



Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

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Tuesday, 12 September 2023

PRESS CONDEMNATION

The attacks against Kuki-Zo tribals in Manipur by Meitei militants continue unabated, with three civilians killed this morning in Kangpokpi district.

Around 8:20 a.m. on Tuesday, VBIGs with sophisticated weapons ambushed civilians traveling on the road between Ireng and Kharam Vaiphei villages. The deceased are identified as Ngamminlun Lhouvum, Satneo Tuboi, and Ngamminlun Kipgen, a musician who is also secretary of the Thadou Artiste Association.

The involvement of well-trained and armed Meitei terrorist groups, working hand in glove with the Meitei population, has given a new dimension to the ethnic conflict and will be a big obstacle in the road towards peace in the state. A report by the news agency PTI said officials have been warning for the past few weeks about the resurgence of banned valley-based groups like UNLF, PLA, KYKL, and PREPAK in the state.

The Kuki-Zo tribals have steadfastly tried to maintain peace after the initial bout of violence in May, but the unending attacks and arson are testing us to the limit.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) vehemently condemns the latest killing of tribal civilians and urges the central government to crack down on valley insurgent groups and reimpose the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act in valley areas immediately since the state government and sections of the police force are openly siding with the majority community..

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