



**Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)**  
Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

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**PRESS RELEASE**

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) vehemently condemns the shocking and barbaric incident that has recently come to light. On October 8, 2023, a video surfaced on the internet depicting the horrific burning alive of an unidentified man belonging to the Kuki-Zo community. In this distressing 7-second video, a man dressed in a black T-shirt and camouflage pants is seen being burnt, while voices in the background converse in the Meitei language. Gunshots can also be heard in the video. The video is a harrowing testament to the ethnic cleansing campaign against the Kuki-Zo community by the majority Meiteis.

The complicity of the Manipur government has emboldened the Meiteis to take the law into their own hands. Acts such as the burning of the Anglo-Kuki War Centenary gate, the destruction of over 20 houses in Kangvai, and the killing of a pastor in Phoughakchao on May 3rd ignited an ethnic war that lasted for more than five months. During this period, Kuki-Zo individuals were relentlessly pursued and subjected to horrific violence. The free transfer of more than 6,000 sophisticated weapons and over 5 lakh rounds of ammunition into the hands of Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun further fueled the aggression against the Kuki-Zo community.

Numerous incidents of inhumane killings of Kuki-Zo people have already garnered attention. The delivery of Florence and Olivia into the hands of Meitei youths by the Meira Paibis, the parading of our two sisters naked, the burning of Tonsing, his mother Meena Hangshing, and his aunt Lydia inside an ambulance, the electrocution of Vungzagin Valte and the murder of his driver, the killing of Dallamthang Suantak, who was pulled out of the ambulance he was driving, the beheading of David Thiek, the burning alive of elderly women Chingjalu and Thiandam, and many other brutal acts against the Kuki-Zo community cannot be overlooked. The Manipur government's failure to address these heinous crimes underscores its bias and exclusionary approach, which only serves the interests of the Meiteis.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) denounces the grave injustice inflicted upon the Kuki-Zo people in the strongest terms. The selective application of justice further reinforces our demand for a separate administration. ITLF reiterates its call for a Separate Administration, as it is increasingly apparent that coexistence with the Meiteis, who have driven us out of their valley, subjected us to violence, and attacked our villages, is an untenable proposition.

**Ginza Vualzong,**  
Media & Publicity,  
Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)  
Website: <https://www.itlfmediacell.com/>

