



အိန္ဒိယဒေသ အာရှတိုက်
International Karen Organisation

Asia Pacific Region European Region US/Canada Region

IKO Statement on ICJ Indication of Provisional Measures on Myanmar/Burma

January 27, 2020

1. The International Karen Organization (IKO) welcomes, without reservation, order by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the form of Provisional Measures directing Myanmar to prevent genocide against the Rohingya people, until the ICJ finishes further investigations and a final decision is rendered.
2. The IKO has appealed to the UN to urge ICJ to broaden its scope of investigation to include the genocidal crimes committed by the Myanmar/Burman generals for more than (71) years, in their war against the Karen and their fellow oppressed non-Burman ethnic nationalities of the country. The first victims of the Burman ultra-nationalists and generals' genocidal war have been the Karen people.
3. Historically, the Burman ultra-nationalists occupied dominant position in the ruling party of the newly independent Burma, the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL), and created the 1947 Constitution of Burma with the agenda to keep all the other ethnic nationalities subjugated under total control of the Burman rule. In reaction, on February 11, 1948, for the first time over 450,000 Karen people hit the streets peacefully with four slogans - demanding for Creation of the Karen State, Equal Rights, Prevention of Communal Strife and Prevention of Civil War.
4. From the very beginning, the war was turned into a war between the Burman and the Karen, after Gen. Ne Win and his cohorts attacked the Karen National Union (KNU) Headquarters at Thatay-gon, in Rangoon on January 30, 1949, instead of resolving the political problem by political means. The next day, on January 31, 1949, as they attacked the Karen National Defense Organization (KNDO) Headquarters in Insein, the Karen people resisted in self-defense, and the great Karen people's armed revolutionary movement started. In their war against the Karen, Gen. Ne Win and his army committed widespread atrocities against the Karen civilians in the Irrawaddy Delta, Pegu Division and Taninthayi Division.
5. With massive financial and military assistance from various countries, the Burma army, launched most barbarous military campaigns, first against the Karen and later against other ethnic nationalities such as the Karenni, the Mon, the Shan, the Kachin, the Arakan etc, who had to take up arms against Burman oppression and aggression. They together formed the Ethnic Nationalities Alliance, the National Democratic Front (NDF), demanding for the establishment of a Genuine Federal Union.
6. Against the Karen civilians, Gen. Ne Win's barbarous army committed atrocities and the crimes of burning dawn towns and villages, arbitrary killing, torture and imprisonment systematically, using the so-called "Four-Cut" military strategy and

scorch-earth policy in the eastern seven Karen controlled regions - burning down 7 towns and 3,000 Karen villages, in the years from 1970 to 2000. More than 250,000 Karen civilians had to flee for their lives and take refuge in 12 refugee camps, along the Thai-Burma border, starting from 1984.

7. When the Western Bloc pressured for change, the military junta led by Gen. Than Shwe simply begged China for aid and assistance. He and the military junta resumed the divide-and-conquer strategy, in which he entered into ceasefire agreement with the ethnic forces in the North and massed his combat forces against the Karen and Karenni in the South. Atrocities and war crimes against the Karen and Karenni civilians by Gen. Than Shwe's Myanmar army were as monstrous as ever.
8. In 2010, a general election was held under the military drafted 2008 Constitution and a quasi-civilian government was installed. Under the EU-designed and sponsored peace process, the 3 Karen and 7 other groups were duped into signing an unequal Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), finally in 2015. The Myanmar army resumed war against some of the former Northern ceasefire groups. The ongoing war in Arakan State, at present, is at least a textbook example of ethnic cleansing, if not genocide.
9. The wars against the Karen and the other ethnic nationalities by the Myanmar army can only be considered as a genocidal war, like the Burman wars against the non-Burman nationalities in the feudal days. For that reason, we the IKO call on the UN to urge the ICJ to broaden its scope of investigation to include the Myanmar army's heinous war against the non-Burman ethnic nationalities, the Karen and their fellow oppressed ethnic nationalities, that has been going on for more than (71) years in the country, termed as "The Longest Civil War in the World" by the International Media.

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