



**Karen National Union
General Headquarter
Kawthoolei
www.knuhq.org**

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KNU Statement on the 6th Anniversary of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement

Today is the 6th Anniversary of signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. With the aspiration to achieve sustainable peace, the Karen National Union signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and committed to solve the over 70 years long political problems peacefully through political dialogue, which was not resolved by the successive governments.

In the NCA implementation we, the KNU, along with the implementation partners have firmly and tirelessly overcome many challenges. We achieved the gradual progressive trend of establishing a federal democratic country beyond 2020 through the Three Steps and Three Phases Approach in the Union Accord.

It is with great regret that we see the military coup on 1 February 2021 has breached all NCA's principles and stopped the NCA implementation, so that the military returns to dictatorship with the use of coercive force for solving what are political problems.

As a result of the military coup, all citizens and ethnic people are suffering from many socio-economic related problems resulting from the various forms of oppression, and the country faces collapse. The KNU stands on the principle of "solving political problems by political means". However, according to our experience in the implementation of the NCA, to achieve this it totally depends on the stakeholder's honesty and commitment to comply with the agreements.

Therefore, to save the country from chaos, the KNU requests to all relevant stakeholders the following:

1. To release unconditionally those detainees including political leaders detained following the coup.
2. To withdraw police and military troops back to their stations/bases throughout the country and to declare and practically implement a nationwide ceasefire.
3. Focus immediately on implementation of humanitarian activities freely with the help of international support, remove restriction on all medical treatments including Covid-19 vaccination, protection, and treatment.
4. Release firm orders for the provision of civilian protection to be followed by the police and military forces, and broad international monitoring process through international observers.

5. Accept UN-supported international mediation for the ending of the military rule, and negotiation for transfer of power to an inclusive and participative unity government with representation from all key stakeholders who are committed to federalism and solving the over 70 years long internal political conflict, rooted problems and causes.
6. Tatmadaw to declare officially its commitment to a federal democratic state, and its withdrawal from politics.

The KNU firmly believes that with the country of Burma's diversity of ethnicity and religions, its history of chauvinism and dictatorship, the problems of Burma can only be solved, and a peaceful society can only be achieved, by building a federal state and applying democratic practices.

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