

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EFI Deeply Grieved by Killing of Church Leaders in Manipur

New Delhi, 13 May 2026

The Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI) expresses deep grief and anguish over the killing of church leaders belonging to the Thadou Baptist Association India (TBAI) in Manipur's Kangpokpi district on 13 May 2026.

According to information received from church leaders and sources on the ground, the church leaders were returning from a United Baptist Convention gathering in Churachandpur when they were ambushed while travelling towards Kangpokpi.

EFI has received credible confirmation of the deaths of Rev. Dr. Vumthang Sitlhou, Pastor Kaigoulun Lhouvum, and Pastor Paogoulen Sitlhou. Several others were also injured, including Rev. SM Haopu Sitlhou, Rev. Kaithang Singsit, Mr. Thangtinlen Sitlhou, and Mr. Lungoumang Lhouvum.

The killing of unarmed church leaders returning from Christian fellowship and ministry is deeply disturbing and tragic. At a time when Manipur continues to endure pain, division, displacement, and fear, such violence further wounds communities already under immense strain.

This tragedy is especially painful for the Church in the North East, where communities bound by shared faith continue to bear the wounds of prolonged conflict and division.

We urge the authorities to ensure urgent medical care for the injured, protection for affected communities, and a thorough, impartial investigation so that those responsible are brought to justice. We also appeal to all communities, organisations, and leaders to act with restraint and prevent any further escalation of violence.

In this hour of grief, EFI stands in prayerful solidarity with the bereaved families, the Thadou Baptist Association India, the churches of Manipur, and all those affected. We also call on churches across India to remember Manipur in their upcoming worship services, prayer meetings, and gatherings, asking God for comfort, healing, peace, and wisdom.

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” (Psalm 34:18)



Rev. Vijayesh Lal
General Secretary
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