



Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

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PRESS RELEASE

At a press conference on September 20, 2024, Manipur security advisor Kuldiep Singh asserted that about 900 highly trained Kuki militants carrying sophisticated weaponry had crossed into Manipur from Myanmar and may launch attacks on September 28, 2024. The Chief Minister's Office (CMO) first released the so-called intelligence input regarding the influx on September 16, 2024, but TOM TV, a Manipuri news channel, later rejected it as false.

A post on X by the Indian Army's Spear Corps, which was oddly deleted later, requested the office of the security advisor to share the details of his claims, meaning central security forces are not aware of the information. It is also hard to believe that central forces guarding the border areas will not notice such a large-scale influx of militants, even if it was possible.

The claims made by the CMO and the security advisor are very peculiar and seem more like a devious propaganda to defame the Kuki-Zo people and use it as a pretext to attack Kuki-Zo village volunteers. Given that Kuldiep Singh made references to impending "attacks" on September 28, 2024, the Manipur government may be using this as a ruse to attack the Kuki-Zo community. Additionally, it provides justification for the Rs 31,000 crore border fencing project, which would benefit key players in this conflict.

The majority Meitei community fuelled the ethnic conflict by undertaking an ethnic cleansing campaign against the Kuki-Zo community. The violence is unrelated to foreign parties such as China, the U.S., or Myanmar. There are enough Kuki-Zo village volunteers to protect our territory, and we do not need outside assistance. As we've repeatedly stated, the Kuki-Zos are not secessionists - we demand a separate administration within the ambit of the Constitution of India.

It is well known that Manipur's administration has recently been spreading misleading information, which led to the Jiribam incident. Given that Kuldiep Singh has made reference to September 28, 2024, the Manipur government may be planning an attack against the Kuki-Zo. The Kuki-Zo needs to brace for an impending attack by the Meitei-led Manipur government, or the Manipur administration needs to clarify these baseless allegations.

Issued by —

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