

Statement of Seminar of Religious Organizations Organized by KNU Home and Religious Affairs Department

18 Feb 2012

A seminar of Karen religious organizations, organized by the Karen National Union (KNU) Home and Religious Affairs Department, was held at a certain place on the Thai-Burma border for 3 days, from February 15 to 17, and it was attended by 95 Buddhist Sanghas, reverends and priests from all the different religious organizations and laypersons from some Karen organizations.

At the seminar, the process being implemented by the KNU for ceasefire and peace in the country was explained. The Sanghas, reverends, priests and some leaders of Karen organizations attending the seminar discussed freely and frankly about matters on unity of the Karen people and peace. The seminar participants unanimously decided to participate in practical undertakings, in ways possible, to restore peace in Burma (Myanmar) and to narrow the differences among the Karen people for unity.

In accordance with the decision, the seminar formed a board for establishing Karen Unity, comprising of 11 Buddhist Sanghas and 9 Christian reverends, and agreed to hold further necessary consultations, with the aim of building national unity and peace, systematically.

The seminar earnestly urged leaders of the organizations concerned to handle speedily and effectively the armed clashes between troops of the two sides, for reducing tension practically in conflict zones, for increasing trust between the two sides, for increasing confidence of the local populations and in order to continue peace building process after the signing of initial ceasefire agreement on January 12, between the KNU and U Thein Sein government.

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