



**OFFICE OF THE SUPREME HEADQUARTERS  
KAREN NATIONAL UNION  
KAWTHOOLEI  
[www.knuhq.org](http://www.knuhq.org)**

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**Temporarily suspension of participation  
from the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC)**

Effective Sunday, 31 August 2014, the Karen National Union (KNU) has temporarily suspended its participation in the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC). The KNU Central Standing Committee will determine whether or not the KNU will withdraw from UNFC. Until this decision is final, KNU will not participate in UNFC meetings, activities, or decision-making events.

This decision followed a week of discussions amongst leaders of UNFC's members at the UNFC Congress. "The KNU objects to the UNFC holding decision-making authority over its members," explained Saw Tah Doh Moo. "We believe that UNFC should operate as a collaborative forum for members to work together to identify and resolve common interests and problems, not as a sovereign organization that can make decisions and implement directives that its members must follow."

"Karen policy has been based on the tenet that the Karen people will decide their own political destiny," stated P'doh Kwe Htoo Win, the KNU General Secretary. "We will not give that authority to another organization or people. This isn't something new – this has been a guiding principle in Karen politics since Saw Ba U Gyi's presidency in the late 1940s."

KNU delegates will meet with the KNU Central Standing Committee in the upcoming weeks, and the Central Standing Committee will determine whether or not the KNU will retain its membership in the UNFC.

Regardless of its standing in the UNFC, the KNU will continue to work with all the ethnic armed groups, including the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordinating Team (NCCT), which was formed by the 16 ethnic armed organizations to negotiate with the Union Peacemaking Work Committee. "The KNU continues to strongly support ethnic cooperation and coordination, and the KNU will continue to work with all ethnic armed organizations, political parties, pro-democracy organizations, and civil society to attain a nationwide ceasefire, political dialogue with all stakeholders, and a just and lasting peace in Burma/Myanmar," stated Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Poe. "The decision to suspend our participation in UNFC resulted strictly from our disagreement over sovereignty of decision-making authority."

Furthermore, leaders insist, this will not affect the timeline of the peace process. The KNU will continue its representation in the NCCT, working with the other ethnic armed organizations on the collective Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). "The KNU does not

intend to sign a separate nationwide ceasefire accord with the Myanmar government,” emphasized Chairman Saw Mutu Sae Poe. “The NCCT will continue to negotiate the terms of the NCA, and when ethnic armed organizations are ready to sign the NCA, then we will move forward together.”

**Central Executive Committee  
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