



**DAVID THIEK**  
**THE BEHEADING OF LANGZA'S GUARDIAN**







## DAVID THIEK: THE BEHEADING OF LANGZA'S GUARDIAN



**D**avid Thiek grew up in Langza, a small village surrounded by rolling hills and lush paddy fields. Located in Churachandpur district of Manipur state, the village has a mix of Hmars (Kuki-Zo tribals) and Koms (Naga tribals).

Life for the people, who mostly engage in farming, remained mostly uneventful until July 2, 2023 when the ethnic violence in Manipur reached the village in the form of a bloodthirsty Meitei mob – some in vehicles, others on foot. All were armed with guns or machetes. What happened to David that day would shock the entire country and bring to light the savagery of radical Meteis.

David Thiek, born on August 27, 1992, was the older of two siblings. Their mother died when David was just six years old, while their father is physically challenged. He also suffers from memory loss since suffering a stroke two years ago. Their uncle is the main provider for the family.



---

Friends and family say David had a cheerful personality, due to which he had many friends. He was also a keen footballer, taking part in various village tournaments. But due to the family's financial condition, he was unable to pursue a career in sports.

After passing Class 12, David left for Mumbai to earn a livelihood like many other migrants from Manipur. His first job was at a KFC restaurant, after which he worked as a sales manager at a brand showroom.

When the Covid 19 pandemic struck in 2020, David returned home. His brother Abraham was engaged as a daily wage labourer while David took to odd jobs.

Just as David was planning to go back to Mumbai to work, violence erupted on May 3, 2023. Since Meiteis lived in the neighbouring village, many residents left Langza fearing an attack. But David and some of his neighbours were reluctant to leave. As farmers, their most valuable possessions were their rice stock and their homes, so some stayed back to protect their properties and tend to their fields, even though they didn't have any guns.

For almost a month into the ethnic conflict, Langza was untouched by the violence. But all that changed on July 2. Just before dawn on a Sunday, a Meitei mob numbering hundreds descended on the village. Witnesses said one group came in about 40 vehicles, while another group attacked from the upper side of the village by foot.

After being warned by a sentry, most of the non-Naga tribals managed to flee to the surrounding hills. David and his friend Richard (name changed to protect identity) were the last to be alerted. Richard said they planned on fleeing with an Aactiva scooter. As he went to get the vehicle, the Meitei mob had reached the village and started burning houses. He abandoned his plan and hid in a bush nearby, but could not warn David, who was still inside his home.



As the mob went about selectively targeting Kuki-Zo properties, David was noticed as he rushed out of the house. Richard said he heard a voice ordering the mob to catch him alive.



What happened next, the friend recalled, would haunt him for the rest of his life – the sound of David being tortured as he screamed in pain and pleaded for his life.

After being caught, David’s hands and legs were hacked with machetes. The sadistic attack did not stop there. After he could no longer scream and his body went limp, David’s head was chopped off and his decapitated head displayed on a bamboo fence. His body parts were thrown into the fire of a burning house.



*(The bloody bamboo fence where David Thiek’s decapitated head was displayed)*

The killers posted a video of the severed head on social media, with a voice in the background commenting: “This is the face of a Kuki. You look beautiful, you look beautiful... We’ve been trying to catch you people for a long time.” The voice ended with an expletive.

Another social media post shows one of the attackers, with his face blurred, walking with the decapitated head of David in one hand and a machete in the other.

The shirt, pants, military vest and shoes worn by the man turned out to be exactly same as the ones worn on several occasions publicly by Mr. Mairembam Romesh, the PRO to the MLA of Kumbi assembly constituency.

David’s family filed an FIR with the police, but no action has been taken by the state or central government. Even though one of the killers (who happens to be a public face) was identified and his images went viral on social media, no action has been taken against him and no investigation undertaken to probe if he was actually involved in the gruesome attack.

**The Real Face of #Meitei Terrorist who beheaded Mr. David Thiek (Kuki- Zo- Hmar)**

DIRECTORATE FOR WELFARE OF OBC & SCs, GOVT. OF MANIPUR  
LIST OF SELECTED BENEFICIARIES UNDER SPECIAL CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO SCHEDULED CASTES SUB-PLAN (SC) SCHEME FOR THE YEAR 2019-20 & 2020-21

Sl. No.	Name of the Beneficiary	Father/Husband's Name	Address
221	Mairembam Romesh Singh	Sh. M. Karamba Singh	Zawl Baramgo
222	Mairembam Sujit Singh	Sh. Mairembam Mapuk Singh	Mairang College Mairembam Lekhai
223	Mayangbam Inocho Devi	Sh. M. Meri Singh	Kakching Khuryal Lekhai

**Mairembam Romesh Mangang**  
905 followers • 206 following  
PRO TO HON'BLE MLA KUMBI



---

The brutal murder, which has shocked the entire Kuki-Zo community, is a symbol of the savagery and moral hollowness of the Metei community in dealing with their fellow human beings.

David Thiek may be gone, but he continues to live in the hearts of all Kuki-Zo tribes as the brave unarmed guardian of Langza.

