



**Karen National Union  
Supreme Headquarter  
Kawthoolei  
[www.knuhq.com](http://www.knuhq.com)**

**Statement on the Condemnation of Air Strikes against Karen New Year Celebrations**

**31 December 2024**

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of December 2024 (the 1<sup>st</sup> day of Tha Lay, 2764 in the Karen Calendar), the SAC conducted aerial bombardments against entertainment and sports venues held between Yokla and Hte Phado Hta in Doo Tha Htu District and Noe Phaw Htee Village in Muthaw District following Karen New Year ceremonies.

It is a historic act in which the military coup-makers publicly and intentionally insulted the Karen New Year celebrations, which have been recognized by successive governments throughout modern Burma/Myanmar history.

The Karen National Union (KNU) strongly condemns this act because the military coup leaders who deliberately targeted the dignity of the Karen New Year festival, which is regarded as a sacred festival for the Karen people, and intended to cause bloodshed and death to those attending the festival.

In the military coup leader's speech, he urged the Karen people to "preserve their culture". In contrast, these attacks shows that peace, stability, and cultural preservation means "You stay where you are put and you go where you are sent" within the military rule.

The main culprit causing the suffering of all people in Burma/Myanmar today and the systematic destruction of Burma/Myanmar is the current Burma/Myanmar military. The KNU believe that it is the responsibility of the Burma/Myanmar military officers and commanders who want a better future and to reform the country, to break away and create a new history.

It is essential to discuss and accept the need for the transformation of the Burma/Myanmar military into a military that is under civilian control, protecting the people and not involved in politics. It is also vital to discuss and accept the implementation of a system of truth and justice that will hold soldiers responsible and accountable for their past actions.

In the process of bringing about durable peace by the resistance groups striving to abolish the military dictatorship and establishing a federal democratic union, those who truly want to protect the people from the current Burma/Myanmar military are invited to contact the resistance groups and participate in the process of establishing a professional military on the path of building a federal democracy union.

The KNU is calling on the Burma/Myanmar military to reform the military institution that has committed terrible crimes including attacking the Karen New Year (2764) celebrations, which is regarded as Crimes Against Humanity. We call for the military not to be involved in politics and invite them to participate in the process of establishing a truth and justice system that holds the military accountable for its targeted attacks on civilians in order to correct our horrific history.

**Central Executive Committee  
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