



KachinCanadianAssociation

Joint Press Release by the Kachin Alliance and the Kachin Canadian Association

May 2nd, 2018

The Kachin community in the United States and Canada held a joint peaceful protest at the Burmese Embassy in Washington, D.C. on April 30th, 2018 at 1:30pm. The aim was to protest against the use of civilians as human shields and quartering within Kachin villages by the Tatmadaw, and to demand a free flow of movement by the trapped internally displaced population.

Ambassador Aung Lin welcomed Mr. Nsang Gum San, President of the Kachin Alliance, and Mr. Nlam La Seng, General Secretary of the Kachin Canadian Association, into the embassy building to ascertain the motive of demonstration. During their discussion, the ambassador repeatedly stated that the NLD government has a genuine desire for peace and harmony in Burma. He claimed that human rights abuses and atrocities committed in the ethnic minority regions are occurring primarily due to the on-going armed conflict. He also stated that the rule of law applies to everyone in Burma and that those who committed crimes are being held accountable by the government. The Kachin community leaders stressed that the seventy years of civil war could no longer be resolved domestically and that the international intervention is urgently needed on humanitarian grounds. The ambassador requested for documentation of human rights abuses in Kachin regions and promised to relay the Kachin community's messages to Naypyidaw.

The Kachin Alliance and the Kachin Canadian Association call upon the NLD government to use its liberty to promote ours. Therefore, we urge the Government of Burma:

1. To demand the Tatmadaw to allow free flow of displaced populations in Awng Lawt, Lai Nawng Hku, Njangyang, and Tanghpree, and to open access for delivery of international relief aids to the IDPs in all territories.
2. To ensure safety of peaceful demonstrators in Myitkyina, Yangon, and elsewhere in Burma. Threatening behavior of security forces against participants must be censured.
3. To guarantee safety and security of victim families from harassments, arrests, and retributions by authority. The guarantee must preexist our provision of documented human rights abuses.
4. To conduct a credible investigation of the Burma Army-LIR 503 and the soldiers who targeted 8 fleeing IDPs. The LIR 503 quartered less than 100 yards away from the lodge of the two Kachin Baptist Convention's teachers, who were horrifically raped and slaughtered on January 19th, 2015 in Kawngka village, Shan State. The aforementioned targeting of IDPs resulted in murder of 2 and injured 3 civilians on April 23rd at 8pm in Hkawng Law Yang, Danai Township, Kachin State. All responsible parties ought to be held accountable.
5. To avoid dereliction of duty and abnegation of responsibility as well as to refrain from allowing usurpation of its political mandate by the military. The NLD parliamentarians must draft a bill to earmark the Union and State budget, at least 5 percent of Kachin State's budget, to assist the IDP population.
6. To seek help from the international community if it is unable to exercise oversight of the military and enforce rule of law to all people.

Meeting record link: <https://burmese.voanews.com/a/4373738.html>