



KUKI-ZO COUNCIL

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PRESS RELEASE

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The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) strongly condemns the burning of K. Songlung Village in Kangpokpi District on 26 January, a day when the nation was celebrating the 77th Republic Day of India. For the Kuki-Zo people, the day marked yet another dark episode of violence and insecurity, in complete violation of the spirit and values of the Republic.

Since 3 May 2023, more than 7,000 Kuki-Zo houses have been burnt and over 150 innocent lives lost. Despite President's Rule in Manipur, the Kuki-Zo continue to face targeted attacks, exposing the total failure of governance and security.

The Zeliangrong United Front (Kamson) has openly claimed responsibility for burning down K. Songlung Village at around 12:15 PM, citing alleged poppy cultivation and land issues. Such matters, if any, should have been addressed through lawful authorities like the Police and the Deputy Commissioner. Burning an entire village reflects taking the law into one's own hands and a deliberate attempt to destroy a community, its homes, and its dignity. ZUF (Kamson) must immediately cease using allegations of poppy cultivation and illegal immigration as a pretext to attack Kuki-Zo villages and encroach upon Kuki-Zo land.

That a Kuki-Zo village could be reduced to ashes under President's Rule is a clear demonstration of the Government's inability to ensure law and order and the safety of citizens. It further proves that claims of "normalcy" in Manipur are far from reality. The Kuki-Zo people remain under constant threat.

KZC demands immediate deployment of security forces to protect Kuki-Zo lives and property, adequate compensation for the affected families, and swift arrest and punishment of the perpetrators in accordance to the law.

This incident once again stands as living proof that the Kuki-Zo people are no longer safe in Manipur and urgently require robust political and constitutional safeguards to protect their lives, land, and dignity.

Once again, the Kuki-Zo Council appeals to the Government of India to seriously and compassionately consider the plight of the Kuki-Zo people and grant their legitimate demand for a Separate Administration in the form of a Union Territory with Legislature, as the only viable and lasting solution to ensure peace, security, and justice.

Issued by —

Information & Publicity,
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