

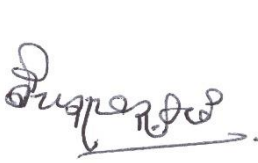


**JOINT STATEMENT
ON THE SIGNING OF THE NATIONWIDE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT (NCA)**

17th AUGUST 2015

1. At the 9th round of talks held between the Senior Delegation of the Ethnic Armed Organizations and the Union Peace-making Work Committee (UPWC), the two sides finalized and reached an agreement on articles in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).
2. By signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement the following will be guaranteed:
 - (a) We will retain our arms and be able to defend our region and people;
 - (b) We will not be restricted by the Unlawful Association Act, Articles 17/1 and 17/2, and be able to freely seek resolution to political challenges through a political dialogue;
 - (c) We will be able to prevent the recurrence of armed conflict through the joint implementation of a Code of Conduct and the Joint Monitoring of the ceasefire;
 - (d) We will be able to continue to protect the interest of the local population during the political dialogue process;
 - (e) We will be able to have a political dialogue with the government, political parties and all other stakeholders;
 - (f) The political dialogues with the government and political parties will be jointly conducted to ensure that any one group or groups does not dominate;
 - (g) We will be able to change the 2008 Constitution In accordance with the agreement reached through the political dialogue;
3. We believe that, political challenges should be resolved through political means and that all stakeholders alike should jointly make the effort to achieve this. Furthermore, we urge those who are interested but for whatever reason have not yet agreed to sign the NCA, to seek practical steps to sign;
4. Finally, the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and the Deed of Commitment signed on 12 February 2015 by the government, military, both Parliamentary Speakers, 19 Ethnic Affairs Ministers, 55 political parties, are guarantees for building of a democratic and federal union which reflects our aspirations for freedom, equality and justice based on the spirit of Panglong and the principles of democracy, equality, and self-determination;

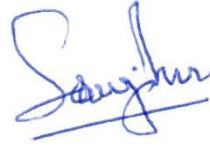
5. We the under-signed the Karen National Union (KNU), the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA), Karen Peace Council (KPC), and the Restoration Council for Shan State (RCSS), affirm our commitment and readiness to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.



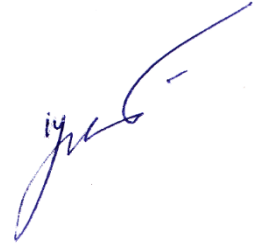
General Saw Mutu
Sae Poe,
Chairman
Karen National Union



Major-General Moe
Shay (Ka/0007),
Deputy Commander-
in-Chief,
Democratic Karen
Benevolent Army
(DKBA)



General Saw Yin Nu
Quarter-Master-
General,
Karen Peace Council



Lt-Gen Yawd Serk
Chairman,
Restoration
Council for Shan
State

Contact:

1. KNU – Karen National Union, Padoh Saw Kwe Htoo Win, 081 8076-6279 (Thai) and 094 2219-1941 (Myanmar).
2. Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA), Major Saw Sein Win, 083 630-1645 (Thai)
3. Karen Peace Council (KPC), General Saw Yin Nu, 088 435-2869 (Thai)
4. Restoration Council for Shan State (RCSS), Colonel Sai Hla, 086 912-4104 (Thai)