



Feb 2, 2013

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Naypyitaw, Myanmar

We, the Kachin Alliance, a network of Kachin organizations representing the Kachin community in the United States, strongly condemn the atrocities perpetrated by the Burma Army against innocent Kachin civilians in northern Burma. Since December 2012, the Burma Army has intensified its assault on the Kachin Independent Organization (KIO) employing massive ground and aerial bombardments. This escalated offensive has resulted in indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas, and targeting of Kachin villages, leading to several civilian deaths and injuries.

These heinous crimes are well documented by local sources and have been reported in numerous foreign media outlets. They include:

- The shelling on January 29, 2013, by a Burmese artillery unit into the Kachin village of Mayan, located on Myitkyina-Mandalay railroad, which killed 2 civilians, a mother and her 2-year old son, and seriously injured 3 others. The shelling was unprovoked as the village is in government controlled, KIA free area.
- The killing of Zehkung Bawm Lwi, a 45-year-old housewife, by Burma army troops under Hpegon-based MOC-7 at Nam Jan Ja Maw in Hpakant on Jan 24, 2013.
- The shelling of Burma army's Seng Tawng-based 16th LIR on a residential area in Seng Tawng, which killed a 60-year-old man and injured a 23-year-old man on Jan 18, 2013.
- The killing of 1 student, 1 church deacon and 1 internally displaced person (IDP), and the wounding of 3 local women and an 8-year old girl by 105 mm mortar shells fired into the town of Laiza on January 14, 2013. 105 mm mortar shells are not known to be used by the KIA. According to a KIA official, 105 mm shells are not in its list of stock.
- The killing of 3 Kachin Lisu men by a Burma army unit under the 33rd LID between Nsaw and Hpung-ing Zup on the Myitkyina-Sumpra Bum road on Jan 14, 2013.
- The shelling by a Burma army unit on a residential area in Kahtang village in Hpakant which killed 1 civilian and injured 2 others on Jan 13, 2013
- Burma Army artillery shells which killed one and injured 3 Kachin civilians working in their fields at Dung Hkung village on Dec 27, 2012. These are IDPs staying in camps near their home villages, returning to work in their fields during the daytime.
- The raping and killing of Nahpaw Bawk Tawng from Nhkram village on the Myitkyina-Bhamo road. She was on her way to market with her friend Maji Roi on Dec 2, 2011. Along the way, they were stopped by Burmese troops from Tanai-based Hka Ma Ya - 318. Her companion escaped but the 30-year-old housewife and mother was raped and murdered. Her body was discovered along the roadside on December 5, 2011.
- Successive shelling of 24 rounds of 120mm mortar fire into the village of Laqmawng village and Mawmau Hill by Burma army units stationed at Hpakant Byuha Kone on Nov 2, 2012, which killed two civilians and injured 3, including an old woman.

These atrocious acts can be construed as state sanctioned violence as U Aung Min, Minister for the President's Office and the chief negotiator for peace talks, had admitted at the KIO-Government meeting on Oct 30, 2012, that authorization to fire 105 mm and 120 mm mortar shells comes directly from the army's chief of staff of defense services (Ka Ka Kyee) in Naypyitaw.

Atrocious rights violations such as rapes, killings and summary arrests, indiscriminate shelling of civilian areas and target bombing of Kachin villages, indicate the Burma Army is not only waging war against the KIO but is also carrying out a genocidal war against the Kachin people. The Burma Army's unwarranted violence against the Kachin people amounts to war crimes or crimes against humanity and urge that the perpetrators be brought to trial.

We urge the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to seek a political solution rather than a military one. We are convinced that addressing the rights of the Kachin as a co-founder of the Union in a political forum, not untenable ceasefires and dubious development projects, is key to resolving the Kachin conflict, and achieving genuine and lasting national reconciliation.

Sincerely,

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United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
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House Committee on Foreign Affairs
House Armed Services Committee
United States Department of State
American Baptist Churches – USA
Baptist World Alliance
Government of the United Kingdom
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