



**Karen National Union
Supreme Headquarters**

www.knuhq.org

Today, Day 1 of the Waxing Moon of Thalay Month is the Karen national New Year Day of the year 2762, Karen Era (K. E.). On the auspicious occasion of our Karen New Year Day which concerns the entire Karen nation/people, I extend my greetings and pray for all the Karen nationals and also the entire people to have peace of mind, bodily health and protection against all kinds of adversary and oppressive rule.

Dear Karen Nationals,

We the Karen people fully possess all the attributes and identities of a nation such as history, literature, language, etc., in addition to culture and traditional customs. Since the ancient time, we have had our own history and our own Karen monarchs, our own Karen land area, and our own administrative system, in the country we are now living in. However, in addition to various kinds of oppressive rule and due to aggressive land grabs, hostile expansionism and all kinds of belligerency, our Karen people have had to move from one place to another and lose much lands and habitats. Most of our Karen people are still inhabiting the land known as Lower Burma (southern and south-eastern parts of the country), and some are living in Thailand. Due to continuing oppressive rule and military violence, some have to migrate as refugees to far-away lands.

Dear Karen Nationals,

By celebrating the new year event related to our entire Karen national entity, remember that our Karen forebears were the earliest people who had settled in the country we are now living in. We must strive for and protect the freedom and development of the land and the country as they are ours, and the possession of our ancestors'. In whichever countries or regions you have reached, regain and protect the heritage of our ancestors and the historical legacies, and promote again our own national attributes and identity, history, literature, language, culture and traditional customs.

Every Karen can and has the responsibility to promote his/her own Karen national attributes and identity, history, literature, language, culture and traditional customs, like that. Whichever regions the Karen people may have settled in, they can maintain and promote their own Karen traditional customs and cultural practices, in accordance with the measures of their knowledge, skills and time permit. All our Karen

nationals who have reached various regions, and the Karen social, religious and armed resistance organizations must strive in unity. We must collectively strive with a single goal in mind, under our one and only Karen national flag.

Dear Karen Nationals,

In order for the Karen people to be free from various forms of repression and to attain, in addition to freedom, the standard of living, knowledge, ability and technological skills in line with the prevailing time and age, and a developed human existence, our national leaders and ourselves have been endeavoring for more than 70 years. However, we have not yet fully gained our aims and objectives.

In the review of our national efforts, we have found many weaknesses. However, the biggest weakness has been factionalism and being weak in unity. Whatever it may be, we absolutely must not lessen our effort but have to step up our endeavor more than ever, and strive on with stronger unity and greater momentum. We have to strive on without let up to achieve the rights of equality for every ethnic nationality and every state, and these rights must be clearly provided for in the federal constitution. In order to achieve fully our political aims and objectives, all the revolutionary resistance organizations in addition to our Karen national organizations and religious groups must strive in unity under the one and only Karen national flag, with a single goal in mind.

Moreover, in accordance with the requirements of politics and the prevailing time, age and system, we have to cooperate with every nationality, organization and group striving for total elimination of all the totalitarian systems, in addition to the military dictatorship. We have to formulate strategic and tactical plans, in accordance with demands of the prevailing political situation, time, system and objective conditions, and implement them.

Dear Karen Nationals,

I would like to urge the Karen national leaders heading our Karen national revolutionary resistance, and members of the resistance armed forces to endeavor with full vigor and courage for the unity and the enhancement of ardor in the future, of our Karen nationals, in addition to the entire people, who have to suffer all kinds of injustices perpetrated by the dictators. Strive on with unity with a single goal in mind, under the one and only Karen national flag. Struggle on until the goal is fully achieved. We shall surely be victorious.

May you all, who have come to the Karen New Year Day celebration, on the occasion of New Year relating to all the Karen nationals, achieve successes with courage and unity. I wish and pray for our Karen nationals as well as the entire people to be emancipated from all kinds of oppression, repression and rules by all kinds of dictators.

Saw Mutu Say Poe
President
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