

## **Introduction to United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC):**

The UNFC is a representation of reunification of almost all the ethnic resistance forces, particularly between the ceasefire organizations – the Kachin Independent Organization (KIO), Shan State Progress Party (SSPP) and New Mon State Party (NMSP) - and the non-ceasefire organizations – Karen National Union (KNU), Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) and Chin National Front (CNF). The reunification process started in early 2010, after the SPDC military regime insisted on the ceasefire organizations (CFOs) to transform their armed wings to the Border Guard Force (BGF) or people's militia, which would be subjected totally to the command of Burma Army.

At the end of the 16-year old ceasefire period, the SPDC military regime demanded CFOs to transform its armed forces to BGF or people's militia. Some CFOs such as the KIO, SSPP, NMSP, DKBA, etc. totally rejected the demand, since they had signed the ceasefire agreement, with the hope of gaining the rights to political equality and self-determination of the ethnic nationalities.

In February 2011, the Committee for Emergence of Federal Union (CEFU) was formed by the KIO, KNU, KNPP, NMSP and CNF. In June, the SSPP/SSA North joined this committee. In February 2011, the CEFU, National Democratic Front (NDF), and the United Nationalities League for Democracy, Liberated-Area (UNLD-LA), convened the Ethnic Nationalities Conference and established the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) consisting of 12 ethnic nationalities resistance organizations. Today, six major ethnic resistance organizations lead the UNFC. They are the KIO, KNU, KNPP, SSPP, NMSP and CNF.

The UNFC formed its armed wing, the Federal Union Army (FUA) in May 2011. It was only for self-defense and protection of the civilian populations in the resistance areas. It is the position of the FUA that it has the responsibility to protect its peoples just like the UN has the right to protect the civilian populations on the R2P principle of the United Nations.

## **Aims & Objectives of UNFC**

Aims & Objectives of the UNFC are establishment of:

1. The country, Burma (Myanmar), as a genuine Federal Union with constitutional guarantees for the rights of equality and self-determination of all the ethnic nationalities, human rights and democratic rights;
2. Collective and unified leadership for political aspirations of all the ethnic nationalities;
3. Unity of the ethnic nationalities;
4. Genuine multi-party democratic system.
5. Unity in diversity, lasting peace and stability;
6. Freedom, justice, equality and peaceful co-existence of all the ethnic nationalities;
7. Sustainable development for the benefit of the entire people;

## **UNFC Political Guideline**

The civil war, which has been continuing for more than six decades in Burma, is principally due to denial of the fundamental rights of the non-Burman ethnic nationalities. The repressive

military rule starting from 1962 has caused the people to yearn for democratic freedom and human rights.

The brutal suppression of nationwide democratic movement in 1988 caused thousands of political activists to flee to the ethnic areas. During the long years from 1988 to the present, the ethnic and democratic movements have established better understanding.

The return of the CFOs to resistance after their failure to get meaningful rights for the ethnic nationalities, by agreeing to ceasefire and participation in the SPDC road map, has strengthened the forces struggling for genuine change. The resumption of military offensives by the government against the CFOs shows that the new government is following the same policies of ethnic cleansing and military conquest against the ethnic nationalities, just like the previous military regime.

In the face of continued recalcitrance by the military-backed government, the strategy of the UNFC is as follows.

UNFC Guideline for Positive Change is to:

1. Build up solid unity of the ethnic nationality forces;
2. Build up military power for gaining a balance versus that of the military-backed government;
3. Urge the international community to use effective sanctions;
4. Oppose the purchase or production of weapons of mass destruction by the government;
5. Persuade the government to resolve political problems through meaningful dialogue;
6. Join hands with the democratic forces for democratic change, federalism, peace and stability;
7. Oppose the divide-and-rule policy and the political line of appeasement and surrender.

Politically, the "Tripartite Dialogue" as called for by the United Nations General Assembly resolutions, since 1994, is an essential part of the strategy for the resolution of political problems in Burma. It is the basis for resolving the political problems by political means for all the stakeholders in the country.

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03 September 2011

[Note: Changes made are shown in blue color.]

