



World Kachin Congress Condemns Continued Brutality Against Civilians on 10-year Anniversary of Violated Ceasefire in Kachin State

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Ten years ago today, the Burma Army violated a bilateral ceasefire agreement with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) by attacking KIA positions along the Taping River east of Bhamo, Kachin State. The attack displaced thousands of innocent civilians and deepened distrust. Over the last decade, a civil war has prevented Kachin people from feeling safe and secure in their homeland. With over 100,000 people displaced and humanitarian aid blocked, innocent civilians continue to suffer the most. On this solemn acknowledgement of the anniversary, the World Kachin Congress strongly condemns the ongoing assaults by the Burma Army and calls for urgent international action.

The February 1 coup has only made things worse. Mass atrocities are taking place in both rural areas and now on the streets in urban centers like Yangon and Mandalay. The Burma Army has maintained that they intend to rule with 'disciplined democracy.' But with over 800 civilians killed, and thousands unlawfully detained, it's clear that they are not sincere in returning the country back to democracy. Civilians in Kachin State are among millions living in fear in Burma today. The junta security forces continue to deploy troops to destroy property, confiscate possessions and arrest rights defenders. The regime has never been sincere in their roadmaps for peace. Their recent actions are clear evidence of this.

It is not enough to just condemn the atrocities taking place inside Burma. The international community must do more to stand up to the illegitimate junta by taking concrete steps towards putting an end to decades of entrenched impunity. We call on world leaders, United Nations representatives, and ASEAN delegates to do the following:

1. To categorically reject the so-called State Administrative Council and recognize the National Unity Government of Myanmar as the body representing democratically elected members from the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH).
2. To adopt the resolution drafted by the UN General Assembly which calls for a global arms embargo.
3. To enact targeted sanctions to limit the financial powers of the junta.
4. To work with leaders of ethnic armed organizations who have helped provide shelter to fleeing activists and trained civilians to defend themselves when their lives are threatened by the junta.
5. To ensure that Min Aung Hlaing and the Burma Army are held to account for their crimes through a United Nations Security Council referral of the situation in Burma to the International Criminal Court.

International dialogue and engagement in Burma must be with representatives truly committed to peace in our country. Any interaction with the junta only seeks to create more divisions. We need unity and a collective response to end the junta's agenda of death and destruction.

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