

Five Years of War: A Call for Peace, Justice, and Accountability in Myanmar

Although much of the world has expressed excitement over Myanmar's political transition, communities throughout Kachin and northern Shan states have been living with severe human rights abuses and displacement for the last five years.

Since 2011, renewed armed conflict between the Myanmar military and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) has displaced more than 100,000 civilians. In the conduct of the war, the Myanmar military has perpetrated severe human rights violations. International and community-based organizations have documented extrajudicial killings, torture, forced labor, rape and sexual violence, arbitrary detention, attacks on civilians and non-military targets, and pillaging of property. These abuses have been perpetrated with near-complete impunity. Some of the abuses may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity under international law.

Forced into dozens of displacement camps, entire communities have lost their homes, livelihoods, and belongings. Displaced populations continue to face avoidable deprivations in humanitarian aid. The Myanmar government and military have denied humanitarian organizations unfettered access to displaced populations, and funding for Kachin-led aid groups has been insufficient to meet the needs of displaced communities. Unnecessarily delaying travel authorizations to the displacement camps in government controlled areas and entirely restricting access to KIA-controlled areas for humanitarian actors has led to severe consequences for people in need of support.

Displaced families lack adequate food, healthcare, education, water and sanitation, and shelter. Some displaced families now eat one meal per day due to irregular delivery of food rations. Preventable illnesses have resulted in needless death. The dearth of funding for schools and teachers is depriving children of adequate education, stunting the development of an entire generation. As the rainy season approaches once again, war-affected displaced populations are still struggling to live in unsafe conditions in which they have no protection against wind and rain. Today, there is no meaningful prospect for displaced communities to return home safely or rebuild their lives with dignity.

June 9, 2016 marks the five-year anniversary of the resumption of armed conflict in Kachin State—a date that ended a 17-year-long ceasefire. The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) negotiated under former President Thein Sein failed to end the war, and the prospects for an inclusive peace agreement remain distant.

Today, we the undersigned organizations call for peace, justice, and accountability in Kachin State.

First and foremost, we request that the Myanmar military immediately end all offensives in Kachin and northern Shan states, and we urge President Htin Kyaw and State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi to immediately authorize universal and unfettered access for humanitarian groups to all affected areas. The military and authorities should provide safe, sustained, and unhindered access to all areas of affected populations to allow humanitarian organizations to give necessary help and support.

Ongoing and unchecked human rights violations only hinder efforts to achieve a lasting peace in Kachin and northern Shan states. The government and military should end the endemic culture of impunity once and for all. Perpetrators of human rights violations should be held accountable for their crimes in

independent and impartial courts of law, regardless of rank or position. Likewise, survivors of human rights violations should receive prompt and adequate compensation for harms suffered.

To ensure the future promotion and protection of human rights, the government should ratify without delay key human rights treaties, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment as well as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

The government should ensure an inclusive peace process that involves all actors and prioritizes human rights. Furthermore, it is vital for the achievement of a sustainable peace that women play an active role in this peace process.

Today, we express our solidarity with the suffering and struggle of communities and families throughout the war-affected areas and we do so in the spirit of peace, justice, and accountability, which we believe go hand in hand. We call upon the government and military to end the war in Kachin State.

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Signatories

1. Ayar West Development Organization- AWDO
2. Ayarwady Youth Network – AYN
3. Bago Youth Network
4. Border Health Initiative (BHI)
5. Brave Heart Social Development Organisation (ရဲရင့်နှလုံးသား"-လူမှုဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးအသင်း)
6. BRIDGE
7. Burma Partnership (မြန်မာ့အရေးပူးပေါင်းဆောင်ရွက်သူများ)
8. Candle Light
9. Center for Youth and Social Harmony
10. Cherry Image (Shan State)

