



Position Statement of CSOs Nexus Consortium - Tanintharyi regarding UNOCHA's AHCT (Area of Humanitarian Country Team) Process

Date - 15th October 2023

We have received an invitation from the Southern Myanmar AHCT Secretariat Office, calling for a regional representative of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) from Southern Myanmar to participate in discussions regarding the commencement of the Area of Humanitarian Country Team (AHCT), a UNOCHA initiative. After receiving the invitation, the Civil Society Organizations in Tanintharyi Region held several meetings, and on October (5th), the AHCT Secretariat Office has been informed that they will not participate in the AHCT process as a CSO representative of Tanintharyi region.

The civil society organizations involved in CNC-Tanintharyi have discussed whether they should or should not participate as a representative in the AHCT process of UNOCHA and in view of the following situation and context, the decision was made not to participate as a representative.

Through media reports, it was learned that a meeting took place on August 15, 2023, in Naypyitaw between Min Aung Hlaing, the leader of the military junta who is trying to grab power, and Mr. Martin Griffiths, the head of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA). The meeting was convened to discuss humanitarian assistance matters.

The terrorist army, led by Min Aung Hlaing, is solely responsible for widespread human rights violations all over Myanmar. We firmly believe that the suffering of the people is a direct result of this terrorist army's brutality. We cannot condone cooperation with a group that egregiously violates human rights in humanitarian aid efforts. Rather than alleviating Myanmar's humanitarian crisis, UNOCHA's engagement with the terrorist army, which is perpetrating widespread war crimes, is seen as an acknowledgment and legitimization of their actions. This raises significant and serious concerns and apprehensions about whether such engagement could inadvertently signal support for the terrorist army, potentially leading to increased brutality against the civilian population. In addition, we see it as support for the terrorist army seeking diplomatic recognition as the legitimate government of Myanmar.

Civil society organizations in the Tanintharyi region will continue to fight for the end of the dictatorship, including the military dictatorship, and the establishment of a future federal state in Myanmar. In today's revolution, UNOCHA should not misconstrue that humanitarian missions can be carried out only in conjunction with the terrorist army. Instead, it must be realized that only through cooperation with local civil society organizations that are trusted by



the public and are actually working effectively on the ground, and through other alternative means of support, can the humanitarian crisis be dealt with effectively and comprehensively according to UNOCHA's process and commitment. Therefore, the CNC-Tanintharyi, which is composed of civil society organizations that carry out humanitarian activities in the Tanintharyi region, issues this opinion statement on the issues of the process being carried out by UNOCHA.

CNC – Tanintharyi
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