



FIRST INFORMATION OF A COGNIZABLE CRIME REPORT UNDER SECTION 154
CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE AT POLICE STATION: CHURACHANDPUR

Sub-Division: Churachandpur
FIR No 1205 (07)2023 CCP-PS u/s 153/153-A/500/505(1) IPC

District: Churachandpur
Date & hour of Occurrence
03rd July, 2023 (time not mentioned)

Date and Hour when reported	Place of Occurrence, Distance & Direction from Police Station	Date of dispatch from Police Station
17/07/2023 at 05:30 PM	Place of Occurrence not mentioned in the O.E.	17/07/2023

NB: A First Information must be authenticated by the signature, mark of thumb impression informant and attested by the signature of the officer recording it.

Name & residence of informant/complainant	Name & residence of accused person(s)	Brief description of offence with sections and of property carried off, if any	Steps taken regarding investigation, explanation of delay in recording information	Result of the case
Naib Subedar Nguri Akku (Rep of HQ 59 Mtn Bde) O.E. Overleaf OC/CCP-PS Officer-In-Charge Churachandpur Police Station Manipur	ISTV News, the anchor Ms. Arunbala Leima and the correspondent Mr. Gyaneshwor Yumkhaiba	Wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot-if rioting be committed-if not committed, promoting enmity between different groups on grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language, etc, and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony, punishment for defamation, Statements conducting to public mischief. Punishable u/s 153/153-A/500/505(1) IPC	ASI T.Pauliansiam of CCP-PS will please investigate the case.	

Signed : (N. THANGZAMUAN), Inspt.
Designation : OC/CCP-PS
Date : 17/07/2023
Officer-In-Charge
Churachandpur Police Station
Manipur

Treated as an O.K. ✓
Case FIR NO. 1205(07)2023
CCP-PS u/s 153/153-A/500/505(1)
IPC.

HQ 59 Mountain Brigade
PIN - 908059
C/o 99 APO

17 Jul 2023

The OC
Churachandpur Police Station
Distt: Churachandpur

Officer-In-Charge
Churachandpur Police Station
Manipur



LODGING OF FIR DATED 17 JULY 2023

1. This is to intimate an incident of false reporting with intent to disturb public order and incite certain sections of the populace against the Security Forces by ISTV News in their coverage dated 04 July 2023 hosted by anchor Ms Arunbala Leima and correspondent Mr Gyaneshwor Yumkhaiba. (DVD Copy of the coverage is attached as Appendix to this complaint)

2. Background of the Incident.

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(a) On 27 June 2023, verbal input was received by Battalion HQ ASSAM RIFLES (hereinafter referred to as AR) by OC Phoubakchao Police Station Bishnupur District that a bunker and an **Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF)** flag have been raised by purported Kuki "Village Defence Forces" (VDF) in Tongbram Colony. The said location is approximately 1 km away from Battalion HQ of AR. Consequently, a column of AR deployed in Songdo village moved to the location and dismantled the bunker and removed the flag, which was informed to the OC Phoubakchao Police Station and DC Bishnupur verbally.

(b) On 29 June 2023, combing operation was carried out by a combined team of AR, BSF and CRPF as precautionary measure in general area Phoisangphai - Phulijang and Gothai.

(c) On 30 June 2023 again joint combing operation was carried out by AR, BSF and CRPF from 0400 pm to 0600 pm in area of Kangvai- Awang Lekai- Phoisangphai- Tongbram on verbal requests of villagers from Awang Lekai based information that Kuki VDF are again making bunkers in the location of Tongbram which were earlier dismantled on 27 July 2023. During the combing operation VDFs from both sides were cautioned by joint teams of AR, BSF & CRPF from doing any such activities.

(d) On 2 July 2023, intense firing took place with effect from 1145 pm from bunkers created by VDFs in Phoisangphai and Tongbram areas. As an immediate deterrence AR column fired illumination rounds in the air towards the general area in order to pinpoint the specific direction of the firing being carried out. As a deterrence Area Domination Patrol of the AR Battalion was also moved to the Kwakta Masjid area to prevent further escalation.

(d) A column of the Army was also despatched from Ningthoukoun to Kwakta for controlling situation, however they were physically blocked and restrained in the Ningthoukoun Market by a group of women identifying themselves as 'Meira Paibis'. To prevent escalation of the violent situation, another reserve column of the Army was deployed from Ningthiching (Sampangjang) COB and positioned at Ukha Gate.

Kwatka from the night of 02 July 2023 to morning of 03 July 2023 to prevent movement of miscreants from both sides on road Songdoh- Kawakta. Throughout this period of operations, continued engagement was carried out with IG, SP Bishnupur and Churachandpur to ensure de-escalation of the situation.

(e) On 03 July 2023, the complete area was sanitized by the security forces including Army Bomb Disposal team. Further, to ensure that no such untoward incident takes place in the future, CRPF and BSF occupied one bunker each at Tongbram Colony which was duly coordinated by Police of both districts (Bishnupur and Churachandpur), the Army, the AR in presence of Additional SPs of the Police forces. The Additional SPs were present during the operation and a buffer zone was created between Tongbram and Awang Lekhai areas.

