



Karen National Union

NCCT Members Summit Concludes With A Solidifying Of Ethnic Cooperation in Laiza

July 29, 2014
Laiza, KIO Headquarters

The Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) Members' Summit that started on July 25 in the headquarters of Kachin Independence Organization's Laiza successfully concluded today, solidifying a united ethnic cooperation for further negotiations with the Union government.

The main purpose of the Summit was to review, analyze, amend and finalize the second drafted single text nationwide ceasefire agreement that was jointly drafted by NCCT and Union Peacemaking Working Committee (UPWC).

NCCT received mandate from the first Ethnic Armed Organizations' Conference in Laiza, and the second conference in Law Khee Lar, Karen State to negotiate with UPWC a nationwide ceasefire agreement. They reached a juncture, which needed their senior leaders to meet together and give directions to move forward, in order to achieve a nationwide ceasefire and then continue political dialogue.

The Summit thoroughly discussed the second draft single text document and reached 10-point policy decisions that include building a federal union based on democracy, equality and self-determination. The Summit renewed the mandate for NCCT to negotiate with the government to achieve a nationwide ceasefire. Ethnic senior leaders were astute in choosing new approaches, which in some points were compromising some terminologies but adding the definition of terms in order to negotiate with the government.

The three Karen armed groups; KNU, DKBA and KPC that participated at the Summit, again showed their solidarity by sitting together and discussing the 10 point policy decisions that was raised on the final day of the Summit. Other ethnic nationalities such as Arakan organizations follow suit. The cooperation of the Karen armed groups are important and longing by the Karen public.

KNU President General Mutu Sae Poe who was also nominated Chairman of the Management Committee for this Summit, in his opening speech on the second day mentioned the importance of ethnic cooperation, policy guideline and principles of mutual understanding for achieving a nationwide ceasefire and starting political dialogue. His speech surprisingly matched the message from the UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon whose message was delivered by his special envoy to Burma/Myanmar Mr. Vijay Nambiar, two days later at the summit.



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The United Nations Special Envoy Mr. Vijay Nambiar and Tang Ying, the assistant to China's newly appointed Asian affairs representative also attended the last two days of the summit. Mr. Nambiar gave a brief speech and delivered UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon message to the Summit leaders. "By embracing a nationwide ceasefire and a political dialogue process, all sides will agree to put aside the legacy of mistrust and suspicion and embark on a new era of mutual confidence and cooperation between the diverse ethnic groups and communities of the nation and to work in a unified way for a common destiny for Burma/Myanmar."

Non NCCT Members, the Restoration Council for Shan State (RCSS) and, All Burma Student Democratic Front (ABSDF) participated as observers at the Summit.

This new dawn for a stronger and unified NCCT, and with the hope of wiliness and compromise from the government side, reaching a nationwide ceasefire agreement and starting political dialogue is near to achieve.

The slogans of "Peach in the ethnic areas now" that we heard from the Kachin people, who welcomed ethnic senior leaders when they enter Laiza on July 21, can only bare fruits when all sides agree to put aside their differences and embark on a new era of mutual understanding and cooperation. The time is now.

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