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Kuki-Zomis Calls for Canadian Government Action over the crisis in Manipur, India

VANCOUVER, BC – The Canadian Parliament must take up the issue of the humanitarian crisis in Manipur, India and pass a resolution condemning the state-sponsored atrocities that has afflicted the minority Christian Kuki-Zomi tribals, with a special focus on violence against women that was highlighted by a [viral video of two Kuki women paraded naked and gang-raped](#) by a Meitei mob.

The European Parliament took a bold step on July 12th in [deliberating on a resolution on the violence in Manipur](#) and [passing a resolution criticizing the Indian government's failures](#) the next day. The British Prime Minister's [envoy for religious freedom, Fiona Bruce](#), has also raised the Manipur issue with grave concerns in the UK Parliament.

We express our solidarity with [Pieter Friedrich](#), for undertaking a hunger strike demanding that US Congressman Ro Khanna speak out “on the floor of the US Congress to condemn the anti-Christian violence in Manipur”. Pieter is joined in the hunger-strike by [Shan Sankaran and Kirthika Dharan](#), for whom we also express our greatest appreciation.

Since the 3rd of May 2023 the Kuki-Zomi Tribals have been the victims of a [deliberate, coordinated, and in many regards, premeditated campaign](#) of ethnic cleansing by the radical elements of the majority Meitei community who have the support of the state government. Kuki-Zomis, form about 16% of the population of Manipur and the Meiteis, who are predominantly Hindus, make up about 53 % of the state.

While the conflict has caused profound losses within both communities, Kuki-Zomis have borne the brunt of the violence despite being in the minority, especially for non-combatant casualties. We have lost more than [100 lives](#) out of a reported 140 deaths and seen [317 churches](#) destroyed, [6,137 homes](#) set ablaze, and 41,425 people internally displaced, out of a total 60,000.

The failure of the state machinery to contain the conflict in its early stages is ultimately responsible for the ongoing crisis. When the troubles began there were zero efforts by local authorities to douse the flames of violence, instead, [state security forces actively abetted](#) violent Meitei groups.

It is an outrage that the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, [was silent on Manipur](#) for almost 80 days. His eventual [comments on Manipur are worse than this silence](#). His government has perfected the art of tacit approval as far as the crushing of minority rights are concerned. It is in sharp contrast to the unthinkable response such a crisis would elicit in the United States where he was recently given a warm welcome in June.

As the conflict rages on, both warring parties are adopting hardline positions that will make it much harder for any sort of peaceful settlement to emerge. Manipur is one of the latest victims of governance by hysteria where a ruling majority can be made to feel under siege from the marginalized minorities they rule over.

To make good on its democratic commitments, India must protect its minorities in Manipur and across the country. In order to jumpstart a peace-process the Indian government must impose President's Rule in Manipur to guarantee the security of all citizens equally. Only then can subsequent steps be taken to bring about peace and reconciliation.

As a minority which has been outnumbered and overpowered in Manipuri politics since Indian independence, Kuki-Zomis must be given greater autonomy under the Indian constitution so that they may administer themselves. In the meantime, continued international pressure and solidarity in all forms remains incredibly urgent.

For NAMTA and its Members