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Mon Youth Progressive Organization

Mon Youth Progressive Organization (MYPO) Statement on the 58th Anniversary of the Mon Revolution Day

Wa Khaung Full moon day, Fifth Month of the Year 1367 Mon Lunar Calendar. (19th August 2005) marks 58th anniversary of the Mon Revolution Day, which has passed 57 years of the Mon people struggle for equality and self-determination in Burma. On this memorable day, the Mon Youth Progressive Organization (MYPO) pays tributes to those who sacrificed their lives in the struggle and for those, who are still marching on to the ultimate victory by unity and invaluable supports of Mon people.

Since Burma gained her independence from the British, the successive ruling government has adopted the policy of chauvinism and has never recognized the basic rights of non-Burman ethnic nationalities. The brutality, violence, and various kind of oppressions by the Burmese government left the non-Burman ethnic nationalities including the Mon with no other choice than to go for the armed resistance, which led to over five decades long of ongoing civil war in the country. Clearly, Burma's political problems including civil war and the general uprising for democracy in 1988 are the outcomes from ignoring equal rights for ethnic people and rights of democracy.

It has been almost 10 years which the New Mon State Party (NMSP), the leading Mon political party with armed wing signed cease-fire agreement with the military regime for settling political problem by political dialogue. However, little development has been noticed politically and while numerous cases of land confiscation, human rights abuses including summary killings and rapes against local Mon women especially in Southern Ye Township, limiting on Mon literature campaigns and harassment on Mon educational schools are frequently reported and documented in these years, in parallel with extensive militarization in Mon State.

Although the ethnic cease-fire groups, including the NMSP have joined in the National Convention presently orchestrated by the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), the Convention is widely accepted as illegitimate and international communities have questioned its integrity for without participation of the 1990 Election winning party, the National League for Democracy (NLD) and other major ethnic political parties. UN secretary general, Kofi Anan even spoke out on the national convention, as it could not lead to national reconciliation, democratization and restoration of ethnic rights in Burma. Moreover, the military regime neglected the proposal of ethnic cease-fire groups including the NMSP, submitted to national convention for restoration of their rights and the military regime has even pressured some cease-fire groups to lay down their arms. We do not believe that any political problems can be solved by force and we fully support the NMSP who has been firmly standing by its political objectives in such difficult circumstances.

We strongly believe that the political problems in Burma can be solved only by dialogue and the tripartite dialogue, which is recommended in 1994, UNGA resolution is yet the best solution to Burma problem. Furthermore peace and national reconciliation can only

build on the circumstances of equal rights for ethnic nationalities and democratic rights for all citizens of the country.

The MYPO reaffirms its commitment, on the occasion of the Mon Revolution Day, to work together actively with Moncivil society organizations, for the emergence of a "Tripartite Dialogue", which is aiming political change in Burma.

On this occasion, the MYPO has decided its role in the Mon national liberation struggle--based on the precious experiences of the five-decades-long-struggle--as a pressure group and will strive together to achieve victory with political parties, civil society organizations and individuals.

On this Mon Revolutionary Day, the MYPO demands

(1)To the Mon political parties to lead effectively up front of the Mon people and to the Mon people and communities living in Burma and abroad, to stand behind the vanguard Mon national party.

(2)To the ruling Burmese military regime to stop immediately its extensive militarization and offensive in Mon State , and stop all its human rights violations including summary killings and rapes against local Mon women especially in southern Ye township.

(3)To release all political prisoners including Aung San Suu Kyi, U Kun Htun Oo, stop its NC and engage the tripartite with the democratic forces and ethnic nationalities which is UNGA resolution in 1994.

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