



Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

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CONDEMNATION

Around 9:00 pm last night, Meitei gunmen entered the tribal village of Zairawn in Manipur's Jiribam district and fired indiscriminately at villagers, followed by the burning of homes. While most villagers managed to escape into the adjoining forest, a 31-year-old woman was captured, raped and burned to death by the Meitei militants, villagers said.

Zosangkim, a mother of three, was hit by a bullet in the thigh when the shooting began, said her husband, Ngurthansang. Zosangkim was a teacher at the local Hermon Dew English Junior High school.

"The Meiteis burst through our door. Some of them told us to leave before they burn our house. Some of them shouted that they should kill us all. I was eventually allowed to leave with my elderly parents and my children. But they refused to let me take my wife," said a traumatized Ngurthansang.

So Ngurthansang left the house with his parents and three children – Laldomawi (Female/8 years), Lalringdik (Female/6 years) and Franky Lalchawisang (Male/4 years). The charred body of his wife was recovered inside the family's home in the morning.

Zairawn is a Hmar village located just 7 km from the main Jiribam town. Villagers said there is a CRPF camp just half a kilometer from the village and security forces used to patrol the village daily.

But when Meitei militants attacked the village last night, the CRPF refused to do anything and acted as mute spectators during the entire episode, which lasted for about an hour, a village elder said.

"An en tawp (They just looked on)," said the villager of the CRPF stationed near the village.

The attackers also killed some dogs from the village and took seven two-wheelers, including an Ntorq scooter which belonged to the victim's family. Villagers also said the Meiteis stole many LPG gas cylinders. Seventeen houses and three stores were burned down during the attack.

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) vehemently condemns the continuing atrocities committed on the Kuki-Zo community by Meitei extremists with the support of the state government. We grieve with our brothers and sisters in Jiribam, who have been facing wave after wave of attacks by the Meitei community in the past few months. We urge the central government and central security forces to protect tribals against the genocidal intentions of Meitei hegemonists.

Issued by –

Department of Media & Publicity,
Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)
Email: itlfmediacell@gmail.com