



Karen National Union
Supreme Headquarters
Kawthoolei
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**KNU President Gen. Mutu Say Poe's Letter of Felicitation sent on 73rd Anniversary of
Karen National Revolutionary Resistance**

Thalay Dark Moon Day 2761 KE
January 31, 2022

All the Karen Nationals, All Patriotic Revolutionaries,

Today is the 73rd Anniversary of the Karen National Revolutionary Resistance Day. In all the history of the Karen people, it is the day on which the revolutionary resistance was launched with unity for the first time, for liberation from all kinds of oppression and for gaining freedom, equality and self-determination. On the 73rd Anniversary of Karen National Revolutionary Resistance, I take pride for and put on record the sacrifices made in life, blood, sweat, comfort and worldly possessions by the Karen national leaders, soldier patriots, and all the Karen nationals. Moreover, I wish the Karen national leaders, soldier patriots and all the Karen nationals to have healthy mind and body, prosperity and to overcome all the adversaries.

In all the ages, our Karen people have to suffer in many ways the repression, domination and atrocities perpetrated by racial chauvinists under the chauvinist system. For that reason, the Karen people have demanded for a state with freedom and self-determination, so that they may be able to flourish freely and decide their own destiny. For achieving the aims and objectives of the Karen people, the Karen National Union (KNU) was founded on February 5, 1947. It was to represent and lead the Karen people for the realization of the aims and objectives of the Karen people by political means.

However, those in power have employed military force and created military conflicts in many ways and forms. For that reason, the Karen people had to start armed revolutionary resistance on January 31, 1949, in order to defend the Karen people's political objectives, in addition to the life, homes and property of the general public. In accordance with the duties mandated by the Karen people, the KNU has consistently led the Karen people, and it is standing firmly up to the 73rd Anniversary of the Karen National Revolutionary Resistance, with the help and support of the Karen nationals.

In the 73 years of armed revolutionary resistance, there have been immense death and destruction. Additionally, due to the political maelstroms, and the differences in political stands, views and tactics, we also have experienced denunciations, dissensions and armed conflicts, within our own community. We have also experienced the turning backs on the KNU by some fellow leaders, as a result of fatigue and loss of trust. Whatever it may be, the successive generations of leaders are implementing policies and programs relating to politics, revolutionary resistance and military strategies laid down by the KNU, in conformity with the developing political situation.

Starting from 2012, the KNU had ceasefire agreement with those in power. In 2015, the KNU signed the NCA together with other resistance organizations for resolving the political problems by political means and for the establishment of a federal democratic

Union. However, as equality and reciprocal recognition could not have been realized in accordance with the terms of the NCA, durable ceasefire and resolution of problems by political means could not have been realized. On the part of the KNU, which had signed the NCA, had to strive for finding various means and ways for the realization of the Karen people's political aims and objectives.

Moreover, on February 1, 2021, the top Myanmar/Burman military leaders arrested and detained the state and union level leaders of the country, on allegation of voter fraud, and seized powers by force. As the people and civil servants nationwide, knowing that the seizure of power by force was in deviation of the Constitution, did not accept the seizure of power and staged protests and demonstrations. As the act was an abolition of the democratic norms and standards, and revival of the military dictatorial system, the civil servants staged protests by not going to work.

As a result, the people's protests against the seizure of power became more forceful. Though the people's protests and demonstrations were peaceful, the military by force suppressed aggressively the demonstrators and innocent bystanders by beating and killing by shooting. For that reason, in addition to the political and civil society organization leaders, a large number of youths came fleeing to the revolutionary resistance areas of the ethnic nationalities to escape the violence. Some also have to come for refuge to the KNU areas.

In the previous eras, only the non-Myanmar indigenous ethnic nationalities had to struggle for national equality and self-determination. However, at the present, the Myanmar people from all walks of life - the civil servants, workers and the youths - have gained better knowledge of reality, and they are launching revolutionary resistance for a better future and their development in life, against the political and military programs of the military dictators. In various areas and localities of the country, they have formed what are known as people's defense forces (PDFs) and local defense forces (LDFs), and are carrying out armed resistance to end the military dictatorial system and all kinds of dictatorial systems, and for the establishment of a federal democratic system. As the movement of the people carrying out armed resistance struggle has in some way linked to the KNU, the people in some of our areas, having to face anxiety and dangers to their life, have to abandon their homes and villages, and hide in the jungles.

All the Karen Nationals, All Patriotic Revolutionaries,

The aims and objectives of our Karen people's revolutionary resistance are the abolition of military dictatorial system and chauvinism, and the establishment of a genuine Federal Democratic State, with full guarantee for national equality and self-determination. This goal, in addition to concerning the entire Karen nationality, concerns all the organizations which are striving in the interest the Karen nationality. Moreover, it directly concerns the objectives and interests of every nationality in the entire country. At the present time, we have to face the military dictators who are embracing chauvinism as their core ideology. So long as we have to face chauvinism and military dictatorial system, we would never be able to promote our national attributes, history, traditions and culture for everlasting development. For these fundamental reasons, our Karen nationals, the Karen national organizations and the people in the entire country must vigorously cooperate and strive for the abolishment forever of chauvinism and all forms of dictatorial systems, in addition to the military dictatorial system, and for the establishment of a genuine Federal Democratic Union.

Accordingly, for true peace and development in the Union, the one and only way is to establish a genuine Federal Democratic Union which can give full national equality and self-determination to all the nationalities concerned. I would like to request the

organizations in the UN and ASEAN, to help and assist in the relevant sectors and according to the true objective conditions of our country, in their effort to settle the political conflict and restore peace in our country.

In conclusion, on the occasion of the 73rd Anniversary of Karen National Revolutionary Resistance, I would like to urge all concerned to endeavor for the establishment of a Federal Democratic Union, free from military dictatorial system, chauvinism and all forms of dictatorial system. I close by exhorting all the nationalities concerned, organizations and the entire people, in addition to the Karen nationals, to vigorously endeavor, in unity, in the interest and development of all the people and every nationality in the Union, and with the aim of establishing long lasting peace for the new generations.

With Revolutionary Truth,

Genuine Revolution Shall be Victorious!