



Karen National Union
Supreme Headquarters
Kawthoolei
www.knuhq.org

Position Statement of KNU Following Seizure of Power by Tatmadaw

February 14, 2021

1. The Karen National Union (KNU) is keeping watch constantly on all the circumstances taking place following the seizure of State Power by Tatmadaw (the military) on February 1, 2021.
2. The seizure of power is an act contradictory to the culture of resolving the political problems by political means through consultation and dialogue, and we oppose such seizure of power as it is headed towards prolonging the system of dictatorship.
3. We, the KNU, support and encourage the nonviolent demonstrations against the military's seizure of power by the entire people of the ethnic nationalities, and we will help and give protection to them. We encourage and urge for conscientious maintenance of the continuing nonviolence demonstrations, shunning the instigation of violence and careful performance from all sides.
4. We call on Myanmar Yeh (police) and Tatmadaw, which are born of the people, not to crush the anti-dictator protests and strikes participated by the entire people of all the ethnic nationalities, and not arrest, arrest in the homes or outside of homes at night as well as in day time, and to cease and refrain from acts causing, directly or indirectly, chaos and disorder among the public.
5. We urge the community of various country diplomats to employ all the means of diplomacy and make the effort for the release of all the persons arrested and detained, and the creation of a forum for dialogue with the aim of achieving national reconciliation, between Myanmar Tatmadaw and the government which has lost power.
6. Moreover, we urge the international community and organizations concerned to employ all the available means for the deliverance of humanitarian aid and assistance to the people of all the ethnic nationalities in the various towns, cities and villages situated all over the country, who have suffered horrific violence in confrontation with the forces of Tatmadaw, which has seized power.

7. The current political crisis is a long standing one resulting explosively from the negation to resolve the demand for equality by the ethnic nationalities, and the failure to resolve the decades-long problem of tyrannical and callous relationship of the civil society by the military. In order to resolve this problem, we urge for a political dialogue, in which all the stakeholders can participate, and endeavor is made by all the participants, until the constitution of a democratic federal union guaranteeing full democracy, ethnic national equality and self-determination is achieved.
8. On the other hand, as a result of the Myanmar Tatmadaw building a road unilaterally like a military operation in the KNU controlled areas, head on armed clashes between the Tatmadaw and the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) troops have continued, causing the displacement of civilians as IDP. The KNU will provide the people in distress, whatever is necessary for help and protection, and urge the INGOs to step up cross-border humanitarian assistance.
9. Accordingly, the KNU is of the opinion that dialogue only could bring about ceasefire and establishment of the federal democratic system, and the creation and emergence of the democratic federal union, guaranteeing freedom, equality and justice for the people of all the ethnic nationalities.

Central Executive Committee
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