



**Karen National Union
General Headquarter
Kawthoolei
www.knuhq.org**

Statement on the military council's excessive use of force against Lay Kay Kaw

Date: 20 December 2021

1. The KNU in Lay Kay Kaw, Dooplaya District has, on humanitarian grounds, offered temporary shelter and protection to politicians, activists, and non-violent protesters, who have fled from the military council's killing and torture of those holding different political opinions.
2. Recent armed clashes that took place on 15th December are a result of self-defense response by the KNU against Myanmar military council's arrest of individuals temporary sheltering at Lay Kay Kaw, destructions of their homes, and deployment of military forces against the KNU troops.
3. We thank the Thai government and Thai people for providing temporary shelter for 3,000 displaced people in accordance with humanitarian principles. We also would like to thank the Thai government for allowing additional 2,000 displaced people who fled more armed clashes that took place on December 19, 2021 to cross the borderline and hope that Thai authorities will arrange proper accommodations for these people.
4. We urge all Karen living outside of Burma, citizens of Burma, domestic and international organizations to provide food, medicine, and temporary shelter toward people fleeing the war.
5. KNU further requests the international community to take the following immediate actions
 - a. We urge the Thai government to allow international organizations to meet and assist war victims and displaced peoples.
 - b. There is a high possibility that Lay Kay Kaw will be attacked by the military council's airstrike and will cause serious damages and destructions on unarmed civilians, which is a severe violation of human rights. We urge the United Nations to identify

the 'No Fly Zone' by calling an emergency meeting with the UN Security Council, and international community.

- c. We ask the military council to withdraw its troops to save its already damaged reputation.
- d. We encourage the officers and commanders from the military council to join with the people in order to save Burma from falling into a 'Failed State'.
- e. KNU declares that the military's withdrawal from politics, and the building a genuine federal democratic union are the only solutions to end over 70 years' long civil war.

Central Executive Committee

Karen National Union

Contacts (1) Padoh Kwe Htoo Win (+66 818 076 279)
 (2) Padoh Saw Tah Doh Moo (+66 646 459 113)
 (3) Padoh Saw Taw Nee