



**Karen National Union
Supreme Headquarters
Kawthoolei**
www.knuhq.org

Letter of Felicitation Sent by KNU to Karen Traditional Wrist-Tying Ceremony

**Full Moon Day of Larku Month, 2760
August 22, 2021**

Dear Karen Nationals,

Today, the Full Moon Day of Larku Month 2760 Karen Era (KE), is the **auspicious day of the Karen traditional wrist-tying ceremony**. On the auspicious occasion of the Karen traditional wrist-tying ceremony day, we, the Karen National Union (KNU) Supreme Headquarters, extend our best wishes to all the Karen nationals to have a prosperous life, cheers and wellness of both body and mind, and to be free from all the dangers.

Observation of the auspicious day of Karen traditional wrist-tying ceremony is a traditional custom that has its origin in the ancient time, and it is not a modern cultural practice having no link to any religious belief.

The Karen people's auspicious wrist-tying festival is a national tradition and culture, indicating the existence of Karen history and culture, since time immemorial. Up to this day, the Karen people observe their traditional customs throughout the ages, in line with their history, culture and traditional practices .

In ancient time, the Karen people organized for reunion of their children, living far away from home, with the ones in the native land, once a year, for them to acquaint one another and build up unity. The intent of holding reunion was to make the children or families living far way in various places to form close friendly relationship, and in case of a member or a family falling into difficulty, the others were to help cooperatively.

In addition to the family members living in far away places, the reunion is also for all the ones living close by. The ones coming back from far away places bring with them the edible produces of their land and occupation.

The annual reunion was initiated usually some days in advance, at the native places. While waiting for the arrival of all the family members from far away places, the ones who had arrived earlier would hold feast happily together on the edible produces they had brought with them from various places. Such feasts could take place from a few days to a week, and on the last day when all the family members had arrived, the **grand traditional wrist-tying ceremony was held.**

The **significance of this traditional wrist-tying ceremony is to indicate that the Karen people have the same roots and are of one big family. It carries the meaning of being in one mind and in unity.** When a family member or a family is facing any difficulty, members of other families are to come and provide help. Wherever the meeting takes place, it should raise a flag for us to realize that we are descendants of the same nationality and same family. It signifies unity, mutual assistance and support.

On the final day of the annual reunion, leaders, parents and elders deliver words of advice. Additionally, the parents and elders say prayers and made good wishes for the families to have health and cheers of the mind and body, progress, prosperity and to be free from all dangers.

Dear Karen Nationals,

The significance and essence of the Karen traditional wrist-tying ceremony, in addition to being concerned with a family of a nationality's tradition and august occasion, **are the mark** of a nationality's unity and united existence. In the current situation, due to different circumstances and various difficulties, many Karen people have to depart from their homeland and reside in a number of countries of the world. Though they are residing in far away places, they can communicate through devices of advanced technology. We can share mutually the information and development concerning us, and help and support one another, any time.

While the scourge of Covid-19 is raging as it is now, there is a difficulty for us to assemble together. However, by expressing mutual remembrance and extending our good wishes to all our Karen nationals at home and abroad, may we be able to give mutual assistance and support with unity, until the Karen national political goals are achieved.

At a time when the Covid-19 plague is spreading, it is necessary to follow the Covid-19 rules laid down for **the occasion of Karen traditional wrist-tying ceremony** to prevent the spike of infection. We wish for all the Karen nationals to have sprightliness of the body and mind, prosperous life, and freedom from all adversaries.

**Karen National Union (KNU)
Supreme Headquarters**