



## **Restoration Council of Shan State**

### **Statement on the armed conflicts between RCSS/SSA and TNLA**

**Date: 11 February 2016**

1. Since 27 November 2015 up to 10 February 2016, there have continually been several armed clashes between the troops of Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) and the troops of Ta'Ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), resulting in heavy casualties on both sides who are all nationalities of Shan State, and inflicting great difficulties, including deaths and injuries, to the civilian populations in those areas, causing them to flee from the danger of war. These incidents are really lamentable for RCSS/SSA.
2. The current armed conflict started when the troops of TNLA first attacked a column of Task Force 701 of RCSS/SSA, who were returning to their area of operation in Nam Kham township after receiving training about the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) at the Supreme Headquarters, in Mong Wee area in Nam Kham township.
3. In that ambush attack by the troops of TNLA on 27 November 2015, Task Force 701 of RCSS/SSA suffered heavy casualties, altogether 11 troops, including those who were killed and injured in the battle and those who were killed after being captured alive. After the battle, 23 villagers of Mong Wee village were arrested and detained by the troops of TNLA. Although 8 of the villagers have since been released, the rest of them have not yet been released up to the present.
4. After the battle on 7 February 2016 at Taw Sang village in Kyautme township, houses of Taw Sang villagers were burnt down by the troops of TNLA, who also arrested several villagers and members of the Sangha of Nyawng Mawng village, also in Kyautme township. The troops of TNLA forced the villagers to move away from their villages and blamed the RCSS/SSA of having done it.
5. The TNLA also wrongly accused the RCSS/SSA of joining hands with the Tatmataw, or Burma army, to attack them.
6. RCSS/SSA is very worried about the way the troops of TNLA are behaving, as mentioned above, since it could become a spawning ground for ethnic conflict or conflict between ethnic nationalities.

7. RCSS/SSA would like to sincerely request the TNLA to review the situation and identify the cause of the problem, and find an appropriate solution that will benefit both our ethnic nationalities.

Central Executive Committee

Restoration Council of Shan State