



Karen National Union
Supreme Headquarters
Kawthoolei
www.knuhq.org

Karen National Union Felicitations Letter to Karen Traditional Wrist-Tying Ceremony

Full Moon, the 15th Day of Lar-khu Month, 2759 KE
 September 2, 2020 CE

The Full Moon Day of Lar-khu Month, 2759 Karen Era (KE), the 15th of Wa-khaung month Full Moon Day, or September 2, 2020 is the day on which the Karen people's traditional wrist-tying ceremony is held. On the auspicious occasion of this Wa-khaung month Karen traditional wrist-tying ceremony we, the Karen National Union (KNU), extend our best wishes to all the Karen nationals to have the health of mind and body, to be free from all dangers and to be able to hold the propitious ceremony with unity, harmony and the full dignity and attributes of the Karen nation, while following the health protocols provided for this COVID-19 period.

The Wa-khaung-la propitious wrist-tying ceremony is not based on religious belief or religion. It is also not a cultural practice which has emerged in this modern day but it has been in existence together with the Karen nation, a propitious and valuable tradition and culture, since the ancient time. As the Karen wrist-tying ceremony is held on the full-moon day of Wa-khaung month, it is also known as Wa-khaung-la, or Lar-khu wrist-tying festivity.

The Karen traditional wrist-tying culture is a meaningful festivity that brings together in a reunion of the Karen dialect groups, family members and relatives of the Karen people, who are living in dispersion, in various regions and locations, on account of their historical passage, livelihood and varying habitation, for a joyful ceremony of reuniting the wondering soul and the physical body, and the rejuvenation of patriotism and unity of the Karen people. The wrist-tying ceremony is also an auspicious festivity of symbolic and cordial illustration of unity of the spirit, and an occasion to bring together the Karen dialect groups, relatives and family members to know one another and develop an amiable bond and receive words of advice from the parents, grand parents, elders and leaders.

For that reason, the Karen people living in various places, at home and abroad, must maintain and present collectively the Karen traditional wrist-tying festivity as our own traditional and cultural festivity.

The seven items used in Wa-khaung-la (Lar-khu) Karen traditional wrist-tying ceremony namely - the rice balls, glutinous rice packets, banana, sugar cane, flower, water and white thread - represent the Karen national attributes, which are unity, honesty, enthusiasm, activism, diligence, courage, patriotism, love for justice, self-confidence and love for peace.

For the perpetuation and development of those national attributes, each of the Karen nationals must admire, value and nurture them collectively.

Accordingly, it is necessary for the Karen people, being a nationality, to demonstrate collectively their desire to maintain Wa-khaung-la (Lar-khu) Karen traditional wrist-tying ceremony, which is a traditional culture based on the spirit of unity and cooperation relating to the Karen nationality, just as each and every nationality aspires to admire, value and perpetuate the firm existence of its national dignity, traditional culture and customs.

In order to always maintain and nurture our traditions and culture, it is vital for the Karen nationals to gain the rights to decide their own destiny, national equality and self-determination. Currently, for the achievement of the Karen national goal and political aspirations, the KNU is engaged in political dialogue, a process for the peaceful resolution of political problems by political means. According to the latest dialogue process, for the achievement of the right to decide our own destiny, national equality and self-determination, the political dialogue will be realized and continued through the peace programs. As the political aspirations of the respective stakeholders, who will participate in the dialogue programs are also essential, we would like to urge them for having political aspirations.

On the part of the KNU, this missive is sent with the wish and prayer for the entire Karen national assemblage to have full national consciousness, and that their requirements, hopes, national aims and political aspirations may be fulfilled.

**Karen National Union (KNU)
Supreme Headquarters**