



Karen National Union
General Headquarter
Kawthoolei
www.knuhq.org

KNU Statement regarding Saw Nerdah Mya

20 July 2022

On the 19th of July 2022, a Statement was released by Saw Nerdah Mya where he identified himself as the Commander-in-Chief of the KAWTHOOLEI ARMY and appointed himself and signed his signature. This has spread on social media and caused confusion. The KNU would like to clarify that statement.

1. On 10 September 2013, Saw Nerdah Mya was appointed as the Chief of Staff of the Karen National Defense Organisation by the Department of Defense of the Karen National Union. From the time he started serving, he frequently violated the rules and responsibilities of the Supreme Headquarters of the KNLA and the KNU, and he had to be corrected many times.
2. On the 31st of January 2007, Saw Nerdah Mya actively engaged in dialogue with the SPDC - State Peace and Development Council in order to split from the mother organisation KNU. Saw Nerdah Mya was actively involved in the formation of the KNU/KNLA-Peace Council in the role of General Secretary 1, formed by Brigadier Htay Maung (the former commander of the KNLA 7th Brigade). However, some of the leaders who had been included in the KNU/KNLA-PC by name, declared that they were not related to that organisation but Saw Nardah Mya failed to make such an announcement.
3. Saw Nerdah Mya violated the rules and regulations of the Defense Department and KNLA, as well as, continuously failed to follow the decisions of the Military Commanders' meetings. He formed KNDO organization abroad on his own accord and assigned ranks and collected money illegally.

4. In order to investigate the case related to the extrajudicial killings that occurred in the Pa Lu - Wa Lay area, Dooplaya District, Major General Saw Nerdah Mya was temporarily suspended from his duties on the 5th of July 2021 and Colonel Saw She Lay was assigned temporary duties.
5. During the preliminary process of the "Independent Investigation Committee" formed by the KNU; He failed to cooperate at the different stages as a responsible and accountable leader and eventually defied the KNU's judicial process.
6. Therefore, on the 17th of January 2022, Saw Nardah Mya was completely suspended from his duties and position in KNDO. The position of KNDO Chief of Staff, which was vacant, was assigned to the Commander-in-Chief Col. Saw She Lay on the 17th of July 2022.
7. These actions also halted the KNU's process of bringing to justice those suspected of being involved in the extrajudicial killings of prisoners of war arrested from U Kri-Hta outpost, which spread on social media in early June 2022.

To inform International Governments and Organisations, those against the military junta and Revolutionary Organisations the formation of KAWTHOOLEI ARMY, which was signed and released on the 19th of July 2022 by Saw Nerdah Mya as the Chief of Staff, is not affiliated with the KNU/KNLA.

Due to his actions above, an emergency meeting of the Central Executive Committee was held on the 20 July 2022 agreed to expel Saw Nerdah Mya from the KNU. Kindly be informed that his actions are no longer relevant to us.

**Central Executive Committee
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