

**Human Rights Committee  
Karen National Union  
Central**

**KNU Human Rights Committee Statement on International Human Rights Day**

**10<sup>th</sup> December 2024**

On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly made history by adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), marking a milestone for humanity. We weaken human rights when we stay silent, and we strengthen them when we speak out and take action. By ignoring violations and silencing the oppressed, we allow hatred, war, discrimination, inequality, injustice, and exploitation to thrive. As the world moves rapidly into an era of uncertainty, we must uphold our shared values. These values will enable us to face future challenges together with strength and unity. Today, the KNU Human Rights Committee (KHRC) proudly honors and celebrates the 76th International Human Rights Day. We join individuals, groups, and communities—locally, nationally, and globally—who uphold and cherish the values of human rights.

Human rights violations remain mere oral stories when we fail to document the events accurately. Without proper records, these violations are forgotten over time and risk becoming socially accepted or normalized, while the voices of the oppressed remain unheard, leaving them vulnerable to further exploitation. Communities in Kawthoolei have stood firmly together against the various human rights violations relying on their experience, knowledge and instinct. The communities in Kawthoolei strongly uphold cultural and social values that align with many aspects of human rights norms. These values guide their interactions, as they treat one another with respect and dignity, reflecting a natural adherence to principles of equality and fairness.

The KNU Human Rights Committee (KHRC) was established by a resolution of the 16th Congress of the Karen National Union (KNU) to protect the rights of people in Kawthoolei communities and to strengthen both local and international human rights norms and mechanisms. The Myanmar state—particularly its military regime—has systematically violated fundamental rights acted as a perpetrator, not a protector, of human rights. These include the right to life, access to information, education, freedom of expression, and other essential rights necessary for survival, dignity and justice. The rights of the people in Kawthoolei primarily rest with the individuals, communities, and institutions that genuinely uphold and value human rights. These stakeholders play a vital role in protecting, promoting, and ensuring these rights are respected and realized.

The KNU Human Rights Committee (KHRC) actively condemns all forms of human rights violations committed by any individual, community, or institution. To protect and guarantee human

rights, KHRC focuses its efforts locally in Kawthoolei, building a foundation that can be vital at national and global levels. We urge individuals, communities, and institutions—locally, nationally, and internationally—to collaborate with us in promoting and safeguarding human rights in Kawthoolei. By working together, we can ensure that these rights are upheld and respected for everyone.

For further information:

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