



Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

File No: ITLF-PR-202489

Thursday, 20 June 2024

PRESS RELEASE

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) would like to make the following public announcements in light of the ongoing crisis in Manipur:

1. Free Movement Regime (FMR)

On January 24, 2024, ITLF wrote to Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, pleading with him to reverse the decision to remove the Free Regime Movement (FMR) along the border between India and Myanmar. The people of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Mizoram are strongly against the removal of FMR. In spite of substantial opposition, the government is moving forward with a number of activities in the border regions.

The tribe that resides on both sides of international borders is likely to be split apart by FMR and border fencing, which will have a detrimental effect on a number of longstanding family customs.

ITLF strongly advises against participating in any FMR-related activity by all government departments, particularly the Forest, PWD, Horticulture, and SDOs. If someone is discovered taking part in any FMR activities, they will be held accountable for any unfortunate events that may transpire.

2. Rally to expedite our political solution

We have lost numerous homes and properties and sacrificed countless lives in the past year and a half, but we have not yet received a political solution. The Lok Sabha's first session is scheduled to begin on June 24, 2024. To further press for the establishment of our political demand, Union territory under Article 239A for the Kuki-Zo people of Manipur, the ITLF intends to hold a nonviolent demonstration on the same day.

We request everyone to join in great numbers in order to demonstrate our political demand. The rally will take place concurrently in other hill regions such as Pherzawl, Kanggui, Tengnoupal etc. There will be a total shutdown on the day of the rally.

3. No Autonomous District Council (ADC) Election

On June 13, 2024, the government of Manipur announced its intention of conducting the election for the Autonomous District Council (ADC). This is just another tool used by the Manipur administration to create division among us and demonstrate to the rest of the country that things are normal in Manipur.

We have demanded separation from Manipur, and so far there has been no settlement to our political demand. Therefore, the people are requested not to participate in the ADC election, if there is one.

4. Buffer Zone for Jiribam

Violence against the Kuki-Zo people in Jiribam continues. The tribal people are not safe from the barbaric Meiteis. Similar to other hill districts, there should be a buffer zone to safeguard the lives of the people in Jiribam. We requested that the Ministry of Home Affairs set up the buffer zone as soon as possible.

Issued by —

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