



**Karen National Union
Supreme Headquarters
Kawthoolei
www.knuhq.org**

Karen National Union (KNU) 17th Congress Statement

May 5, 2023

- 1. The KNU 17th Congress was held successfully from April 24 to May 4, 2023 in the respective congress assembly halls, at the Supreme Headquarters and in the districts, by use of the internet online system.**
- 2. Initially, the KNU 17th Congress was scheduled to be held in June 2021. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting challenges due to coup d'état by the military, the Congress could not have been held in the scheduled period, and finally it was held in three stages. In the third stage of the Congress, a total of 160 representatives attended and it was successfully concluded.**
- 3. The Congress was able to review and adopt the work and the political reports of the Central Standing Committee (CSC), and work reports of the various districts, departments and committees, covering the term of the 16th Congress, and amendments to the Constitution of the KNU and its bylaws, the basic principles and programs of the Karen national revolution, the future work programs of the KNU, prepared and submitted by the CSC.**
- 4. The KNU 17th Congress has elected 45 Central Standing Committee (CSC) members, 11 Central Executive Committee (CEC) members and the Chief Justice.**

The new CEC members elected by the Congress are as follows:

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Padoh Saw Kweh Htoo Win | President |
| 2. Padoh Saw Hser Gay | Vice-President |
| 3. Padoh Saw Tar Doh Moo | General Secretary |
| 4. Padoh Saw Thaw Thee Bweh | Joint General Secretary-1 |
| 5. Padoh Saw Hla Htun | Joint General Secretary-2 |
| 6. General Saw Johnny | Committee Member |
| 7. Brig. Gen. Saw Tamla Thaw | Committee Member |
| 8. Padoh Naw Dah Dah | Committee Member |
| 9. Padoh Saw Taw Nee | Committee Member |
| 10. Padoh Saw Ehkalu Say | Committee Member |
| 11. Padoh Law Eh Moo | Committee Member |

5. **The Congress has pledged to fight for elimination of chauvinism and the system of military dictatorship, the establishment of federal democracy, and the gaining of rights of national equality and self-determination which are legitimately due to the Karen nation/people, in accordance with the basic principles, work programs and future work programs, and together and in solidarity with the entire Karen nation/people.**
6. **We, the Karen National Union (KNU), declare with this statement that we will struggle on by joining hands and in cooperation with the ethnic revolutionary forces, democratic forces, and the various classes of people, who are opposing and striving for elimination of chauvinism and the system of military dictatorship, and for the emergence of a federal union, for democracy, national equality and self-determination.**

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