



## JOINT STATEMENT

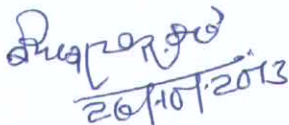
Karen National Union & Restoration Council of the Shan State

26 October, 2013

1. In order to begin a political dialogue, the Government of Myanmar has invited ethnic armed groups to sign a nation-wide ceasefire.
2. To prepare for the political dialogue, the KIO has invited ethnic armed group leaders to an Ethnic Armed Group Conference.
3. On 31 August 2013, the KNU and the RCSS proposed a Framework for a Political Dialogue, developed jointly by the armed groups, to the Union Peacemaking Work Committee.
4. KNU and RCSS leaders will participate in this Conference to brief KIO and other ethnic leaders about the Framework, to build understanding and consolidate ethnic unity.
5. The Framework for a Political Dialogue calls for:
  - All stakeholders including all armed groups, political parties, civil society, Parliament, the Burma Army, the government, etc. to participate in the political dialogue,
  - Joint management by all stakeholders of the political process,
  - A legal mechanism to ensure that the political dialogue process will continue after the 2015 elections,

- The Political Dialogue will deal with constitutional and other important issues such as power-sharing, security sector reform, land reform, revenue-sharing, judicial reform, etc.
6. The nation-wide ceasefire Agreement includes:
    - Ratification of previously signed ceasefires at the State and Union-level,
    - A joint military Code of Conduct with regard to the nation-wide ceasefire,
    - A joint mechanism to monitor the nation-wide ceasefire,
    - A joint mechanism to manage problems that arise from implementing the ceasefire.
  7. The nation-wide ceasefire agreement calls for discussions on the Framework for a Political Dialogue within 2 months of the signing. It also calls for the political dialogue to begin within 4 months of the signing.
  8. The nation-wide ceasefire agreement will have a provision for those groups that are not yet ready, to sign later.

We are optimistic that the Conference lead to a political dialogue.



Saw Mutu Sae Poe  
Chairman  
Karen National Union



Sao Yawd Serk  
Chairman  
Restoration Council of the Shan State

Contact:

KNU – Padoh Kwe Htoo Win, Tel: +66 81 807-6279, +95 94 2219-1941

RCSS - Sai Lao Saeng, Tel: 086 9124 104