



KUKI-ZO COUNCIL

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To

The Hon'ble Union Home Minister
Government of India
New Delhi

Subject: Memorandum on the Deferral of Census in Manipur, NRC Demand, Continuing Violence, Reimposition of President's Rule, and Expeditious Resolution of the Kuki-Zo Political Demand

Respected Shri Amit Shah Ji,

The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) respectfully submits this memorandum to place before the Government of India our grave concerns regarding the recent developments in Manipur and to seek urgent intervention on matters that directly affect the security, dignity, rights and political future of the Kuki-Zo people.

1. Deferral of the Census in Manipur

The Kuki-Zo Council is greatly disturbed by the decision of the Government of India on **31 August 2026 to defer the Census exercise in Manipur** following demands raised by selected civil society organisations, while the concerns and position of the Kuki-Zo people were not given due consideration.

According to the Chief Minister's Secretariat, the meeting considered the demand for **"No Census Before NRC"** raised by 14 civil society organisations representing the Meitei and Naga communities. Notably, **not a single Kuki-Zo organisation was part of this demand**. Nevertheless, the decision was reportedly justified in the name of the "feelings and aspirations of the people of Manipur."

Such exclusion of the Kuki-Zo from a decision of profound importance to our community raises serious concerns regarding inclusiveness and impartiality. These concerns are further heightened by the reported participation of former Chief Minister **N. Biren Singh**, who is responsible for the outbreak and prolonged continuation of the ethnic conflict against the Kuki-Zo.

The KZC welcomes the decennial Census initiated by the Central Government, which was delayed from 2021 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the persistent allegations, misinformation and demographic claims surrounding the Kuki-Zo population during the conflict, an impartial and comprehensive Census is essential to establish the facts and dispel unfounded assertions.

We therefore urge the Government of India to ensure that the Census is conducted without further political delay and that the concerns of all communities are given equal consideration.

2. Demand for a National Register of Citizens (NRC)

The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) is of the considered view that the **National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a national exercise**, and neither a State Government nor any community can unilaterally determine or undertake an NRC at its discretion. The Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2003 (CAA 2003) directs the implementation of the National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC / NRC) to all states of India (pan-India), rather than a single state. The timing, scope, methodology, and implementation of any NRC must remain within the authority of the Government of India.

It is also a matter of concern that **no physical copies or maintenance records of the 1951 NRC are presently available in the official archives**. Given the limited administrative infrastructure and connectivity in 1951, particularly in the remote hill areas of Manipur, the 1951 Census and NRC are likely to contain significant gaps and inaccuracies in population records. Treating such a historical record as an unquestionable baseline would therefore be problematic.

The demand for an NRC before the Census appears to be based largely on allegations concerning illegal immigrants, refugees, and abnormal population growth. Such allegations should first be assessed against **credible and impartial demographic data**. The Census is the appropriate national exercise for establishing such data.

Accordingly, demanding an NRC before the completion and publication of the **Census 2027** results is premature. If the Census reveals significant demographic anomalies that warrant further verification, the Government of India can, based on facts and applicable law, determine whether an NRC is necessary.

The experience of the **Assam NRC** also demonstrates the complexity and far-reaching consequences of such an exercise. Conducted pursuant to the Assam Accord of 1985, the process excluded approximately 19 lakh people from the final list and has continued to face legal proceedings, appeals, and unresolved issues. Any proposal to undertake a similar exercise in Manipur must therefore be assessed with due regard to its legal, administrative, humanitarian, and social consequences.

Manipur comprises three principal communities—the **Meitei, Kuki-Zo, and Naga**—each with legitimate and distinct concerns regarding any exercise affecting citizenship, identity, residence, and political representation. If the Government of India considers an NRC for Manipur, it must first undertake **meaningful, inclusive, and good-faith consultation with all three communities and other relevant stakeholders**. A process driven solely by the demands of one section of society would lack the necessary inclusiveness and legitimacy and could further deepen divisions in a State already affected by prolonged conflict.

The KZC therefore urges the Government of India **not to proceed with any NRC exercise in Manipur on the basis of an unverified or historically unreliable 1951 baseline**. If an NRC is considered necessary by the competent authority, it must be preceded by comprehensive stakeholder consultation, a rigorous examination of the evidentiary basis for any proposed cut-off date, and the establishment of a transparent, legally sound, and non-discriminatory framework applicable equally to all communities.

The KZC accordingly urges the Government of India **not to allow politically motivated demands or unsubstantiated allegations to dictate the sequence of the Census and NRC processes**. The Census must come first, and any subsequent decision on an NRC should be based on verified data, law, and an inclusive national framework.

3. Allegations Raised by Naga MLAs of Manipur

The KZC has learned that on 31 August 2026, nine MLAs from the Naga community in Manipur wrote to the Hon'ble Union Home Minister seeking action against Kuki-Zo leaders over the killing of Naga civilians, while also calling for normalcy and unbiased action in addressing the consequences of the conflict.

The KZC maintains that any genuine call for normalcy, justice and impartial action must apply equally to all communities.

