Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

PRESS CONDEMNATION

For almost a week now, Meitei militants have attacked tribal settlements daily near the buffer zones that separate Imphal East and Kangpokpi districts in Manipur, resulting in deaths and injuries among both Kuki-Zo tribals and Meiteis.

Yesterday's multipronged attack on different areas of Kangpokpi's Saikul sub-division resulted in the death of a tribal village volunteer, Demkhogin Khongsai. Meitei militants also sabotaged power lines supplying electricity to Saikul, resulting in a complete blackout in the region. At the beginning of the month, Meitei miscreants also destroyed the lone power line supplying electricity to Lamka (Churachandpur) and Pherzawl districts.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) strongly condemns the attacks and the repeated sabotage of public utilities by Meitei radicals, which is bound to further escalate the conflict and result in the loss of more precious lives.

Last night, Meiteis in Imphal also stormed the 5th IRB headquarters in Imphal East and looted around 200 arms and 20,000 ammunition. What's more shocking is that the mob faced no resistance from police personnel who were manning the camp. The incident is reminiscent of what happened last year when thousands of guns and lakhs of ammunition from state armories were handed over to mobs in the valley.

A mob also tried to loot weapons last night from the Manipur Police Training Centre (MPTC), but they were repelled by central security forces. One BSF jawan died in the crossfire while four Meiteis were injured.

Any semblance of government control has vanished in Manipur, and violence, including in the capital, is growing day by day. How long will the central government tolerate the Meitei community's total disregard for the rule of law?

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