



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 7, 2023

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## FATAL CARNAGE & WIDESPREAD ARSON, LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY IN MANIPUR INDIA

DALLAS, TX – The North American Manipur Tribal Association, a non-profit organization formed by North American immigrants from the hill-tribes of the north-eastern state of Manipur in India, would like to express our shock and sorrow at the recent burning of churches, homes, and displacement of tribals from their homes in the middle of the night of May the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. We condemn these human rights abuses, unlawful attacks on civilians and civilian homes, burning of homes, churches, vehicles, and killing and injuring civilians, including women and children.

We call upon the international community to send food and water to the camps and apply pressure to the Indian government to stop the carnage immediately and allow tribals to return to their homes safely or be evacuated to safety outside of Imphal temporarily.

According to estimates over 45 churches have been burned to the ground in the city of Imphal, the capital city of Manipur, where the people of the hill-tribes of Manipur are in the minority. Over thousands of households, and 10,000\*\* people have fled into camps, where the Indian army and Manipur police are trying to protect them from ravaging mobs. The conflict which escalated into violence turned deadly on the night of May 3<sup>rd</sup>, with eyewitness reports of a young mother and her daughter being beaten to death by vicious, violent mobs in the Lamphelpat neighborhood of Imphal. Recent estimates in the Indian press report over 50 deaths. These mobs, made up of thousands of men, methodically ravaged through neighborhoods, targeting tribal Christian communities with intimidation and arson, burning churches, homes, and vehicles to the ground.

All of us here in North America in the NAMTA organization have been impacted by this violence. Each of us has harrowing stories of family members who had to flee in the middle of the night, to shelter with a non-tribal neighbor or friend until they could be picked up by the police or the army. They were taken to one of the many camps situated around the city and have lost everything they owned.

The situation at the camps is precarious. They were set up in an ad hoc fashion, with little infrastructure to house and feed the over 3,000 people in each camp, or even protect them. The Manipur police and Indian army who are protecting them are exhausted, overworked, and under-resourced, and in some cases finding themselves the targets of these insurgents. In at least one instance, rioters have breached the walls of one of the camps, and the refugees had to be relocated. Each day since May 3<sup>rd</sup>, refugees have been trying to get out of Imphal, with the airport the only route, even though it is dangerous to leave the camps, the status quo is unsustainable.

We call on the International Aid Community, and our friends and family in North America, to help us bring light to this ongoing carnage so this does not become an even worse tragedy. The world does not need another genocide or another refugee crisis. This is an ongoing situation, and we will share more as we learn more.

For more information and a list of the 45 churches burned, more personal stories of people who fled and are in camps, visit our site at [www.namta.us](http://www.namta.us)

Signed, the Founding Board of NAMTA

- Florence Lowe, President, Dallas, Texas
- Khumi Tonsing Massey, Vice President, Atlanta, Georgia
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- Seikam Touthang, Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Lydia Tombing Khuptong, Tulsa, Oklahoma

\*\* Estimate. As of the 2011 Government of India census, over 49,000 tribal people live in the two Imphal districts of Imphal East and Imphal West. Please contact us or visit our website for the methodology we have used to calculate that number. The current population is certainly higher. We do not yet have accurate counts of how many of them are impacted.

## **ABOUT NAMTA**

The North American Manipur Tribal Association is a non-profit set up to:

1. Perpetuate, preserve, and maintain the heritage of the peoples of the hill-tribes of Manipur.
2. Promote their culture, history, and awareness.
3. Assist and aid North American immigrants, students, and visitors from the hill-tribes of Manipur to settle and assimilate with the mainstream in America.
4. Advocate for the promotion and protection of civil, property, and political rights of the peoples of the hill tribes of Manipur
5. Solicit, raise and disburse funds for humanitarian, cultural, educational, and economic developmental causes and activities directly or in cooperation with other not-for-profit organizations in North America, India or across the world to meet the aforementioned purposes.

We are proud American citizens, non-immigrant H1-B taxpayers, and F1/F2 visa holding students, all of whom originate from the hill tribes of Manipur, an area that has a rich history which can be traced back to 100 AD, and through oral traditions, genealogies that can be traced back over 47 generations.

### **Our Mission**

Preserve and protect the heritage, lives and lands of the tribal people of Manipur.

### **Our Vision**

Peace and prosperity of the tribal people of Manipur, as modern citizens of a global economy, living in peaceful and joyful coexistence with neighbors and nature.

### **Our Values**

We value our culture and history. We value our land and the natural resources around us. We are an egalitarian people, who believe in community, hard work, education, and family.

NAMTA

Attention: Florence Lowe

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Richardson, TX 75081

<https://www.namta.us>

## LIST OF CHURCHES ATTACKED BETWEEN MAY 3rd NIGHT and May 4th

1. Evangelical Baptist Convention Church (EBCC), Game village, Lamphelpat, Imphal, Manipur-795004
2. Chin Baptist Association, RVCW+HRQ, Lamphelpat, Imphal, Manipur 795004, India
3. Kuki Baptist Church, 1st St, New Checkon Mamang Leikai, Hatta Golapati Maning Leikai, Imphal, Manipur-795001
4. Evangelical Baptist Convention Church (EBCC),QWP9+GC5, Sangaiprou Kabui Rd, Paite Veng, Imphal, Manipur-795004
5. Catholic Church, Paite Veng, Imphal
6. Mizo Presbyterian Church, Checkon
7. Catholic Church, Canchipur
8. MEBCC, Thamnapokpi Moirang
9. EFCI, Sangaiprou
10. Kuki Baptist Church, RVFR+2J5, Game Village, Lamphelpat, Manipur 795146
11. Evangelical Churches Association (ECA)
12. Kuki Christian Church (KCC), Kabo Leika, Imphal, Manipur 795001, India
13. Games Village Convention Church, Game Village
14. Chongthu Baptist Church, New Lambulane
15. Langol Christian Church, Langol
16. Evangelical Baptist Convention Church (EBCC), Lamphelpat, Imphal, Manipur-795004
17. Evangelical Baptist Convention Church (EBCC), Langol, Imphal, Manipur-795146
18. Zou Christian Baptist Convention (ZOU), Tribal Colony
19. Meitei Christian Church, Tribal Colony
20. Evangelical Baptist Convention Church (EBCC), RX42+JMX, Tribal Colony, Angom Colony, Imphal, Manipur 795005
21. Catholic Church, Tribal Colony
22. MELC, Tribal Colony
23. St. Paul Church, Koirengei
24. Evangelical Organization Church (EOC), ZPC, Tribal Colony
25. ICI Church, Lamphel
26. Khulakpat ICI, Meitei Church
27. Kumbi ICI, Meitei Church
28. Moirangkhunou ICI, Meitei Church
29. Phubala ICI, Meitei Church
30. Salvation Army Church, Chairel
31. Salvation Army Church, Kuakeithel
32. ICI Mission Compound, Checkon
33. Zo Church
34. Meitei Christian Church EFCI, Lamphel
35. Thangkhul Church, Lamphel
36. EFCI Church, Lamphel
37. LVC Vaiphei Church
38. Kuki Church Opposite MI office.
39. Mao Church
40. Toupokpi church EFCI
41. Keinou Church EFCI
42. Kuki Christian Church (KCC), Khongsai Veng
43. Kom fellowship, Sagaiprou
44. Rongmei Church, Lamphel
45. Lamphel Baptist Church (LBC), RIMS

We are still verifying the details of this list. Please refer to our website for the latest information.