



Statement by Karen Peace Support Network
For Immediate Release

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KPSN strongly condemns the Military Coup and Urgently call for the New Approaches To Achieve Peace and Democracy in Burma

The Karen Peace Support Network condemns the military coup which took place on Monday 1st February. The coup must be a wake-up call to the international community that its approach towards peace and democratization in Myanmar has been fundamentally flawed. International policy was constructed on the promises of peace and democracy made by a military which had no interest in either. The military-crafted, centralized governing structure could never be a foundation for sustainable peace and development in Burma.

The military established its own 2008 Constitution, imposed it on the country, and then began negotiations for peace. This is the opposite to the approach which should be taken, which is that all sides negotiate a Constitution which helps to resolve the political and human rights crisis in the country. There should be widespread community consultation and input into any new Constitution, rather than remote elites making top-down decisions.

The coup has proven conclusively that a peace process under the confines of the 2008 Constitution can never succeed, and there needs to be a new process in which all stakeholders are committed to the goal of a federal democratic union under full civilian control. Half steps towards democracy like under the 2008 Constitution were claimed as a step towards democracy but will always be vulnerable to the military retaking control at any time. Instead they delay genuine progress towards peace, and should never be attempted again.

Therefore, we call for the following:

To all people of Burma:

- Publicly reject the coup and the failed 2008 Constitution and demand the drawing up of a new federal democratic constitution.
- Boycott all products made by military companies.

To the Burma Army:

- Stop offensives throughout the country, pull back troops, and immediately release all political prisoners, including those who won seats in the recent 2020 election.

To the International Community:

- Suspend all political and financial support to the military regime and peace process, including the Joint Peace Fund.

- Impose immediate targeted sanctions on military owned and controlled companies as recommended by the UN Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar.
- Support international justice proceedings at the ICJ and the ICC to hold top military leaders accountable for genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.
- Provide immediate direct cross-border assistance to adequately address humanitarian needs of all IDPs and refugees suffering from ongoing Burma Army militarization and offensives.

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