Office of the



VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS CO - ORDINATING COMMITTEE

(Eastern, Southern & Western Zone)
In Defence of Our Ancestral Land and Freedom

Date: 26/02/2025
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PRESS STATEMENT

Village Volunteers, Coordinating Committee Call for Urgent Solution and Security Measures for the Kuki-Zo Community

February 26, <u>2025</u>

The Village Volunteers Coordinating Committee urgently appeal to the Government of India to take immediate steps to restore peace and security for the Kuki-Zo community. Since the outbreak of violence on May 3, 2023, our people have faced relentless attacks from State-sponsored Meitei militia groups, including Arambai Tengol and VBIGs. The continued atrocities and lack of government protection have forced us to take up arms in self-defense.

While we acknowledge the appeal of the Hon'ble Governor of Manipur to surrender all illegal arms. The Kuki-Zo Village Volunteers would like to lay down few points to enable us to surrender arms in the interest of lasting peace and security for our people. We firmly believe that these goals can only be achieved if the following demands are met:

- 1. Separate Administration for Kuki-Zo Areas We call for the establishment of a Union Territory with legislative powers to ensure the safety, rights, and governance of our people. The stark divide between the Hill Districts and the Valley communities has made peaceful coexistence unattainable.
- 2. Withdrawal of Manipur State Police from Kuki Areas The presence of State Police in our regions has resulted in harassment, intimidation, and further violence. We demand their immediate withdrawal, allowing local security forces, in coordination with central authorities, to maintain peace.
- 3. Complete Surrender of Looted Arms by Meitei Militias Lasting peace is impossible as long as armed groups like Arambai Tengol and VBIGs continue to possess weapons looted from state armouries. We demand their immediate and complete surrender.
- 4. Legal Protection for Village Volunteers Our volunteers have acted solely in self-defense to protect their communities. We urge the government to ensure that no punitive actions are taken against them and that they are not targeted by law enforcement agencies.

The Kuki-Zo people have always sought peace and remain committed to a peaceful resolution. We are not a threat to national security. Our demands are aimed at ensuring justice, safety, and long-term stability in the region.

We urge the Government of India to take swift and decisive action. The laying down of arms by Village Volunteers is a matter that requires no third-party involvement. We are ready to engage in direct discussions to implement these measures and work toward lasting peace.

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