11. Chin Hill Beauty Group – Tedim (ချင်းတောင် အလှအဖွဲ့ - တီးတိန်)
12. Chin League for Democracy
13. Chin Youth Organisation
14. Chin Youth Organisation (Mindat)
15. Civil Authorize Negotiate Organization (C.A.N-Org)
16. Co-Exist
17. Community Work for Kachin(CWK)
18. Conservation on Hill-Ecosystem Association (CHEA)
19. Dawei Development Association
20. Dawei Probono Lawyers Network
21. Dawei Youth Fellowship
22. Diverze Youth Art Platform
23. EcoDev
24. Fortify Rights
25. Forum for Democracy in Burma (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံဒီမိုကရက်တစ်အင်အားစု)
26. Freethinkers
27. Green Pyin Oo Lwin (စိမ်းလန်းပြင်ဦးလွင်)
28. Green Right Organization (Aung Ban Shan State)
29. Green Rights Organization (Shan State)
30. Hiatuii Tribal Community (HTC)
31. Htanthawng, Paletwa township
32. Htoi Gender and Development Foundation
33. Huphokapaw Social Support Group (Kyar In Seik Gyi) [ဟူးဖိုးကပေါ် လူမှုအထောက်အကူ ပြုအဖွဲ့ (ကြာအင်းဆိပ်ကြီး)]
34. Independent Asho Chin League (လွတ်လပ်သောအရှိုချင်းများအင်အားစု)
35. Independent Youth For Change(IYFC)
36. I-School Myanmar
37. Kachin Alliance
38. Kachin Canadian Association
39. Kachin Development Networking Group- Kdng Kachin
40. Kachin Educators' Synergy Group (KES)

41. Kachin National Organization (Denmark)
42. Kachin National Youth Network
43. Kachin Peace Network
44. Kachin Refugee Comittee (KRC) Malaysia
45. Kachin State Democracy Party (KSDP - Kachin)
46. Kachin State Women Network
47. Kachin University Literature and Culture Association (Myitkyina)
48. Kachin Women Peace Group. CSNeP
49. Kachin Women Peace Network
50. Kanpetlet Chin Civil Society Network
51. Karen Affair Committee
52. Karuna Funeral Servie – Mindat [ဂရုဏာ နာရေးကူညီမှုအသင်း (မင်းတပ်)]
53. Kayah State Peace Monitoring Network (KSPMN)
54. Khumi Youth Group – Paletwa (ရှမ်းလူငယ်အဖွဲ့ - ပလက်ဝ)
55. Kung Gyan Gon Network (ကွမ်ခြံကုန်းကွန်ယက်)
56. London Kachin Baptist Church (LKBC)
57. Mali Ingra Volunteer Group
58. Mara Thyutlai (MPT) (မာယာလူငယ်အသင်း)
59. Matupi Youth Association
60. Mon Cetanar Development Foundation (MCDF)
61. Mon- region Social Development Network (မွန်ဒေသလူမှုဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကွန်ရက်)
62. Mon State Community Ceasefire Monitoring Committee
(မွန်ပြည်နယ်အရပ်သားအပစ်အခတ်ရပ်စဲရေးစောင့်ကြည့်လေ့လာရေးကော်မတီ)
63. Mon State Community Observers Association လူနေမှုဘဝလေ့လာဆန်းစစ်သူများအသင်း
(မွန်ပြည်နယ်)
64. Mon State CSOs’ Network (မွန်ပြည်နယ်အရပ်ဘက်လူမှုအဖွဲ့အစည်းများကွန်ရက်)
65. Mon State Disaster Prevention and Humanitarian Group [သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်
ကြိုတင်ကာကွယ်ခြင်းနှင့် ကယ်ဆယ်ရေးထောက်ပံ့ကူညီပေးရေးအဖွဲ့ (မွန်ပြည်နယ်)]
66. Mon State Environment and Natural Resource Lovers Group [သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့်
သယံဇာတချစ်မြတ်နိုးသူများအသင်း(မွန်ပြည်နယ်)]
67. Mon Women Network (MWN)

