



## Statement of the Karen Peace Support Network Emergency Meeting

August 24, 2015

From August 21 to 22, 2015, the Karen Peace Support Network (KPSN) convened an emergency meeting on the Thailand-Burma border. The meeting was attended by 26 representatives from 15 organizational members. In trajectory with its future undertakings, KPSN warmly and openly deliberated and analyzed the progress of the current peace process and released its position as follows.

1. KPSN acknowledges the positive results of the recent meeting between representatives of the Senior Delegation of the Ethnic Armed Organizations (SD) and Union Peace-Making Working Committee (UPWC) held from August 6 to 7, 2015.
2. KPSN realizes that the KNU has decided to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), as announced by the Central Standing Committee 5<sup>th</sup> emergency meeting statement, following the KNU's 15th Congress.
3. KPSN welcomes KNU's decision to sign the NCA; however, we have a number of concerns about the current condition of the peace process. Therefore, to achieve nationwide peace and to secure a genuine peace, we propose the following recommendations to our mother organization KNU:
  - A. In order to realize and strive for a speedy political dialogue, it is crucial to include all ethnic armed organizations in the signing of NCA. Therefore we propose earnest efforts should continue to be carried out in negotiations to achieve all-inclusiveness of ethnic armed organizations in the signing of NCA. If an all-inclusive signing of the NCA is not possible for various reasons, then the NCA must include the collective signing by all ethnic armed organizations with past Bilateral Agreements with the Burmese/Myanmar Government, including KIO, as a bottom line.
  - B. Only sign the NCA after political, military and social guarantees are made for those ethnic armed organizations not able to sign the NCA.
  - C. Prioritize unity of the KNU and guarantee human security for all Karen people.
  - D. Make earnest efforts to achieve the life-long vision of Karen revolutionaries and political goals of all Karen people.
4. In order to secure genuine peace and the well-being of the Karen people, we encourage our mother organization KNU to allow the Karen Peace Support Network to fully participate in the peacebuilding process and political dialogue.

**About KPSN:**

KPSN is the largest Karen civil society network consisting of 29 organizations in Burma. Its members have been providing support for vulnerable people and communities in this conflict-torn region for decades, striving to empower local communities, build transparent and accountable institutions, and help create a sustainable and equitable peace in Burma.

**Media Contact:**

Mahn Thein Zaw (Myanmar-+95 9 4250 39407)	Burmese
Naw K'nyaw Paw (Thai-+66 8 1029 5503)	Karen and English