



The Karen Women's Organization Strongly Condemns the Burma Army for its Shameful Coup and Continued Attacks Against Civilians

2 February 2021: The Karen Women's Organization (KWO) strongly condemns the Burma Army's shameful coup, arbitrary detainment and arrest of government officials and activists, and continued targeting of innocent civilians in ethnic conflict zones. We call urgently for decisive punitive measures by the international community against the new military regime.

For too long the international community, including donors of the military-led peace process, has ignored the Burma Army's ongoing aggression and flouting of international law – clear warning signs that they were never committed to building peace and national reconciliation, and upholding ethnic people's rights. Yesterday's coup is definitive evidence of this. It is chilling indeed that the military commanders responsible for crimes against humanity and genocide have now asserted absolute control over the country.

KWO is gravely concerned at the ongoing displacement of IDPs in northern Karen State and other ethnic areas. Many still do not have access to humanitarian aid due to ongoing mortar shelling by the Burma Army. The coup will surely exacerbate their vulnerability.

The Burma Army's despicable seizure of power must be met with the most serious of responses.

KWO calls for a worldwide arms embargo, economic sanctions against the military regime and cronies, and support for international justice proceedings to hold the Burma Army accountable for their crimes.

It is now time for everyone, ethnic armed resistance groups, and democracy activists all over Burma to join a unified countrywide fight against the military dictatorship, with support from the international community. Only pressure will succeed in bringing the Burma Army under control.

Executive Committee Members
KWO Central