68. Mon Women's Organisation (MWO)
69. Mon Youth Educator Organisation (MYEO)
70. Mon Youth Progressive Organisation (MYPO)
71. Myanmar Alliance for Transparency and Accountability Network (Mon state) [မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ ပွင့်လင်းမြင်သာမှုနှင့် တာဝန်ယူမှုတာဝန်ခံမှုဖော်ဆောင်ရေးအရပ်ဘက်မဟာမိတ်အဖွဲ့ (မွန်ပြည်နယ်)]
72. Myanmar Social Development Group (မြန်မာ့လူမှုဘဝ တိုးတက်မြှင့်တင်ရေး အသင်း)
73. Myet- Won- Thit (Knowledge Zone)
74. Myitkyina News Journal
75. MYSELF
76. National Education & Research Development - NERD
77. Naushawng Education Network
78. Network for Democracy and Development (ဒီမိုကရေစီနှင့်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးအင်အားစု)
79. New Steps Women Organisation – Tedim (ခြေလှမ်းသစ်အမျိုးသမီးအဖွဲ့အစည်း - တီးတိန်)
80. Olive (သံလွင်ခက်)
81. Open Development Foundation (Kanpetlet)
82. Our Lovely World (နို့ချစ်တဲ့ကမ္ဘာ) Shan State
83. Pace on Peaceful Pluralism (သင့်မြတ်သူများ၏ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးလမ်းစဉ်)
84. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays -Myanmar (PFLAG-MYANMAR)
85. Paungsi Arr Man Social Development Group – Maw Lamyaing (ပေါင်းစည်းအားမာန်လူမှုဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးအဖွဲ့၊ မော်လမြိုင်)
86. Peace and Justice Legal Aid Center
87. Poet Lovers Association [ကဗျာချစ်သူများအသင်း(PLA)]
88. Public Network (Bago Region)
89. Pyo Khin Thit (Ma-u-bin)
90. Pyoe Development Organisation
91. Rainmaker (Women Empowerment Center)
92. Resource Rights for the Indigenous Peoples
93. Ruby Land Peace Network
94. School of Intensive English Programs (IEP-Mai Ja Yang)
95. Shan State Students Union (ရှမ်းပြည်နယ်လုံးဆိုင်ရာကျောင်းသားသမဂ္ဂ)
96. Shan Youth Yangon

97. Shanan Network
98. Shingnip Legal Aid Network
99. Shwe Chintae Social Servicer Group (Shwebo) [ရွှေခြင်္သေ့လူမှုစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအဖွဲ့ (ရွှေဘို)]
100. Sittaung Melody Social Network (စစ်တောင်းသံစဉ်လူမှုကွန်ယက်)
101. Southern Shan State Women Network (ရှမ်း / တောင် အမျိုးသမီးကွန်ရက်)
102. Southern Shan State Youth Network (ရှမ်းပြည်နယ်တောင်ပိုင်းလူငယ်ကွန်ယက်)
103. Southern Youth
104. Summer Shelter (Shan State)
105. Takapaw
106. Tanintharyi Friend
107. Thang Tlang Civil Society Network (TCSN)
108. The HELP (မန္တလေး ရပ်ရွာအခြေပြု လိင်တူချစ်သူများ အဖွဲ့စည်း)
109. The Kachin Relief Fund
110. The PLAN: Public Legal Aid Network (လူထုအခြေပြု ဥပဒေကူညီမှုကွန်ရက်)
111. The Seagull: Human Rights, Peace & Development
112. Thuriya Sandra Environmental Watch Group
113. Upper Chindwin Youth Network
114. Wan-Lark Foundation (Arakan)
115. Wimutti Volunteer Group (WVG)
116. Women Empowerment Programme (WEP)
117. Wunpawng Ninghtoi
118. Yangon Kachin Baptist Youth
119. Yone Kyi Yar Knowledge Propagation Society
120. Young Kachin Writers' Club
121. YWCA (Taunggyi)
122. စေတုတ္ထရာဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးအဖွဲ့။

123. Harvard Law School International Human Rights Clinic
124. Physicians for Human Rights
125. Burma Campaign UK
126. COMREG – Community Response Group
127. Democracy for Ethnic Minorities organization (Shan State)
128. Khun Tan New Youth Network – (Thathon) ခွန်တန်နွယ်လူငယ်ကွန်ယက် (သထုံ)
129. Paoh Youth Organization – PYO (Shan State)
130. Paungku