

ညီညွတ်သောတိုင်းရင်းသားလူမျိုးများဖက်ဒရယ်ကောင်စီ
UNITED NATIONALITIES FEDERAL COUNCIL(UNION OF BURMA)

Letter No: 27/Na/PhaKaBa/11

Date: 15th August 2011

To

U Thein Sein
President
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Re: Appeal to seek political solution to the political problems

Respected Mr. President,

It was with great hope that the United Nationalities Federal Council (Union of Burma) had warmly welcomed your commitment to building national unity as outlined in your inaugural speech during your swearing-in ceremony as the new President of the Union of Myanmar.

The United Nationalities Federal Council (UNCF) was founded as an alliance composed with ethnic nationalities organizations in which the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), New Mon State Party (NMSP) and Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP) are organizations that had entered into a ceasefire agreement with the military governments led by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC)/State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). The relations between the military government and the three organizations had deteriorated because the former refused to seek a political solution to the problems, by placing arbitrary demands on the three organizations to transform the Border Guard Force or the militia force.

Members of the United Nationalities Federal Council are patriotic ethnic organizations that have for many years, fought for their peoples' rights through both political and military means. In struggling for their peoples' rights and basic freedoms, the non-Burman ethnic peoples have consistently tried to seek a political solution to the political problems with the successive military governments.

For the last 60 years, the successive governments have responded to the demands of their peoples' rights with the force of arms, instead of adopting a political means to solve the political problems. This utter failure has led the natural-resource-rich Union of Myanmar to become one of the world's Least Developed Countries. This has further led to a situation of greater confusion and misunderstandings amongst the different ethnic groups, and simmering civil war.

If viewed from a true historical perspective, the present-day Union of Myanmar was founded with the amalgamation of the ancestral territories of the different ethnic groups. The country's independence was achieved with the joint struggle of different

ethnic groups against the occupying colonialist force. In this respect, the Union of Burma therefore belongs equally to all the different ethnic groups. For genuine national unity to be achieved in a country with such a multi-ethnic character there needs to be a guarantee for equal rights and opportunities for all ethnic groups. Unfortunately however, the non-Burman ethnic peoples continue to feel being racially dominated, assimilated and subjugated within the Union.

It is natural for all peoples to have a love for, and to value their own ethnic, language, religious and ancestral identities. Accordingly, the ethnic peoples continue to engage in a resistance movement to protect their rights to equality and self-determination both through military and political means. We are of the view that these grievances can readily and easily be addressed by seeking a political solution based on the Panglong Agreement, or through adapting successful methods and experiences from other countries where multi-ethnic unity has been achieved. Our collective experiences from the last 60 years of civil war tell us that trying to seek a military solution to the problems without a political solution will only prolong the conflict. Rather it will lead to a further deterioration of the country's situation and the suffering of the entire population.

As a group representing the collective force of the ethnic armed groups, the United Nationalities Federal Council, therefore, earnestly appeal to you to order an end to all ongoing military offensives against the ethnic groups, declare a nation-wide temporary cease-fire, and to initiate a political dialogue with the UNFC towards finding a political solution as soon as possible. These measures should be undertaken with the view of building genuine national unity, perpetuation of the Union, emergence of a peaceful and developed nation that can reclaim its pride and dignity amongst other nations in a 21st century world.

Yours respectfully,



Lt. General N' Banla
Chairman
United Nationalities Federal Council

Copy to:

- 1.The President,The United States of America
- 2.The Prime Minister, The Republic of India
- 3.The Prime Minister, The Royal Kingdom of Thailand
- 4.The Premier, The People's Republic of China
- 5.The Chairperson, The African Union
- 6.The Secretary General, The Organization of American States
- 7.The President,The European Union
- 8.The Chairman, The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
- 9.The Secretary General, The United Nations Organization