

JOINT STATEMENT

21st June 2024

After more than a year of state-sponsored ethnic cleansing in Manipur, the minority tribal community continues to be under siege from a malevolent majority that is intent on killing us and driving us out of our lands. But we will continue to fight for a dignified life for all tribals that is free from fear and oppression.

We are opposed to any move to separate or disunite us. In this regard, we are resolute in our opposition to the removal of the Free Movement Regime (FMR) along the Indo-Myanmar border, as this will result in the forced separation of blood brothers on both sides of the border. The people of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, and Mizoram are also against border fencing and the removal of FMR.

We urge everyone—officials, contractors, and others—to refuse to participate in any FMR-related activity.

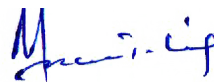
We are also opposed to the Manipur government's plans to conduct Autonomous District Council (ADC) elections, as it is clearly an attempt to create division among us by pitting us against each other. Chief Minister Biren Singh refused to conduct ADC elections for the past seven years (ever since he came to power in 2017) and emasculated all bodies that he did not control directly. The decision to suddenly conduct elections amidst the conflict is clearly an attempt to show division among the tribals. We urge the public not to participate in the elections unless our political demands are met.

With violence flaring up in Jiribam district, which remained peaceful for the past year, the radical Meiteis are intent on destroying the last vestige of tranquility in the state. We request that the central government to set up a buffer zone to safeguard the lives of hapless minority tribals in the area.

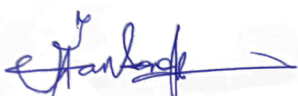
Lastly, it is clear that violence in Manipur will not end without a political solution that takes into account the needs and aspirations of minorities. And this should come at the earliest to end the suffering of the people. We urge the central government to expedite our demand for a Union Territory with a legislature under Article 239A. In this regard, a mass rally will be held on June 24, 2024, in Lamka, Pherzawl, Kanggui, and Tengnoupal districts. It is time for the center to listen and act.



Pagin Haokip,
Chairman,
Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)



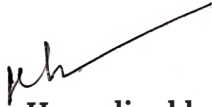
Muan Tombing,
General Secretary,
Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)



Thanglen Kipgen,
Chairman,
Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU)



Lamminlun Singsit,
General Secretary,
Committee on Tribal Unity (COTU)



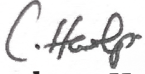
Upa Hranglienkhum,
Chairman,

Indigenous Tribes Advocacy Committee (ITAC)

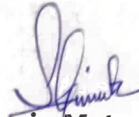


Hrilminthang Buhril,
Secretary,

Indigenous Tribes Advocacy Committee (ITAC)




Lunthang Haokip,
President,
Kuki Inpi Chandel (KIC)



Shogin Mate,
General Secretary,
Kuki Inpi Chandel (KIC)



Khaiginmang Guite,
President,
Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal (KIT)



Mangboi Haokip,
General Secretary,
Kuki Inpi Tegnoupal (KIT)