



## **Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO)**

### **Statement (1/2024)**

26<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024

On January 21, 2024, an armed clash occurred in southern Shan State between the PNLA and SAC, along with the SAC-backed militia PNO. The clash took place in Sanbu (Lonehe) village in Hopong Township of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone in southern Shan State. Conflict arose when vehicles belonging to the PNLA were forcibly stopped and equipment was seized. Despite attempts by the PNLA to defuse the tension and compromise, no agreement was reached. The following day, on January 22, SAC launched airstrikes on Naung Htaw village, next to the PNLO's headquarters. The attack took place despite there being no armed conflict in the area, resulting in the deaths of innocent civilians and damage to several houses.

As a consequence of these events, armed conflict has broken out and is currently ongoing in Hsihseng town. We, the PNLA, were recognized as one of the NCA signatories who initially showed respect for the negotiation process and agreement. Furthermore, up until today we have remained committed to the principles and agreement of the NCA, refraining from involvement in the emerging nationwide armed struggle in the aftermath of the military coup on February 1, 2021, which led to the brutal suppression of public protests throughout the country.

Despite our eight-year involvement and attempts in the peace process, we have not witnessed any significant progress towards a sustainable political outcome.

The emergence of armed conflicts is not related to disputes between ethnic nationalities but rather a conflict between the SAC military and civilian populations. We will work alongside our allies to bring an end to military dictatorship in accordance with the will of our people and to build a federal democratic country. During our operation, we will not attack our fellow Pa-O nationals and we strongly urge the Pa-O militia currently working for the SAC to stand with us as we strive for the liberation of our Pa-O people.

We are committed to upholding our political principles and values in order to restore our national equality and self-determination, built on a federal democratic system, challenging narrow-minded nationalism and putting an end to military dictatorship in Myanmar. Through this declaration we call upon all Pa-O nationals to collaborate with us as we work for the restoration of our Pa-O national rights.

**Central Committee**

**Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO**