



March 2, 2021

An Open Letter to the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw - CRPH

We commend you for your firm stance against the coup regime. We thank you for offering a position to a member of the Kachin Alliance leadership. While we are honored to have received such an offer, we must respectfully decline it for now.

We are a diaspora organization that advocates for an inclusive Burma with peace, justice and equality for Kachin and ethnic minorities in Burma. We fight for the ultimate defeat of dictatorship in Burma and demand the immediate and unconditional release of those unjustly detained. However, our vision for Burma, which is based on the Panglong spirit, extends beyond these objectives. Our vision comprises of these demands:

- (1) Abolishment of the 2008 Constitution,
- (2) Establishment of federal democracy, and
- (3) Formation of an interim Union Government that is supported by ethnic parties and armed organizations and reflects the country's ethnic and religious diversity.

We understand the National League for Democracy's decision to utilize the 2008 Constitution to legitimize its mandate. However, that constitution was effectively terminated by its own architect on February 1, 2021. The 2008 Constitution was authored by and for the Burma army. Maintaining it will only perpetuate the regime's destructive role in politics and the country's social cohesion. The people of Burma need genuine federalism, not just democratic federalism which facilitates centralized rule and dominance of the majority.

Burma is at a critical juncture and this is a crucial moment for the Nation League for Democracy – Central Executive Committee to decide the destiny of this Union. A coalition of the NLD and ethnic minority forces, rather than ethnic minority individuals, is the only pathway to root out the Burma army from the national politics.

We implore the NLD to take a principled stand by declaring the abolishment of the 2008 Constitution and its commitment to federalism based on the Panglong spirit. This is an existential concern of all Kachin nationals.

We remain ready to offer help informally as we have done in the past. We stand ready to join hands with you and redouble our effort when the above-mentioned concerns are publicly addressed.

Kachin Alliance
Washington, D.C.