

## ETHNIC ARMED ORGANIZATIONS CONFERENCE Laiza, Kachin State – 30 October to 2 November 2013



Clockwise: Burma Army position on the highway between Myitkyina and Laiza. KIA troops in Kachin territory looking out for the convoy of 30 SUVs carrying ethnic armed leaders. Arakan Army troops based in Laiza welcoming the convoy. Laiza townspeople welcoming the ethnic armed leaders arriving from Myitkyina.

An unprecedented conference of ethnic armed groups/non-state actors organized by the Kachin Independence Organization was convened at KIO headquarters in Laiza from 30 October to 2 November 2013. 102 delegates and observers from 17 organizations attended.

The Conference adopted a 6-step Road Map and the “Framework for a Political Dialogue” drafted last year by the Working Group for Ethnic Coordination (WGEC).

A Nationwide Ceasefire Coordinating Team was formed to discuss the proposed Nationwide Ceasefire with the government. Thirteen of the 17 organizations present were able to immediately nominate representatives to the NCCT. The remaining four and at least three other organizations not present, will nominate members at a later date.

The fact that the Government of Myanmar agreed to and facilitated the conference underlines the highly unusual nature of the conference, especially because the KIO does not have a formal ceasefire agreement with the government. The majority of the delegates were given safe passage through an ‘active’ frontline in government controlled territory.

The conference included delegates from organizations with and without ceasefire agreements. Delegates were also from member and non-member organizations of the United Nationalities Federal Council. The UNFC is an alliance of 11 armed groups which in June 2013 had announced that it would no longer participate in the WGEC.

President Thein Sein also sent a congratulatory letter to the Conference wishing them every success in building unity for peace and consensus for the nationwide ceasefire agreement.

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Unofficial Translation

**STATEMENT OF THE ETHNIC ARMED ORGANIZATION CONFERENCE  
2 November 2013, KIO Headquarters, Laiza**

1. One hundred and two delegates and observers from seventeen ethnic armed organizations met successfully from 30 October to 2 November 2013 at the headquarters of the KIO in Laiza.
2. The primary objective of the Conference was to build unity and seek a political solution to the 60 year old conflict whose root cause is political.
3. While seeking a solution to the internal conflict through political dialogue, the Conference seriously discussed and noted that continued military offensives in ethnic areas by the Myanmar Tatmadaw troops is an obstacle to the dialogue.
4. Conference participants thoroughly and comprehensively discussed the signing of a nationwide ceasefire agreement and adopted a common 11-point position.
5. In order to implement the common plan, the Conference formed a 13-person Nationwide Ceasefire Coordinating Team (NCCT).
6. Ethnic armed organization leaders and witnesses signed the common 11-point position, to affirm their commitment to a common stand.
7. Therefore this Conference wishes to declare that the ethnic armed organizations have been able to firmly established their unity.

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**COMMON POSITION OF THE ETHNIC ARMED ORGANIZATION  
ON THE NATIONWIDE CEASEFIRE**

Headings

**Preamble** – (to be confirmed)

**Basic Principles**

- 1.1 Leading to peace
- 1.2 Acknowledgment of the Panglong Agreement
- 1.3 A genuine Federal Union
- 1.4 The formation of a Federal Army (future)
- 1.5 Protection of ethnic rights
- 1.6 Equality
- 1.7 Inclusiveness
- 1.8 A negotiated settlement
- 1.9 Joint implementation
- 1.10 Transparent & Accountable
- 2. Objectives**
  - 2.1 To build mutual trust
  - 2.2 To cease direct confrontational hostilities
  - 2.3 To abide by a mutually agreed Military Code of Conduct
  - 2.4 To re-ratify all previous agreements between the government and ethnic armed organizations, and initiate a political dialogue that will lead to peace.
  - 2.5 To establish an ethnic state-based federal union following a comprehensive political dialogue.
- 3. Establishing a Common Road Map (to be negotiated)**
  - 3.1 Negotiating an inclusive “Framework for National Political Dialogue”
  - 3.2 Signing a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement
  - 3.3 Initiating a national political dialogue
  - 3.4 Convening a national Conference based on the spirit and principles of Panglong in order to be able to sign a Pyidaungsu Accord
  - 3.5 Ratifying the Pyidaungsu Accord
  - 3.6 Implementing the Pyidaungsu Accord
- 4. Basic Issues to be include in a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (to be negotiated)**
  - 4.1 Military matters
  - 4.2 Liaison Office matters
  - 4.3 Agreement to a national political dialogue
  - 4.4 Ratification of the framework for a political dialogue
  - 4.5 Protection of civilians
  - 4.6 Agreement on a military Code of Conduct
- 5. Implementation (to be negotiated)**
  - 5.1 A mechanism for the joint monitoring of the ceasefire
  - 5.2 A joint Committee to steer the political dialogue
  - 5.3 An independent Human Rights Committee
  - 5.4 An agreed time frame
- 6. Trust-Building Measures**
  - 6.1 Right attitude and willingness to negotiate
  - 6.2 Freedom of movement
- 7. Removal from the Unlawful Organizations List (to be elaborated)**
- 8. Transitional Measures (to be negotiated)**
- 9. Signing of a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement**
- 10. Ratification of the Agreement**
- 11. Miscellaneous**

