



STATEMENT OF THE SHAN STATE PROGRESS PARTY/SHAN STATE ARMY

ON THE MILITARY CONFLICT IN THE KOKANG AREA

February 14, 2015

1. The Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army are appalled and dismayed that since February 09, 2015 there has been armed military conflict in the Kokang area between the Burma Army (Tatamadaw) and the Myanmar Nationals Democratic Allied Army (MNDAA) erupting in battles causing heavy casualties on both sides, not only with dead and wounded soldiers, but also inflicting suffering on the local population who have been also wounded and have had to flee to seek refuge elsewhere.

2. Due to the successive Burmese governments not having solved political problems by peaceful political means, but opting to force and military might instead, for these past sixty plus years and plunging the country into civil war have turned the nation to one of the poorest nations in the world with the people suffering in poverty and dire straits are indeed a bitter experience for all of us. We appeal for solving these problems by peaceful means, immediately.

3. There have been calls from all walks of life within the country as well as immense pressure from the international community on the current government for national reconciliation. For the future of our nation, we can see that only when there is reconciliation we can resort to economic recovery in developing the nation to co-exist peacefully together with equality, fairness and compassion in building a country working towards development.

4. The Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army have all along tried to preserve peace in abiding by the ceasefire agreement. We have given priority to all peace talks and negotiations and in our endeavor have tried to emphasize on the principle that political problems should be solved by political means and should not in any way be done by force. This is because the history of the past sixty years of war is enough evidence that the use of military might is not the correct method. We believe and declare candidly that it is only at the conference table that we can solve national problems peacefully.

Central Committee

Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army

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