

Statement of Karen National Union 15th Congress

27 Dec 2012

1. The 15th Congress of Karen National Union was held in its 7th Brigade area in Pa-an District, Kawthoolei from November 26 to December 26, 2012. The Congress was attended by a total of 245 people consisting (171) representatives and (74) observers.
2. The Congress reviewed and approved the political situation analysis and activity reports of the KNU from its past four-year term. The Congress also reviewed and reaffirmed the constitution, political objectives and basic programs of the KNU.
3. The Congress also adopted future work plans to increase women participation in politics and national affairs, build unity among Karen people and enhance administration and organization. It also decided to formulate economic and development policies and establish a human rights committee for the protection of people from abuses.
4. The Congress elected the new Central Executive Committee of the Karen National Union
 1. General Saw Mutu Sae Poe - Chairman
 2. Padoh Naw Zipporah Sein - Vice- chairman
 3. Padoh Saw Kwe Htoo Win - General Secretary
 4. Padoh Saw Thaw Thi Bwe - Joint Secretary (1)
 5. Padoh Mahn Mahn - Joint Secretary (2)
 6. Padoh Saw Roger Khin - Committee Member
 7. Padoh Mahn Nyein Maung - Committee Member
 8. Padoh Saw Tha Main Htun - Committee Member
 9. Padoh Saw Tar Doh Moo - Committee Member
 10. Brigadier General Saw Jonny - Committee Member
 11. Brigadier General Saw Baw Kyaw Hei - Committee Member
5. The Congress also appointed Brigadier General Saw Jonny, the Commander of 7th Brigade, as new General Operation Commander and Brigadier General Saw Baw Kyaw Hel, the Commander of 5th Brigade, as Deputy General Operation Commander of the Karen National Liberation Army.
6. The KNU reviewed the current ceasefire and peace processes of the Burmese government and views that there is a grave and urgent need to work on reaching political dialogue. The KNU believes that there must be a nationwide ceasefire prior to the dialogue.
7. The KNU is very concerned over the Burmese authorities' violent crackdown on people's movement while the Government is engaging in ceasefire negotiations and peace processes with ethnic armed resistance groups. However, the KNU welcomes the Government's initiative of establishing a commission to investigate and seek for truth.
8. The KNU pledges to continue to work in collaboration and cooperation with other ethnic and democratic forces, while keep working on the current peace process, towards establishment of a genuine federal union in order to achieve democracy and equality and self-determination of all ethnic nationalities.

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