



June 23, 2016

Statement on killing of university student Gam Seng Awng

We are greatly saddened to learn the death of Gam Seng Awng, a 19-year-old freshman from Computer University, Myitkyina. The student was shot multiple times by Private Maung Maung from 727th Logistics and Transportation Battalion under Northern Regional Military Command. The incident took place around 9:40pm on June 20, 2016 in Thida Aye neighborhood, just a few hundred feet away from City Hall of Myitkyina, Kachin State capital.

The death of Gam Seng Awng clearly shows the lack of security for the Kachin civilians, whether they are in the conflict zone or in a big city like Myitkyina, when the Tatmadaw is around. The Kachin people are living under constant fear. We condemn shooting of Gam Seng Awng, an unarmed civilian, by the Tatmadaw's soldier. The Burmese government must stop the Tatmadaw's brutality towards unarmed civilians.

We urge the government of Burma to conduct a comprehensive criminal investigation to bring justice for Gam Seng Awng. The government has yet to bring justice for many civilians before Gum Seng Awng, including Ja Seng Ing killed in 2012 and two teachers raped and murdered in 2015.

We ask that the Burmese government no longer allows the Tatmadaw to function above of the law and enjoy immunity from consequences of crimes committed by its members. We request that the government ensures that the rules of law applies to all sectors of the country and holds those guilty of violation and crime accountable for their actions. In order to ensure that the justice is served in Burma, we further ask the government to prevent anyone from tempering with evidence, intimidating witnesses, vindictive retaliation, or scapegoating innocent bystanders.

We request the US, the UN and others who champion human rights to urge the Burmese government to conduct credible criminal investigations to the killing of Gam Seng Awng and those of many others who have lost their lives at the hand of the Tatmadaw before him.

We offer our deepest condolences to the family and friends of Gam Seng Awng. We pray that God give them peace and comfort during this difficult time. We mourn together with the Kachin people across the world for another promising life that was cut short by a senseless act of violence.

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