

# Statement On The Conflict In Manipur, India

We, La Via Campesina, the largest peasant movement in the world, declare our deep concern and profound sadness at the escalating violence in Manipur, India, which has gripped the state since May 3, 2023. This senseless conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities has resulted in the tragic loss of over 175 lives, countless injuries and the displacement of over 70,000 people.

We stand in solidarity with the people of Manipur and pledge to support all efforts to end this violence and build a lasting peace.

We condemn all acts of violence, regardless of their origin. Such violence has no place in a civilized society and only exacerbates existing tensions and divisions. We call on all parties to cease hostilities immediately and engage in constructive dialogue to resolve their differences peacefully.

The conflict in Manipur goes beyond the issue of ethnic cleansing and is linked to corporate interests in the privatization of natural resources.

Furthermore, we urge the Government of India to:

1. Safeguard the rights of the indigenous peoples of Manipur as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other Rural Workers (UNDROP).
2. Put an end to the unjust displacement of indigenous peoples from their rightful habitat.
3. Take all necessary measures to ensure the security of all communities in Manipur. This includes providing humanitarian aid to displaced people and investigating all acts of violence to ensure accountability.
4. Launch a comprehensive dialogue process involving all stakeholders to address the root causes of the conflict. This dialogue should focus on building trust, understanding and reconciliation between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities.
5. Implement long-term programs in Manipur that address the underlying social, economic and political inequalities that contribute to the conflict. These programs should focus on education, healthcare and economic opportunities for all communities in the state.
6. We are convinced that only a sustained commitment to peace, dialogue and justice will enable Manipur to overcome this period of darkness and build a brighter future for all its citizens.

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