

**Statement of Burmese people residing in Norway  
On the occasion of the Royal Norwegian visit to Burma**

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.

As representatives of all the Burmese nationalities currently residing in Norway, we welcome the royal visit of the King and Queen of Norway to our homeland.

We fully acknowledge the assistance that Norway has provided to our country over the years, in its long, painful struggle for democracy. We will never forget the Noble Peace Prize awarded to democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and the establishment of the Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB). Also the substantial aid given for environmental issues in Burma and humanitarian assistance to refugees in the border areas.

We also acknowledge the role that Norway has played in the current transition process in Burma. The reconciliation gesture offered by the semi-civilian government led by U Thein Sein, working with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, has, to a certain extent, been endorsed by the global community. The Norwegian government has waived billions of dollars worth of debt, and supports the peace process and attempts at democratization.

The current administration has now held power, under the banner of democracy, for nearly four years. It has failed, however, to bring about the transitions that the people were led to hope for. We are deeply concerned by:

1. Lack of rule of law

1. The peace process headed by minister U Aung Min has not received genuine endorsement from the army. As a result, the ethnic nationalities cannot trust or accept it, and civil war may well resume as a result

(We refer, for example, to the army's surprise attack on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 at Laiza, Kachin Independence Organization Headquarters in Kachin State, which killed 23 cadets. The shelling, which follows the regime's policy of "Divide And Rule" against the ethnic armed groups, shows the regime has no genuine will to establish peace in the country)

3. The fighting continues to create refugees, and reports of human rights violations continue

1. The government is widely credited with the deliberate incitement of religious based riots, where no action is taken against the perpetrators and instigators of the rioting

1. Land grabs carried out by cronies and the army, continue to be widespread

1. Farmers forced from their land are jailed instead of receiving appropriate compensation

1. Protests by employees against insufficient wages are almost daily

1. Although more than 5 million people have signed for the amendment of the constitution, the Parliament (*Hluttaw*) chairman has deferred, announcing that this will only become possible after the 2015 election
1. Journalists and media staff have also been prosecuted for suspect reasons
1. Thousands of students are protesting against the unjust new education law

Under these conditions and violations, we do not consider that Norwegian investment in Burma meets the regulations prescribed by international standards. With the army and its cronies monopolizing all negotiation with the international community, we can only fear that Norwegian investment will fuel and provide invaluable support and assistance to a repressive regime, determined to maintain its stranglehold on the country, no matter what the human cost.

To improve those conditions and to promote humanitarian values we would like to express deep concern about human rights abuses committed by the Army and the government, and to appeal for Norwegian assistance to reach out to those in need, and for the 2015 election to be held in a free and fair manner, and for power to be handed over to the elected representatives within 60 days after the election.

Burmese people residing in Norway

[This statement is sent to His Majesty the King, Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of Norway, Kjell Magne Bondevik, President, The Oslo Center for Peace and Human Rights, The Norwegian Burma Committee (NBC) and the Norwegian media]

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Signed by (names and organizations):

1. A Htun Htun
2. Aung Htoo
3. Aung Kyaw Soe
4. Aung San Nyut
5. Bu Hung Daai
6. Bu Ling Daai
7. Cho Saint Tun
8. Christopher Lay Taw

9. Dipa Yong
10. Esther Maran
11. Hau Dal
12. Hla Hla Nyo
13. Hla Min
14. Hla Win
15. Htang Mai
16. Htaw Mon
17. Htay Mon
18. Htet Aung Kyaw
19. John Saw Za Uk
20. Khaing Kyaw Than
21. Khaing Thein Khaing
22. khant Sithu Aung
23. Khine Khine Mon
24. King Salamon lay Taw
25. Ko Nyo
26. Kyaw Zaw
27. Kyine
28. Lal Rin Thari Aung
29. Lal Thianghlimi
30. Leif Win
31. Ling Kee Dai
32. Lewe Htoo
33. Man Za Lun Dai
34. Mahn Myint Aung
35. Min Aung Mon
36. Min Min Oo
37. Min Oo
38. Moe Aye
39. Moe Maung Maung Thiha
40. Mon Banya
41. Mun Aung
42. Myat Soe
43. Myint Aung
44. Myint Aye Aung
45. Myint Lwin
46. Myo Min Naing
47. Myo Myint
48. Myo Sandi Aung
49. Naing Aung Aung
50. Nang Kham Kaew
51. Nan Kyi Aye Shwe
52. Nant Than Htay
53. Niang Lian Hau Uk
54. Nunu Aung
55. Naw Heh Lay Moo

56. Naw Hsa Paw
57. Naw Htoo Lay
58. Naw Justina
59. Naw Lucky
60. Naw Mee Mee
61. Naw Moo Eh Ywa
62. P.C Tea Aung
63. Rachel Mawite Thang
64. Samuel Naulak
65. Sandar Thiha
66. San Shwe
67. San Soi Thangbal
68. Saw Andrews
69. Saw Bu K Tee
70. Saw Eh Doh
71. Saw Has Leh Pway
72. Saw Hero
73. Saw Htun Kain
74. Saw Kler Moo
75. Saw K'Saw Daw
76. Saw Lay Kler
77. Saw Ler Doh
78. Saw Ma Ku
79. Saw Nay Too
80. Saw Nyi Nyi Win
81. Saw Ta Mei Poe
82. Saw Sa Soe
83. Saw Soe Kaw Moo
84. Su Su Khin
85. Sut Ring
86. Swe Swe Mun
87. Swe Swe Tint
88. Thang Khan Thawn
89. Thang Ling Bu
90. Thein Min
91. Thein Oo
92. Thet Naing
93. Thiram Aung
94. Thit Thit
95. Thu Ray
96. Tulum
97. Zin Mon Mon Myint
98. Zaw Myat Moe
99. Zaw Naing
100. Winnie Bik
101. Yea Chan Jaiboon
102. Zaw Naing

- 103. Zung Myaw Langjaw
- 104. NNKC (Northern Norway Karen Community)

In addition with;  
Karen Community Association UK  
Karen Swedish Community (KSC)