

Mass Rally Against **ATROCITIES ON THE KUKI-ZO TRIBALS**

We demand investigations into the atrocities against the Kuki-Zo tribals

Organised by INDIGENOUS TRIBAL LEADERS' FORUM (ITLF)



PRESS HAND OUT

Date: 15th November 2023, Wednesday

November 15, 2023: The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) today organized a "Mass Rally Against Atrocities on Kuki-Zo Tribals" in Lamka district.

Tens of thousands of protesters from every corner of the district marched from three locations - Kawnpui Public Ground, Muolvaiphei Public Ground and Pearsomun Public Ground - to Tuibuong Peace Ground near the Deputy Commissioner's office, shouting slogans against the state government and demanding investigating agencies to probe cases of atrocities against tribals by the Meitei community.

The rally was held to protest the barbaric ways in which innocent Kuki-Zo civilians are murdered by Meitei mobs and the cherry-picking of cases by police and central investigating agencies like the CBI and NIA to appease the majority Meitei community at the expense of minority tribals.

While cases blamed on Kuki-Zo tribals are swiftly taken up and arrests promptly made, cases involving tribal victims are either not taken up or are stalled indefinitely.

ITLF and the entire Kuki-Zo community demand that the CBI immediately investigate or fast-track the following cases:

1. **David Thiek:** The resident of Langza village was caught by an invading Meitei mob and brutally murdered on July 2. His limbs and neck were hacked with machetes and his decapitated head was displayed on a bamboo fence. Assailants posted on social media a photo of one of them carrying David's severed head. One of the perpetrators also posted a Facebook video of David being captured. The Facebook account holder is clearly visible, including his name and face (Bz Nao Singh). This should be the easiest of cases for the CBI to solve.
2. **Viral video case:** Two Kuki-Zo women were groped and paraded naked and one of them was gang-raped on May 4. The victims say the police handed them over to a Meitei Mob which had attacked the victims' village. The mob also killed two men who were with the women. A viral video of the incident clearly shows the perpetrators. Seven men were allegedly arrested, but further progress in the case was halted after protests by Meira Paibis. What about the rest of the mob?
3. **Olivia Chongloi & Florence Hangsing:** Two young women who worked at Gama Car Wash at Konung Mamang Imphal were locked in a room by a mob including Meira Paibis. Young men entered the room and proceeded to torture them. A news report said the victims' co-workers could hear their screams and pleas for two hours. When the room was opened, it was filled with the blood and hair of the victims, who were now dead.
4. **Burning of ambulance:** On June 4, 7-year-old Tonsing Hangshing, his mother and aunt, were on their way to RIMS hospital in an ambulance. A mob led by Meira Paibis blocked the vehicle and set fire to it, killing all three.
5. **The first victim of Manipur violence:** Pastor Sehkhohao Kipgen was returning to Phoughakchao Ikhai after participating in the May 3 Tribal Solidarity March. As he reached home, a Meitei mob descended on his village and brutally beat him to death. The video of him being assaulted was shared on social media by the perpetrators.
6. **MLA Vungzagin Valte and his driver Thanghoulal:** Valte, a senior tribal legislator, was returning home after a meeting with CM Biren Singh on May 4 when he was waylaid by a mob. The MLA and his driver

were taken to an empty hall, where they were brutally assaulted with iron rods and given electric shocks. The driver succumbed to his injuries after two days, while Valte survived.

7. **Gouzavung, Goulalsang and Nancy Chingthianniang:** Mrs Gouzavung was an Under Secretary in the state government. On May 4, she and her family tried to take refuge at a nearby CRPF camp. A mob stopped their car and brutally murdered Gouzavung and her son, Goulalsang. Her daughter-in-law Nancy Chingthianniang sustained severe head injuries and fractured wrists and fingers.
8. **Hanglalmuon Vaiphei:** The 21-year-old resident of Zomi Bethel village was arrested for his Facebook post about the chief minister on April 30. On May 4, as he was being escorted from court to Sajiwa jail, a mob stopped the police vehicle carrying him and beat him to death.
9. **Domngaihching:** The mentally ill Kuki-Zo woman was shot dead by Meitei militants on July 6. Her lifeless body was left unattended for hours on the road. Meitei propagandists tried to justify the killing by labeling her as a suicide bomber.
10. **The three Chongloi ladies:** On May 4, a mob entered the home of 86-year-old Veinem Chongloi in Imphal West and bludgeoned her to death. Her two daughters, Helam and Hekim, were also tortured and killed with sharp weapons.
11. **Thiandam Vaiphei:** The 45-year-old widow was butchered at her home in Pheitaiching village, with her head, hands, and legs chopped off and her body set ablaze along with her house on May 6.
12. **Agnes Neikhohat:** The nursing student was brutally assaulted on the evening of May 4 at Nightingale Nursing Institute, Imphal, by a Meitei mob. Agnes lost three of her front teeth from the beating she received. She was left for dead after she fell unconscious.
13. **Domkhohoi:** Arambai Tenggol militants, disguised as IRB personnel, entered Khoken village on June 10 and shot dead Domkhohoi, who was praying inside the village church. Meitei propagandists justify the killing by labeling her as a sniper.
14. **Thangtinlen Khongsai:** Thangtinlen escaped from Restorer home, Imphal (a deaddiction centre) along with his friends when violence broke out. He was captured and brutally murdered by Meitei miscreants on June 14. A video showing him being tortured and shot dead was released on social media by the perpetrators of the crime.
15. **David Hrangchal:** He was mercilessly dragged out from his home at Chajing, Canchipur, on May 4 by Arambai Tenggol and tortured to death.
16. **Five civilians abducted:** Manglun Haokip, Nengkim, Neilam, John Thangjalam Haokip and Jamkhothang were travelling towards L.Phaijang village when they were captured by a Meitei mob and handed over to Arambai Tenggol. A severely injured Manglun Haokip was rescued by CRPF personnel. The rest are presumed dead.
17. **Attack on three construction workers:** Paulalmuan, David and Lunginlal were dragged out from their workplace at Kwatha Leirak, Imphal by a mob and were brutally assaulted on the road. Only David survived.
18. **Letminthang Haokip:** The tax assistant was attacked by an armed Meitei mob on May 4 at his Sangaiprou residential quarter. He was bludgeoned to death and his body burnt.
19. **Nehminlun Haokip:** On May 3, Nehminlun from A.Lhunkhojang village was tortured and burnt alive by Meitei miscreants.
20. **Henlalsiem Gangte:** He was burnt alive on May 4 at his National Game Village residence by a Meitei mob.
21. **Haominlen Chongloi:** He was forcibly dragged down from an army vehicle by a Meitei mob on May 4 and beaten to death.
22. **Jangkhopao Haokip:** He was tortured at his home by a Meitei mob led by Arambai Tenggol and was burnt alive.

This list is not exhaustive. Many more innocent Kuki-Zo civilians were brutally murdered by Meitei mobs, Arambai Tenggol and Meitei Leepun because of their ethnicity. The central government should acknowledge the situation for what it is – an ethnic cleansing of minorities by the majority.