 11 May 2023 around 7:30 am the Meitei miscreants led by the Manipur Police Commando and the OC of Moirang K.H Rajen Singh attacked the tribal village volunteers who defended their villages at Mualngat and Laika of Churachandpur district. Upon being fired, the tribal village defense volunteers exchanged fire with the Police commandos. The firing lasted for over an hour and one tribal village volunteer was injured and has been taken to the Churachandpur District Hospital.

There was news reported by some media that the armed SoO group were involved in today's incident. We would like to clarify that it was a firing between the tribal village defense volunteers and the Manipur Police Commando who provoked the village volunteers by leading the Meitei miscreants to the tribal villages. It is to be noted that due to the prevailing crisis in Manipur hundreds of tribal villages have been burnt down by the Meitei miscreants and it is the duty of every villagers to defend and protect the remaining villages with their lives. We would like to emphasize that this has nothing to do with any insurgent or SoO groups but with the defense of the tribal lands and villages by the villagers.

As the tribal villagers will defend their ancestral lands with their lives, it is advised to the Police and Meitei miscreants or anyone in that matter, not to provoke the village volunteers again to avoid unwanted incidents like this morning. We will defend our ancestral land to our last breathe.

> Information Secretary, **Tribal United Volunteer**

> > \_\_\_\_