3. It is further intimated that since the beginning of the present ethnic crisis in Manipur, Kwakta - Kangvai area under Bishnupur District has been sensitive due to close proximity of both disputing communities in the area. To prevent further escalation of the situation, Security Forces have created a Buffer Zone by placing themselves in between the two communities in Bishnupur District. They are deployed to prevent armed rioters from both communities to physically close in to the other side and cause damage to life and property. Bunkers made by the villagers from both communities with the so-called Village Defence Forces present, are also being dismantled by the Security Forces concurrently from both sides ensuring neutrality.

4. Aforesaid is the correct version of events, however the media coverage has indicated and implies the following incorrectly: -

(a) That the bunkers near the Assam Rifles battalion are being used by Kuki militants.

(b) That the deployment of Central Security Forces has been carried out to clandestinely help and give advantage to the Kukis in the area.

(c) That the State Police including Additional SP and the IRB are not being allowed in the area by the Central Security Forces.

(d) That the Kuki militant's flag as seen and bunkers have been constructed close to the foothills of AR which is approximately 200 meters away from the correspondent's location.

(e) That the Churachandpur Police is working alongside Kuki militants in the bunkers where an ITLF flag was raised and BSF has been deployed alongside the alleged militants.

(f) That the media was incorrectly disallowed from entering sensitive areas during ongoing operations.

(g) That Police and BSF personnel stayed inside the bunkers with alleged Kuki militants making it less likely to provide protection to Meiteis.

5. Since escalation of the ethnic clashes, there have been multiple firing incidents initiated by armed rioters from either, which further gets aggravated when the VDF volunteers and inimical elements resort to uncontrolled firing, leading to casualties amongst civilians primarily from the stray bullets flying around. It is to be understood that as a norm during all military operations in such sensitive areas or Buffer Zone, media person or civilians are not



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allowed due to safety reasons. The concern being regarding any unprovoked firing and stray bullets causing injury to members of the Press or civilians, as was the unfortunate case with Md Abdul Karim of Kwakta, who sustained stray bullet injury during uncontrolled firing between both the VDFs.

6. Notwithstanding the above, in case media personnel do want to go into any area, the Security Forces have been facilitating the same once contacted, in the interest of unbiased and truthful reports.

7. The views expressed by the anchor and reporter in the ISTV coverage on 03 July 23 are not supported by facts on ground and perpetuate rumour mongering and fake news. Media as one of the most important and responsible stakeholders of society, cannot create disaffection in any section of the public towards the Security Forces acting on behalf of the Government of India. Unbiased, truthful, and positive reporting, with a neutral stance would be in the interests of the people of Manipur, rather than resorting to uncorroborated reports, which could end up driving an irrevocable deeper wedge into an already divided society by portraying the Security Forces in a light which may incite hatred and obstruction towards the performance of their duty.

8. In view of the above, you are requested that an FIR be lodged against ISTV News, the anchor Ms Arunbala Leima and the correspondent Mr Gyaneshwor Yumkhaiba in the coverage report for the following offences: -

(a) By words, either spoken or written, or by signs, or by visible representation, or otherwise, brings or attempts to bring into hatred or contempt, or excites or attempts to excite disaffection towards, the Government of India contrary to **Section 124A of Indian Penal Code, 1860.**

(b) By making, publishing, or circulating any statement, rumour or report which may cause fear for an alarm to the public, or to any section of the public contrary to **Section 505(1) of Indian Penal Code, 1860.**

(c) By words either spoken or intended to be read, or by signs or by visible representations, makes or publishes any imputation concerning any person intending to harm, or knowing or having reason to believe that such imputation will harm, the reputation of such person to defame that person contrary to **Section 499 of Indian Penal Code, 1860.**

(d) By malignantly, or wantonly, by doing anything illegal, gives provocation to any person intending or knowing it to be likely that such provocation will cause the offense of rioting to be committed or not committed in consequence of such provocation contrary to **Section 153 of Indian Penal Code, 1860.**

9. Your attention is drawn to the case law of **Madhyamam Broadcasting Limited vs Union of India (Civil Appeal No. 8129 of 2022)**, judgment dated 05 April 2023 wherein the Hon'ble Supreme Court has adjudged that the media persons act responsibly in terms of their duty and ensure spreading of fake news which may lead to incitement against public order and tranquillity be curbed strictly.

10. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Lalita Kumari vs Government of UP (MANU/SC/1166/2013)** has held that it is mandatory to file the FIR under Section 154 of the Code if the information discloses the commission of a cognizable crime and no preliminary investigation is permissible in such a case. In deference to the aforesaid judgment, you are



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requested to register a First Information Report against the aforementioned individuals for the offences mentioned in Para 10 of this letter.

11. Your attention is also drawn to the recent Supreme Court order dated 29 April 2023 in the case of **Ashwni Kumar Upadhyay vs Union of India** and Ors, wherein the Hon'ble Court has adjudged that suo moto action in law will be taken the earliest in such cases and any hesitation to act in accordance with this direction will be viewed as contempt of the Supreme Court.

12. Video footage downloaded from YouTube channel of ISTV Live is attached herewith in corroboration of above mentioned statements for your perusal and reference for the subsequent investigation.

13. A copy of the FIR may please be provided to this office for our records please.



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Yours Sincerely,

Naib Subedar

Nguri Akku

(Rep of HQ 59 Mtn Bde)

Copy to:-

DGP

IG (Law & Order)

CP

17-11-23