

KNU – Karen National Union and Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) Joint Statement

16 February 2017

1. The KNU delegation led by KNU Chair General Saw Mutu Sae Poe met the KIO Central Committee at KIO Headquarters in Laiza on 16 February 2017, to discuss the current political situation and consult about the peace process. Two RCSS advisors participated in the discussions.
2. Article No.3 of the Deed of Commitment signed on 12 February 2015, by the KNU, RCSS, DKBA, KNU/KNLA Peace Council and the Government of Myanmar, the Tatmadaw (Defense Services), the Union Parliament, 19 State/Regional Ethnic Affairs Ministers and 55 political parties, committed *to not use force to resolve political problems but resolve political problems through political means*.
3. Article 5 of the Deed further committed the signatories *to not engage in armed conflict or engage in matters that can disrupt the peace process during the period peace negotiations are taking place*.
4. Chapter 1 (g) of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (signed on 15 October 2015) committed *To convene political dialogues with all relevant participants based on ethnic peoples' desires and wishes towards long lasting peace*.
5. Therefore, (the KNU and KIO) urge all relevant actors to act according to these commitments and stop the armed conflict currently taking place, seek to restore peace and seek ways to include all relevant stakeholders in the political dialogue.
6. (We) further urge that until peace is achieved, all ethnic armed organizations engaged in the peace process, not be considered terrorists but rather as partners in the search for peace.
7. (We) further wish to declare that our two organizations are committed to working together to the best of our ability to find all possible ways to achieve peace.

Karen National Union

Kachin Independence Organization

Contact Persons:

General Gun Maw KIO +86 1357-8200-543, U La Nan KIO +86 1518-4925-577
Padoh Saw Tadohmoo KNU+86 1568-7568-282, Saw Tamula KNU +86 1568-7788-323