



Karen National Union (KNU)  
Supreme Headquarters  
Kawthoolei  
[www.knuhq.org](http://www.knuhq.org)

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**Statement Released on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Karen National Union's Signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)**

- 1) As the Karen National Union (KNU) is continuously committed to its principle of solving political problems by way of political means, consequently the KNU actively continues its participation in the efforts to achieve peace in the country.
- 2) To reach the NCA, the KNU had to first sign State and Union level bilateral ceasefire agreements with the government and the Tatmadaw, including the Deed of Commitment for Peace and National Reconciliation, while continuously seeking ethnic equality and the right to self-determination, passing many obstacles along with other Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) and our people.
- 3) Despite the challenges and difficulties faced as the result of decades of conflict, deeply rooted in different principles between the KNU and the Tatmadaw, the KNU is determined to continue to endeavour and implement the NCA through the constant exploration of all possible ways.
- 4) The KNU recognises that if Myanmar is to achieve peace, which is one of the unsolved problems following the new political era after independence, they need stability and reconciliation, and to be able to eradicate poverty and discrimination. Therefore, the government and Tatmadaw would have to compromise on policies regarding ethnic equality and the right to self-determination.
- 5) The compromising of these policies could enable the remaining EAOs to sign the NCA, and reinforce the efforts for peace and the emergence of a federal democracy.
- 6) The handling of the crisis in Northern Rakhine by the government and the Tatmadaw brings the memory of what the KNU and the Karen people have experienced under the state's four-cut policy through various forms of aggressive military operations that caused over 200,000 Karen people to become internally displaced persons (IDPs) and over 150,000 to become refugees. The KNU regrets witnessing the repeat of this history while efforts to achieve peace are being made, and is gravely concerned that the peace process will be derailed. Therefore, the KNU urges the government and Tatmadaw to seek politically dignified and non-violent ways to address the current crisis.
- 7) The KNU views the 2008 Constitution as not allowing any government and the Tatmadaw to find a viable solution for peace and issues that are plaguing northern Rakhine. The KNU believes addressing the remaining negative legacy of colonialism in Myanmar and creating a society for peaceful coexistence would require substantial constitutional amendments and implementing a meaningful peace process.
- 8) In commemorating the 2<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the signing of NCA, the KNU reaffirms its commitment to working for the emergence of a federal democracy and peace. The KNU earnestly calls for all parties to respect civilian protection in all armed conflicts and to avoid resorting to violence. The KNU invites all stakeholders, including the government, Tatmadaw, political parties, and all members of civil society, to join hands wholeheartedly and work for the emergence of a federal democracy and peace.

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