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# Manipur Police Register Criminal Case Against Assam Rifles

## Why In The News?

- In An Unprecedented Move, The **Manipur Police Have Registered A Criminal Case Against The Assam Rifles**, The Oldest Paramilitary Force In The Country, For “**Obstruction Of Duty**” And “**Criminal Intimidation**”.
- The Police Have Accused The Personnel Of The **9<sup>th</sup> Battalion Of The Assam Rifles** Of The “Arrogant Act” Of “Giving A Chance To The Accused Kuki Militants To Escape Freely To A Safe Zone”.
- The Assam Rifles Has Been Under Continuous Attack From **Meitei Civil Society Groups And Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs** In The Valley Since The Start Of Ethnic Violence On May 3, Which Has Claimed More Than 150 Lives.



THE HINDU

## Manipur Police register criminal case against Assam Rifles

The Army said some inimical elements have made desperate, repeated, and failed attempts to question the role, intent, and integrity of the Central security forces, especially Assam Rifles

## What Do We Know?

- **On August 7**, The BJP State Leadership Submitted A Memorandum To Prime Minister Narendra Modi Saying That The “Assam Rifles Has Been Charged By The Public For Their Biased Role In Tackling The Situation By Favoring And Supporting One Side Only”.
- They Demanded The **Permanent Removal Of The Force From Manipur**. The Assam Rifles, Which Is Also Deployed Along The Myanmar Border, Is Under The Operational Control Of The Army.



## About The FIR

- The First Information Report (FIR) Comes In The Wake Of The August 5 Incident At Kwakta In The **Meitei Dominated Bishnupur Area** Where A Father-son Duo And Another Person Were Hacked To Death In Their Sleep By Armed Miscreants, **Suspected To Be Members Of The Kuki Community** Who Came From The Neighbouring Churachandpur District.
- Following The Killings, The Manipur Police Alleged That Their Team Was Stopped By The Assam Rifles Unit From **Conducting A Search Operation To Trace The Suspected Attackers** Who Could Have Been Hiding In The Area. It Alleged That The Assam Rifles Used Armoured Vehicles To Block Their Way. A Video Of The Altercation Went Viral The Same Day.



Today at about 6:40 am received an information that on the same day at about 6:30am teams of state police including teams of CDO/BPR led by SP/BPR proceeded towards the Pholjang road along Kwakta ward No. 8 as follow up action in c/w FIR NO. 927(8)/2023 PGC-PS U/s-302/400/427/436/460 IPC and 25(1-C) Arms Act for conducting search operation to trace out the accused Kuki militants that might have been taking shelter at Kwakta Ward No.8 i.e. the adjoining area between kwakta and Pholjang village . On reaching the Kutub Wali Masjid located at Kwakta Ward No. 8 along Pholjang road the state police teams including CDO/BPR was stopped and blocked their way by the personnel of 9<sup>th</sup> AR by keeping and parking their Casper Vehicle in the middle of the Kwakta Pholjang road and obstructed in discharging their law bound duty. As such arrogant act of the personnel of 9<sup>th</sup> AR giving a chance to the accused Kuki militants to escape freely to somewhere a safe zone for them.

Hence, Suo-mutto case under FIR No. 928(8)/2023 PGC-PS U/S-166/186/189/341/353/506 and 34 IPC is registered for investigation.

Dated: 05/08/2023  
Place: Phougakchao Ikhai Police Station.

*Sudav*  
(SI N. Devidas Singh)  
i/c, Officer-in-Charge,  
Phougakchao Ikhai Police Station  
(Officer-in-Charge)  
Phougakchao Ikhai Police Station  
Bishnupur District, Manipur

## How The Army Responded

- **The Army, In A Statement Late On Tuesday, Said Some Inimical Elements Had Made Desperate, Repeated, And Failed Attempts To Question The Role, Intent, And Integrity Of The Central Security Forces, Especially Assam Rifles, That Are Working Relentlessly Towards Saving Lives And Restoration Of Peace In Manipur Since May 3.**
- The Army Said Two Instances Emerged Over The Past 24 Hours Aimed At Maligning The Assam Rifles. While In First Case, The Assam Rifles Battalion **Acted Strictly In Accordance With The Mandate Of The Unified Headquarters Of Strict Enforcement Of Buffer Zone Guidelines** Towards The Aim Of Preventing Violence. The Second Case Of The Assam Rifles Being Moved Out Of An Area Was Not Even Related To Them.



## What Is A Buffer Zone?

- A Defence Source Said The Place (In The August 5 Incident) Where The Police Team Wanted To Proceed To Was A “Buffer Zone” And There Were Instructions From The Combined Headquarters That **Only Central Security Forces Would Operate There.**
- The Centre Has Deployed **Central Armed Police Forces** And **The Army** In The “Buffer Zones” In The Foothills Where Kuki And Meitei Settlements Lie Adjacent To Each Other. There Have Been Several Incidents Of **Meira Paibis**, Checking The Identity Card Of Central Forces And Blocking Their Movement.
- The **Kuki Community**, On The Other Hand, Has **Accused The State Police Of Abetting And Inciting Violence Against Them** In Association With Vigilante Groups Such As Arambai Tenngol And Meitei Leepun.
- **The FIR Was Registered And The Charges Are Of** Disobeying Law By Public Servant With Intent To Cause Injury To Any Person, Obstructing Public Servant, Threat Of Injury To A Public Servant, Wrongful Restraint, Assault Or Criminal Force And Criminal Intimidation.

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