



June 9th, 2016

Washington D.C.

Kachin Americans Held Nationwide Events to Mark the 5th Anniversary of the Resumed War in Burma

Today marks the 5th year of the resumed armed conflict in Kachin region, Burma. In the past year 5 years, over 120,000 civilians has been displaced and their living conditions have deteriorated as the war went on. Ongoing unprovoked attacks against the Kachin Independence Army by the Burmese military has produced more displacements in recent months and is creating a serious concern over the delivery of resources to the new IDPs.

When the world observes and praises the recent political reforms in Burma, the Burmese Army continues to commit heinous crimes and human rights violations against the Kachin people. These include deliberate targeting of civilians, rape and other forms of sexual violence, arbitrary execution, detention and torture. Despite the ascension of the civilian government led by the National League for Democracy, the Kachins continue to live in fear, danger, and repression.

The Kachin community in the United States of America stands in solidarity hundreds of thousands men, women and children whose lives have been shattered by the war. We stand firm and united with the Kachins in Burma and around the world. Together, we ask the Burmese government and the international community to put an end to atrocities against the Kachins in Burma.

To commemorate the 5th anniversary of resumed war, the U.S. Kachin community raises funding for education of IDP children and held prayer services and grassroots advocacy activities across the country to pray for a genuine peace and raise public awareness on this issue. Additionally, we organize a nationwide advocacy campaign urging our elected officials in the U.S. Congress to:

- 1) Bring about a genuine political negotiation to help establish a genuine federal union which guarantees equality and self-determination for all ethnic nationalities.
- 2) Urge Aung San Suu Kyi's government to launch credible, impartial and independent investigations on all crimes committed against civilians in Burma;
- 3) Request the U.S. representatives at the United Nations Security Council to support more briefing and discussions on violence against women in Burma;
- 4) Provide unfettered humanitarian assistance to IDPs along the Burma-China borders, notably through various Community Based Organizations and Christian churches;
- 5) Continue to engage with Aung San Suu Kyi's government and to make the most of targeted sanctions prepared by the U.S. government (and in particular, keep in place the Specially Designated Nationals list) to encourage genuine reforms.

For more information, please contact Kachin Alliance.

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