



**International Day of Action for Rivers and Against Dams
Statement from Karen Rivers Watch on Mega-Dams in the Salween River**

March 14, 2021

Large dams are fueling conflict and undermining the peace-building capacity of the people. Today, on the banks of the magnificent Salween River, to honor that river; to allow the free flow of the lifeblood of our Karen people; to call for the complete cancellation of all proposals for the construction of large dams on our rivers; we come together in Ei Tu Hta area of the Salween and declare the following:

1. We strongly oppose the coup d'état of Min Aung Hlaing-led militant group Fascist dictatorship on 1 February 2021. In addition, the militants' arbitrary arrests and detentions of peaceful protesters calling for democracy; robbery and destruction of public property; torture of detainees; extrajudicial killings; sexual assault and we believe that military aggression against ethnic areas for a variety of reasons is an act of crime against humanity and we seriously urge the international community to take immediate action against the military dictatorship to respect human rights.
2. We recognize the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) as entrusted with the authority of the people. Respect the power conferred by the people and work together with the ethnic nationalities alliances to achieve the desired federal democracy of the ethnic people. We urge the establishment of an interim government as soon as possible and the speedy implementation of the process without hesitation, in order to get international legitimacy and cooperation opportunities.
3. The aim to develop electricity from dams, according to a group known as the State Administrative Council, formed by militant Min Aung Hlaing without the consent of the people, will have significant negative impact on peace, security, environment, climate

change and sustainable development of the country. Therefore, we call for the suspension of all plans and constructions of large-scale dam projects on the Salween River and across Myanmar, including the Myitsone Dam. We also warn investors countries, companies and experts who are supporting on this plans that we will be striking strongly against this project in all aspects of this project.

Moreover, we will continue to work to advocate against countries and stakeholders who are involved and support dam constructions as accompanying partners for the continuation of human rights and war crimes, so that they will be placed in international blacklist.

4. Today marks the international day of actions for rivers. We the Karen Rivers Watch, local communities and civil society groups are all calling for the actions below to be taken immediately.

- To completely stop the use of large dams and fossil fuels, which are harmful to the environment in generating electricity.
- To only use renewable energy in line with the changing trend in international energy.
- To support the implementation of people-centered energy management policies based on decentralized federal democracy system.
- International organizations, ethnic armed organizations and ethnic alliances need to work together with the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) or any potential new form of government in order to implement green energy policies.

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