



Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)

Conglomerate of Recognised Tribes in Lamka, Outer Manipur

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Thursday, 14 May 2026

CONDEMNATION

The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) strongly condemns the brutal ambush and killing of three senior Kuki-Zo church leaders, allegedly carried out by the NSCN-IM proxy outfit, the ZUF-Kamson group, yesterday around 11:00 AM between the Kotzim and Kotlen areas of Kangpokpi district. The victims, who were delegates to a Baptist Church convention travelling in two vehicles, have been identified as Rev. Vumthang Sitlhou, Rev. Kaigoulun Lhovum, and Pastor Paogoulen Sitlhou, while five others sustained serious injuries.

This heinous and cowardly act reflects a complete disregard for the sanctity of religious leaders and the values of humanity. Among those killed, Rev. Vumthang Sitlhou played a significant role in peace and reconciliation efforts between the Tangkhul Naga and Kuki communities. Targeting individuals dedicated to fostering peace and harmony clearly demonstrates that the perpetrators do not desire peaceful coexistence in Manipur.

ITLF condemns this barbaric act in the strongest possible terms and urges the government to immediately identify and apprehend those responsible and ensure that justice is delivered without delay.

It is also deeply concerning that, following the incident, innocent Kuki and Naga civilians were reportedly held hostage in different places. ITLF appeals to the government to take urgent measures to secure the safe and immediate release of all innocent civilians from both communities and prevent any further escalation of tension.

Issued by –

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