

To Thailand

We, the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), are an alliance composed of the organizations of six major Non-Burman ethnic nationalities as the main members and the four organizations of minor ethnic nationalities as associate members. We together represent 80% of the non-Burman ethnic populations.

The total population of the non-Burman ethnic nationalities of Burma (Myanmar) forms at least half of the total population of the country.

The Burman ultra-nationalist, General Ne Win, started war against the ethnic nationalities in early 1949 by attacking the Karen people, with the intention of crushing their peaceful movement for a Karen state. The Karen people resisted. The Mon and the Karenni (Kayah) peoples joined the Karen in resistance. In 1960, General Ne Win extended the war to the Shan and Kachin peoples. In 1962, he seized power, introduced the so-called 'Burmese Way to Socialism,' system and controlled the economy and the people with an iron hand. In practice, his rule was a military dictatorship.

His war and mismanagement of the economy impoverished the country. In 1987, the country had to apply for the Least of Least Development Country (LLDC) status. In 1988, nationwide mass movement brought down Ne Win regime. The power passed into the hands of a new military dictatorship, known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), which later changed its name to the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

In 2008, the SPDC adopted, through a thoroughly controlled referendum, a state constitution, which gave the military establishment the rights to dominate the government and seize power under emergency provisions, without approval of the parliament or the judiciary. After enacting the election law designed to exclude the most popular political party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), the SPDC held a general election in November 2010. The NLD boycotted the election in protest against the Constitution and the heavily biased election law. As expected, the former military men and the military backed party, the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), won a landslide victory in the unfair election controlled by the SPDC.

In the government formed in March this year, former generals Thein Sein, Tin Aung Myint Oo and Shwe Man became the president, vice president and speaker of the lower house respectively. The military men or former military men head all the important ministries. As a result, the government does not have legitimacy in the eyes of the international community.

Like the previous military dictatorships, President Thein Sein, or the USDP government is following the same policies of feudal imperialism and Nazism/fascism with regard to the country's non-Burman ethnic nationalities. In the war for total control of the people and the lands, it employs extremely brutal and barbarous means against the innocent civilians. The government troops commit atrocities regularly against the ethnic populations just like the Nazis did against the Jews and others, during the Second World War.

In March of this year, the government troops started military offensives against the Shan State Progressive party, a former ceasefire organization. In June, the government troops started

military offensives against the Kachin Independence Organization, which is also a former ceasefire organization.

On the other hand, President Thein Sein promised to make changes in order to appease the general populations and made cosmetic changes to attract foreign aid from the West. He engages, in dialogue, the icon of freedom and democracy, Daw Aung San Su Kyi.

In September, President Thein Sein government made a statement telling the armed ethnic organizations to meet, individually, the respective state governments for initial talks, if they wanted peace. After initial talks, the central government was to hold substantive talks with the ethnic organizations, individually, for ceasefire and development. The talks were to be within the purview of the fraud-ridden 2008 Constitution.

On the other hand, we, the UNFC, call on the government to put in place a nationwide ceasefire to be followed by political dialogue on establishment of federal democracy, equal rights, internal self-determination, lasting peace and stability. Development is to follow after lasting peace and stability have been established.

We are good neighbors of the Thai people and we see Thailand as one of peace and justice loving countries of the World. Accordingly, we would like to appeal to Your Excellency and the government of Thailand, under your Excellency's leadership, to have sympathy and understanding with our struggle against injustice, feudal imperialism and military Nazism/fascism. We would like to appeal also to your Excellency to urge the Burmese government to cease military offensives entirely against all the ethnic nationalities, to relinquish the policies of feudal imperialism and Nazism/fascism, punish the troops committing atrocities and hold political dialogue with the ethnic organizations represented by the UNFC for establishment of lasting peace and stability.

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