



KNU – Karen National Union

Supreme Headquarter

Kawthoolei

www.knuhq.org

Karen National Union Felicitations on New Year

1st January, 2024

Today marks the beginning of 2024 and the Karen New Year, the year 2763, which arrives on the 1st day of Thalay new moon. Karen communities across various countries are joining in celebrations from different locations to offer congratulations and share in the festivities. On this special day, I extend heartfelt prayers for the health and well-being of the Karen people and all individuals. May the new year bring Peace, Unity, prosperity, and safety to everyone. Due to various reasons, Karen people have migrated to different countries worldwide. Despite the geographical distances that separate us, Karen people, spread across various nations, remain united by shared values and continue to appreciate and celebrate this significant occasion year after year.

The new year marks the transition from the old year to the new year. Just as the year 2023 will be succeeded by 2024, the Karen people is on the verge of moving from the year 2762 to the year 2763 in a few days.

Our Karen people possess a rich heritage, including literature, language, customs, traditions, and culture that define our history and distinct characteristics. As an ethnic group, it is imperative for the Karen people to transmit these unique attributes to future generations, ensuring the sustainability and development of their ethnicity. Simultaneously, while adhering to the evolving modern system, we must preserve and enhance the strengths and distinct characteristics inherent to our ethnic identity.

Given this, every individual Karen bears the responsibility to proudly represent our ethnicity on the global stage. As Karen people, we must be vigilant, proactive, and consistently eager for improvement. This commitment to diligence, unity, and solidarity holds paramount importance for the future of the Karen national movement.

For an ethnic group to thrive and endure, the constitution of the host country, its language, and the cultural traditions must be acknowledged. As stated earlier, within a nation housing diverse ethnicities and cultures, the constitution should recognize and appreciate these various traditions. Regrettably, reflecting on our own country, the constitution fails to acknowledge the culture and survival of distinct indigenous groups as ethnic entities. This omission hinders the growth and development of ethnic peoples, resulting in their systematic suppression and deliberate marginalization.

The absence of acknowledgment of equal rights leads to oppression and injustice, becoming the root cause of conflict between the governing authorities and the inhabitants of the nation. The most effective approach to achieving equal rights and resolving political conflicts and revolutionary wars is through peaceful political dialogue and solutions. The KNU-Karen National Union has persistently sought a political resolution over the years. Unfortunately, the longstanding rulers of the country have shown no inclination to address the political issue through political means.

The KNU-Karen National Union aims to end the civil war conflict through political dialogue and solutions, fostering peace and development. This involves establishing a federal democratic union that guarantees equal rights and self-determination through constructive political discussions.

KNU-Karen National Union has actively engaged with the community, political parties, and opposition revolutionary forces. KNU-Karen National Union have received significant support from the international community and the public. Regrettably, the talks were disrupted due to a coup d'état. If the dictators of the military regime remain unwilling to engage in political dialogue and resolve the political issues with sincerity, achieving peace through such discussions becomes impossible. The public heightened awareness, particularly evident in the involvement of the younger generation in armed revolution, emphasizes the severity of the situation.

It has been almost three years since the military coup in 2021. Initially, there was hope among the people that the military regime would be swiftly overthrown, or a return to civilian rule would occur within a few months or a short period but now we we approach the three-year mark. We understand that during this period, the people have endured struggles, significant losses, and shattered hopes. The duration of this ongoing struggle remains uncertain, fostering a sense of hopelessness. Despite these challenges, our goals go beyond the mere removal of

the dictator; we aspire to dismantle the entire dictatorial system, addressing the root causes of dictatorship. We encourage people to understand these objectives, maintain resilience and join us in this profound revolution.

As members of the Karen community, we devoutly pray for the development of greatness and honor, aligning with the current trends. This involves living a purposeful life, seeking knowledge, and diligently working, or working hard for living. All these are not sufficient. Concurrently, we actively resist unfair restrictions on our rights and political injustices, striving to create and secure our rights. Consequently, it becomes the duty of every individual Karen, regardless of their location, to prevent actions that may harm the Karen people.

As part of the Karen community, we fervently pray for the development of greatness and honor, aligning with current trends. This involves living a purposeful life, seeking knowledge, and diligently working, or working hard for living. However, these efforts alone are insufficient. Simultaneously, we actively resist unfair restrictions on our rights and political injustices, striving to create and secure our rights. Hence, , it becomes the duty of every individual Karen, regardless of their location, to prevent actions that may harm the Karen people.

The KNU-Karen National Union's foremost objective is to create a liberated, fair, and just Kawthoolei with comprehensive self-determination. The ultimate goal is to establish a union that guarantees equality for all ethnic groups within the country.

Therefore, it is crucial for all Karen Civil Society organizations to stand up for Karen public affairs and collaborate for the preservation and advancement of the Karen people as an ethnic group. In the current political climate, individual Karens should unite, coordinate, and make sacrifices to declare their commitment to the Karen cause, serving the interests of all Karen people and organizations.

As we embrace the dawn of 2024, let us aspire to instill enthusiasm, unity, and a resolute spirit of courage and determination among the Karen people. May we effectively combat anything that threatens to diminish the dignity of our community. Whether residing domestically or abroad, may all Karen individuals unite under the banner of the Karen ethnic identity, displaying moral righteousness. I extend heartfelt prayers, wishing that every Karen people fulfills their responsibilities and attains success in their respective endeavors.

Karen National Union
Headquarter