Since the beginning of 2026, **more than 20 Kuki-Zo civilians have reportedly been killed and over 15 Kuki-Zo villages burnt** in attacks involving Naga armed groups, including suspected cadres of NSCN-IM and ZUF (Kamson). These incidents cannot be disregarded while demanding selective action against Kuki-Zo leaders.

The Naga political leadership cannot credibly claim neutrality while remaining silent on violence against the Kuki-Zo. If the Naga MLAs genuinely seek peace and normalcy, they must equally demand accountability for killings and destruction inflicted upon Kuki-Zo civilians and take concrete steps to restrain armed groups operating among their communities from further violence and arson.

The Kuki-Zo leadership has consistently pursued peace and reconciliation. On moral and humanitarian grounds, we have also sought an apology as a necessary step towards ending the cycle of violence, rebuilding trust and creating conditions for reconciliation. The refusal of the Naga leadership to acknowledge even such a gesture raises legitimate questions about the sincerity of their stated commitment to peace and justice.

Killing civilians and burning villages can never bring peace. If the Naga leadership genuinely desires normalcy in Manipur, it must choose dialogue, restraint, accountability and reconciliation over violence and selective condemnation.

Peace cannot be built through selective justice. Equal accountability and genuine reconciliation must be the foundation of any lasting peace in Manipur.

4. Reimposition of President's Rule in Manipur

The Kuki-Zo people had hoped that the change of government in Manipur would lead to improved security, stability and normalcy. Unfortunately, violence against our people has continued.

The present State Government has failed to provide the Kuki-Zo people with the security and confidence necessary for peaceful coexistence. Of particular concern is the fact that **no Kuki-Zo civilian was killed in violence during the period of President's Rule, whereas more than 20 Kuki-Zo civilians have reportedly been killed in attacks involving Naga armed groups since the present State Government headed by Shri Yumnam Khemchand Singh assumed office.**

This stark contrast warrants serious consideration by the Government of India.

The Kuki-Zo Council therefore calls for the **reimposition of President's Rule in Manipur**. Our people experienced a greater sense of security under President's Rule than under the present State Government. If the State Government is unable or unwilling to provide equal protection to its citizens, the Union Government has a constitutional responsibility to intervene.

5. Expedite the Kuki-Zo Political Demand

The Kuki-Zo people have endured immense suffering since May 2023. Following the prolonged conflict with the Meitei community and the recent escalation of violence involving Naga armed groups, it has become increasingly evident that the Kuki-Zo cannot expect lasting security, justice and dignity within the existing political arrangement of Manipur.

The present circumstances have created an environment in which the Kuki-Zo face hostility from two major communities in the State. The continued violence, displacement, destruction of villages and economic blockades have made peaceful coexistence within the existing arrangement increasingly untenable.

Even as this memorandum is being submitted, the **United Naga Council (UNC) has announced the continuation of an economic blockade affecting Kuki-Zo areas in Kangpokpi**, further aggravating the humanitarian situation and placing additional hardship on our people.

The Kuki-Zo have therefore been compelled to seek a political arrangement that can guarantee our **security, dignity, land, identity and political rights**.

The Kuki-Zo SoO groups have submitted the demand for **Separate Administration in the form of a Union Territory with Legislature**, and discussions with the Ministry of Home Affairs are ongoing.

In view of the prolonged suffering of our people and the continuing deterioration of the situation, the Kuki-Zo Council earnestly appeals to the Hon'ble Union Home Minister to **personally intervene and expedite the political dialogue and resolution of the Kuki-Zo demand**.

We believe that a durable political solution, rather than continued deployment of security forces or temporary administrative measures, is essential to address the root causes of the conflict and establish lasting peace.

Conclusion

The Kuki-Zo Council places these concerns before the Hon'ble Union Home Minister with the expectation that the Government of India will uphold the principles of **equality, justice, constitutional protection and impartial governance**.

We respectfully request the Government of India to:

1. Conduct the Census in Manipur without further delay and without allowing politically motivated demands to obstruct the national Census exercise;
2. Ensure that any decision concerning NRC remains within the constitutional and legal authority of the Government of India and is not driven by unsubstantiated demographic allegations;
3. Ensure equal and impartial accountability for violence committed against civilians of all communities, including the Kuki-Zo;
4. Reimpose President's Rule in Manipur if the State Government continues to fail in its constitutional duty to protect all citizens; and
5. Expedite the political dialogue towards a Separate Administration in the form of a Union Territory with Legislature for the Kuki-Zo people.

The Kuki-Zo people seek neither privilege nor preferential treatment. **We seek equal protection, justice, security and a political future in which our people can live with dignity and without fear.**

We therefore earnestly appeal to the Hon'ble Union Home Minister to consider these matters with urgency and take decisive steps towards a just, durable and honourable political solution to the Manipur conflict.

Yours faithfully,



(HENLIANTHANG THANGLET)
Chairman,
Kuki-Zo Council (KZC)



(THANGZAMANG)
Secretary,
Kuki-Zo Council (KZC)

COPY TO:

1. Honourable Governor of Manipur, Imphal