

# Karen Unity

and the

**United Nationalities Federal Council UNFC**

Yangon, 22 September 2014

(Analysis)

## EBO Background

# Ethnic Unity

- 1999 – National Reconciliation Programme (NRP)
- 2001 – Ethnic Nationalities Solidarity & Cooperation Committee (ENSCC)
- 2004 – Ethnic Nationalities Council (ENC)
- 2010 – Committee for the Emergence of a Federal Union (CEFU)
- 2011 – Common Ground initiative: ENC & United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC)
- 2012 – Ethnic Peace Plan & Working Group for Ethnic Coordination (WGEC)
- 2013 – Nationwide Ceasefire Coordinating Committee (NCCT)

Analysis

## RCSS & UNFC

- Undertook armed struggle because Constitutional Right was denied (1958)
- Shan sought a political solution (Federalism 1960)
- Did not join NDF (1978), ENSCC (2001), ENC (2004), CEFU (2010), UNFC (2011) or NCCT (2013) because the alliances did not respect Federal principles – state-based.
- Cooperated with ENSCC, ENC, NCCT as observers
- 2011 – ceasefire negotiations to seek a political solution

Analysis

# KNU & UNFC

- Karens sought a political solution (Karen State)
- Armed struggle was a defensive reaction (1949)
- NRP (1999) was an attempt to bring the struggle back to the political arena
- 2010 – CEFU with KNU-KIO participation (political)
- 2011 – UNFC focussed on military solution / Federal Army
- 2012 – KNU ceasefire negotiations to seek a political solution

## Analysis

# Representation

*“UNFC is the representative of ethnic armed organizations ?”*

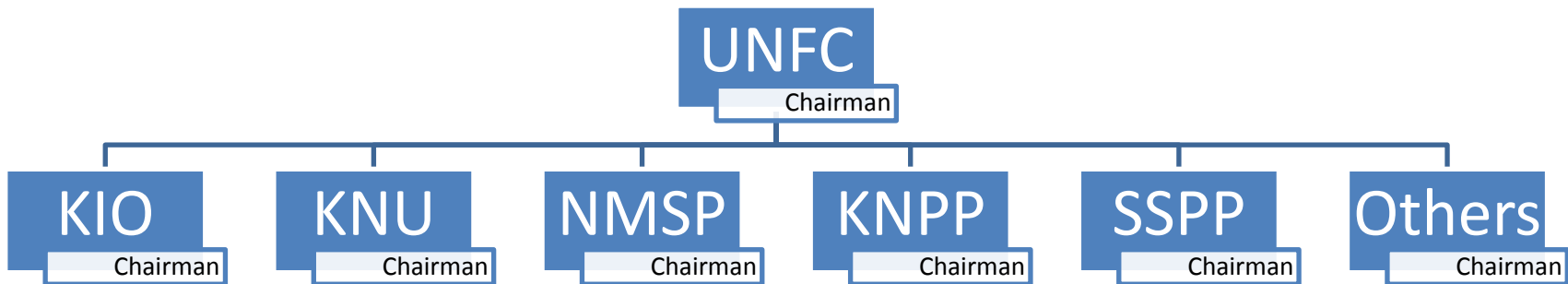
	Non-UNFC	UNFC
Organization	Armed Strength	Armed Strength
Arakan National Council (ANC)		10
Arakan Liberation Party (ALP)	100	
Chin National Front (CNF)		100
Kachin Independence Organization (KIO)		10,000
Karen National Union (KNU)	5,000	
Karenni National Progress Party (KNPP)		1,000
Lahu Democratic Union (LDU)		100
National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA)	2,000	
National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN)	1,000	

# Analysis Representation

	Non-UNFC	UNFC
Organization	Armed Strength	Armed Strength
New Mon State Party (NMSP)		1,500
Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO)		100
Restoration Council for Shan State – Shan State Army South (RCSS-SSAS)	7,000	
Shan State Progress Party – Shan State Army North (SSPP-SSAN)		2,000
Ta-ang National Liberation Organization (TNLA)		1,000
United Wa State Army (UWSA)	30,000	
Wa National Organization (WNO)		100
Total:	45,100	15,910

# Analysis

## Mandate of UNFC ?



UNFC Chairman can make decisions without consulting Chairs of member organizations or their Executive Committees

UNFC Chairman can also make decisions without consulting the UNFC Executive Committee.

UNFC Executive Committee members cannot be changed by the Executive of member organizations.

# Analysis

## UNFC Executive

<u>UNFC</u>		<u>Position in Own Organization</u>	
Chairman:	N Ban La	KIO Vice-Chair	10,000
Vice-Chair:	Nai Hantha	NMSP Vice-Chair	1,500
Vice-Chair:		KNU	
Gen Sec:	Khu Oo Reh	KNPP Vice-Chair	1,000
Jt-GS No.1:	Hkun Okker	PNLO Patron	100
Jt-GS No. 2:	Salai Thla Hei	CNF	100
CEC:	Dr La Jah	KIO General-Secretary	
CEC:	Gen Be Htoo	KNPP Commander-in-Chief	
CEC:	Duwa B Laraw	KIO CEC	
CEC:	Sao Sai Htoo	SSPP	2,000
CEC:	Dr Khin Mg	ANC	10
CEC:		KNU	

Missing – LDU 100, TNLA 1000, WNO 100



## Analysis

# UNFC's Influence on Negotiations

*“Signing NCA and starting a political dialogue with the current government is like voting for the USDP. We should only have a political dialogue with the NLD after the 2015 elections.”*

### Analysis:

1. There is no guarantee who will win the elections,
2. Even if NLD wins there is no guarantee DASSK will be President,
3. Even if DASSK become President, there is no guarantee she will continue with the political dialogue,
4. Even if she continues with the dialogue, there is no guarantee she will offer something better,
5. Even if she offers something better, there is no guarantee she can control the Army.

# UNFC Decisions Affecting Unity

- 2011 – No ceasefire negotiations.
- May 2013 – No Joint-Negotiating Team.
- October 2013 – No Joint-Decision-making body. NCCT formed instead.
- July 2013 – No Joint Steering Committee. UNFC will lead.
- KNU proposal to reform UNFC Constitution rejected.
- NCCT must conform to UNFC decision & policy.