



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

2 April 2018

### **KNU Position Statement regarding Military Related Issues Meeting**

On the 7 August 2016 the Karen National Union (KNU) formed the Military Affairs Negotiation Team (MANT) consisting of 7 high-ranking senior military leaders from the General Headquarters and brigades for the purpose of implementing ceasefire activities and negotiating with the Tatmadaw on matters necessary regarding the military matters.

Furthermore, MANT has been entrusted with the duty to negotiate where necessary Articles (7) and (8), in Chapter (3) of the NCA, and to negotiate on any military related issues in the implementation of the ceasefire in the 7 brigades under the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) control and, in the case of the advent of disputes likely to arise regarding the military forces, the two sides are to meet and settle the disputes.

Therefore, according to the decision and agreement of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Union Level Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC-U), the MANT left KNU Headquarters on the 28 March for the KNU Liaison Office of the KNU-Nyaunglebin District/Brigade-3 in Kyaukkyi Township, Pegu Region, to attend a consultative meeting concerning the military forces, to be held on 29 - 30 March, between the Tatmadaw and KNU/KNLA leaders (including the brigade leaders concerned).

However, the Tatmadaw informed the leader of the MANT that the meeting was postponed as the KNLA Brigade-5 Brigadier was not attending the consultative meeting. The KNU Central Executive Committee has issued its position statement regarding the postponement of the meeting, as follows.

1. The MANT is the team the KNU Supreme Headquarters has entrusted with the duty to negotiate on behalf of all the 7 brigades of the KNU, on all necessary issues related to military matters.
2. Although the KNLA Brigade-5 Brigadier, is not a member of the MANT and was not included on the trip, the Brigade-5 Adjutant General, who is a MANT member representing Brigade-5, was included and moreover, the local commander of the disputed area was prepared to participate in the discussions.
3. Included in the agenda for discussions at the meeting were matters necessary to be discussed by the two sides, including matters related to the military tension taking place in Papun region caused by the sending in of new battalions for the purpose of building a road by the Tatmadaw.
4. As the Tatmadaw side demanded a postponement of the meeting, the MANT had to leave KNU Kyaukkyi Liaison Office, and reached KNU Headquarters on 30 March 2018, however they continue to seek a further meeting.
5. The KNU issues this position statement to the effect that on its part, the KNU will uphold the new political culture of discussions and negotiation in the peace process, based on the NCA. The KNU consistently strives to resolve the root causes of the civil war, which has been hard to resolve and ongoing for over 60 years. Therefore, the KNU will continue to resolve these with honesty and with a view to achieving genuine peace.

**Central Executive Committee  
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