



Conference of Catholic Bishops of India

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To All Archbishops, Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Religious, Catechists and Lay Faithful
of the Latin Catholic Church in India

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

As all of you are aware, Manipur has experienced unprecedented levels of violence and turmoil in the recent weeks. This situation pains us deeply. Our thoughts are with the tens of thousands of people who have been uprooted, made homeless and are now suffering in a variety of shelters, including military barracks and relief camps.

The Archbishop of Imphal, Most Rev. Dominic Lumon, has made a **Relief Plea** for the suffering people in Manipur, which is being sent herewith. As a Church on a synodal path, journeying together and accompanied by our Risen Lord and Shepherd, we need to show our solidarity with our suffering brethren; we must therefore reach out to the people in Manipur and help them return to a normal life.

An urgent appeal could be made to our Faithful and the Religious on the forthcoming Sunday, the 21st of May, so that each diocese could send its generous contribution as soon as possible to the Archdiocese of Imphal, to the Bank Account mentioned in the Appeal of Archbishop Dominic Lumon.

Let us not stop praying for peace in our nation, particularly in the State of Manipur. We all have a duty to support those affected by the recent violence and help in creating an environment of peace and harmony in the region.

May the Risen Lord grant us everlasting peace and our Blessed Mother, the Queen of Peace, intercede for us.

Given at the General Secretariat of the Conference of the Catholic Bishops of India, Bangalore, on 16 May 2023.



Filipe Neri Card. Ferrão

Filipe Neri Cardinal Ferrão

President, Conference of the Catholic Bishops of India

Archbishop of Goa and Daman

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RELIEF APPEAL

14/05/2023

Since 03 May 2023, unprecedented violence and unrest has taken the State of Manipur like a storm. The Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of Imphal, Manipur is pained, saddened and most of all concerned at the situation that has unfolded. Precious lives have been lost, houses burned or destroyed, belongings vandalized and looted, places of worship desecrated and set ablaze. Thousands have been displaced and rendered homeless and are languishing in different shelters in military barracks and relief camps. Many have left the capital Imphal and the State to safer places. Those who were in hills belonging to the valley communities in panic have to rush back to the valley. Summarily, there is fear, uncertainty and a general sense of hopelessness and desperation.

1. Some of the Reasons /Circumstances for the flare up:

There were several issues have been waiting unresolved for a long time, gradually building up emotions and general angst.

1. The demand of the Meitei community to be listed as a Schedule Tribe (ST) and vehement opposition of the Tribal to this demand
 - The endorsement and support expressed by many the Meitei political leaders and MLAs
 - The opposition spearheaded by the tribal student organizations and CSOs.
 - The recommendation of the High Court of Manipur to the State government to recommend the demand of the Meitei community to the Central Government and subsequent dissent and condemnation by various tribal groups
2. The initiation of the State Government to survey the Reserved Forests, Protected Forests and Conserved Forests
 - Objection of the tribal to such a survey on the grounds that the designation of such categories of forests does not have the consent of the HAC (Hill Area Committee).
 - Eviction and displacement of villages in the Forest lands (most of which are Kuki inhabited villages) which have angered the communities.
3. Recent alleged derogatory preaching of Pastor Ramananda and subsequent pledging of a section of Meitei community to protect their indigenous culture and religion.

The clashes are between the Meitei community and the Kuki-chin-Mizo community of people.

2. Situation of People:

Two communities are warring but it has affected all the people of Manipur irrespective of which community one belongs. With the complexity of issues that has given rise to this situation, there seems to be no clear-cut reason for the present crisis.

Many lives have been lost, villages/hamlets in the foothills that have been vandalized, looted and torched. Thousands have fled their homes and have reached some shelter camps. There are about 45000 people are in relief camps in the valley and the hills. Around 13,800 in Imphal west, around 11,800 in Imphal East, around 4,500 in Bishnupur, 5,500 in Churachandpur, around 7,000 people in Kangpokpi district. The government has evacuated quite many to the safe destination as of now. This information's are based on the daily newspapers and our own information. The actual number could be more. Spot verification is not possible as the situation is tensed. Also there is planned economic blockade is looming in the sky.

3. Immediate Measures

1. Relief

- Rice, Dal, Oil, Potato, Onion and Salt
- Drinking water
- Sanitary pads, wet wipes, towels, shampoo sachets and Tissue papers

- Chips and snacks for children
- Infant food/cereals/formula milk
- Old cloths like Bed sheets, T-shirts, Pijamas specially children cloths
- Diapers
- Tooth paste, tooth brush, bathing soaps, detergent
- Plates, bowls, spoons
- Old Cloths for women

2. **Rehabilitative Measures**

- Placement of displaced people to their normal habitat
- Establishment of Livelihood support
- Educational support to the children
- Care for the elderly
- Care of women and children
- Confidence building measures
- Peace initiatives
- Communal harmony

To address this issue we need resources in kind and cash. Please contribute generously so that we may be empowered to give better life to our displaced brothers and sisters.

For your contribution and donation can be channelized through this account:

A/C. Name: **DSSS- Archdiocesan Emergency Relief Fund**

A/C No. **920020064712698**

IFSC Code: **UTIB0000657**

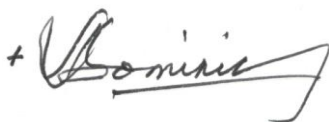
Bank: **AXIS Bank, Imphal Branch**

Conclusion:

We have initiated some relief services with the limited resources we have and reaching out to the people in all possible ways.

Thanking you,

Yours in Christ,

+ 

+ Dominic Lumon

Archbishop of Imphal

Manipur.

