

United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) Position Statement on Peace in the Country

1. The armed conflict, which has been going on between the non-Burman nationalities and successive regimes in power in the Union of Burma, is due to denial of equality to the non-Burman nationalities. This lack of equality is the crucial political problem underlying the politics of Burma.
2. Instead of resolving the political problem by political means, use of the military might for suppression or regional development after ceasefire, by the regimes in power is an attempt to break up the struggle of the nationalities for "Political Equality" by trickery and so the country has been driven away from peace for more than 60 years.
3. On August 18, U Thein Sein government made an overture for peace talk by issuing a statement once more. However, talk with individual organizations separately was specified as a pre-condition. We view this as not only as a difficult and slow-moving way but also as an attempt to break up the unity of the UNFC.
4. Seeing through this, we, the UNFC, has laid down the basic principle requiring the regime to ceasefire in all the conflict areas, hold political dialogue and agree to hold dialog between representatives of U Thein Sein government and those of the UNFC. However, with respect for the member organizations' right to find a path to peace individually, individual member organizations have been allowed to have meetings with the government's representatives and the "Principle" that decision required is to be discussed with the UNFC has been laid down.
5. In accordance with the principle, the UNFC members have met with representatives of the state governments as well as those of U Thein Sein government. U Thein Sein government has been attempting to summon the UNFC members individually and make agreement separately. Though the UNFC members have met with representatives of the government for exchange of views, they all stand by the basic principle of the UNFC. None has made agreement with the regime. The regime has been meeting and making agreements with non-UNFC members in a hurry, as it cannot divide the UNFC members.
6. Though the U Thein Sein government realizes that meeting with the UNFC nationality alliance would resolve problems speedily, the attempt by it to meet and reach agreement with individual organizations separately is not a sign of sincerity. It is doing in this way with the intention of dividing the unity of nationality organizations and weakening them in separation, for pressure and domination.
7. For this reason, the UNFC members are holding talks by upholding the principle they have laid down. If U Thein Sein government truly desires to obtain peace, it is the position of the UNFC that the government should immediately take the correct steps of ceasing military offensives against some of the UNFC members and "resolving the political problems by political means".

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