



Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

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PRESS RELEASE

Arnab Goswani pulled Manipur back into the national spotlight last night on Republic TV, just when everyone had all but forgotten about the devastating events in the region. He claimed that the Manipur situation is being handled by foreign hands, including China and the US. However, Arnab's information was imprecise and devoid of real intelligence data. The Army intelligence on the ground could confirm if China or the US is being involved.

Recently, the leaked audio tapes revealed Manipur BJP Chief Minister N. Biren Singh's involvement in the Manipur conflict and the bombing on Kuki-Zo, where Biren mentioned Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Arnab is well known for his support for the BJP. His recent remarks must be a ploy to divert the N. Biren Singh leaked tapes scandal.

The Kuki-Zo conflict has nothing to do with Myanmar, the US, or China. It is a purely ethnic cleansing program of the Meitei against the Kuki-Zo. After driving the Kuki-Zo people away from the Meitei areas, they destroyed all of the Kuki-Zo homes and churches, killing over 190 of them and leaving over 20,000 homeless in the process. The Kuki-Zo have no choice but to defend their territory and lives in response to Meitei's declaration of war against them.

Under the provisions of the Indian Constitution, the Kuki-Zo sought a separate administration in the form of Union Territory. If Arnab's claim about foreign involvement had merit, the Kuki-Zo would have demanded something deserving of international intervention.

Drones are readily available on the market; obtaining them does not require involvement from outside the country. Licypriya Kangujam, a Meitei climate activist, publicly stated on social media that she has procured drones equipped with bomb-dropping capabilities from the US to bomb the Kuki-Zo inhabited areas. Kourunganba, the leader of Arambai Tenggol, further asserted that the drone that was utilized on September 1 was their own.

On September 1, 2024, a widely shared video appeared on social media, showing the Meitei shooting bombs with advanced artillery. This further corroborates N. Biren Singh's claim that he and his government were involved in the war against the Kuki-Zo.

As a media professional, Arnab Goswani should be impartial in his opinions toward the two opposing groups in Manipur. In order to avoid misleading the public and hurting the feelings of those involved in the conflict, we kindly request Arnab Goswani that he behave like a responsible journalist and verify the information before presenting it on national television..

Issued by —

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