The signatories agree to work together to implement the Common Position.

Signatories:

1. Khaing Tuka, General-Secretary, Arakan Liberation Party
2. Twan Zaw, General-Secretary, Arakan National Council
3. Brig-Gen Tun Myat Naing, Commander-in-Chief, Arakan Army
4. Pu Zing Cung, General-Secretary, Chin National Front
5. General Saw Moshe, Deputy C-in-Chief, Democratic Karen Benevolent Army
6. Abel Tweed, Chair, Karenni National Progress Party
7. Saw Mutu Sae Poe, Chair, Karen National Union
8. Colonel Saw Kyaw Da, Secretary, KNU/KNLA Peace Council
9. Kya Hkun Sa, Chair, Lahu Democratic Union
10. Phong Ta Shwin, Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army
11. Nai Hantha, General-Secretary, New Mon State Party
12. Hkun Myint Tun, Chair, Pa-O National Liberation Organization
13. Colonel Ai Phone, Chair, Palaung State Liberation Front
14. Sao Hkun Seng, General-Secretary, Shan State Progress Party
15. Ta Maha, Vice-Chair, Wa National Organiztion
16. Zhaung Hra, Chair, Kachin Independence Organization
17. Lieut-General N Ban La, Chair, United Nationalities Federal Council

Note: The Restoration Council for Shan State is in full agreement with the Common Position but refrained from signing since the newly formed Committee for Shan State Unity (17 October 2013) of which it is a member, requires that it be consulted first prior to signing any agreements.

Witnesses:

1. Harn Yawngnwe, Euro-Burma Office
2. Yup Zau Hkawng, Peace-talk Creation Group
3. In Shan San Aung, Peace-talk Creation Group

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**NATIONWIDE CEASEFIRE COORDINATING TEAM members:**

1. Team Leader – Nai Hantha, General-Secretary, New Mon State Party
2. Deputy Leader 1 – Padoh Kwe Htoo Win, Gen-Sec, Karen National Union
3. Deputy Leader 2 – Major-General Gun Maw, Deputy Commander-in-Chief, KIO
4. Member – Lieutenant-Colonel Kyaw Han, Arakan Army
5. Member – Ms Mra Raza Lin, Central Committee, Arakan Liberation Party
6. Member – Twan Zaw, General-Secretary, Arakan National Council
7. Member – Dr Lian Sakhong, Presidium, Chin National Front
8. Member – Colonel Saw Lon Long, Democratic Karen Benevolent Army
9. Member – Shwe Myo Thant, Joint Secretary, Karenni National Progress Party
10. Member – General Dr Timothy, Foreign Affairs, KNU/KNLA Peace Council
11. Member – Hkun Okker, Patron, Pa-O National Liberation Organization
12. Member – Sai Ba Tun, Central Committee, Shan State Progress Party
13. Member – Ta Ai Nyunt, Secretary-General, Wa National Organiztion

Note: The Restoration Council for Shan State refrained from becoming a member of the NCCT, since the newly formed Committee for Shan State Unity (Oct 2013) of which it is a member, requires that it be consulted first.