



အိန္ဒိယနိုင်ငံတော် International Karen Organisation

Asia Pacific Region European Region US/Canada Region

IKO Condemns Karen State Bombings and Mass Killings in Burma

Date: 28th March 2021

The International Karen Organisation (IKO) strongly condemns the Burmese military fighter jets bombing our homeland again for the first time in almost thirty years. The first attacks came yesterday as the military killed more than 120 people across Burma. More bombings have taken place again today.

At around 3.30pm on 27th March, jets flew over the Day Pu No area of Mutraw (Papun) District in eastern Karen State, Burma. At night they returned twice, and one of the flyovers bombed the area, killing at least three people and injuring more. Many homes were damaged or destroyed and more than 1,000 local people are now hiding in fear in the jungle.

Fighter jets returned this morning bombing Ter Kaw Toe Baw at 10am local time. IKO has not received details on casualties. Jets have also been flying low over Mutraw and surrounding areas, prompting fears of more bombing and thousands of villagers are now fleeing into the jungle and into Thailand. The attacks at night represent a new military capability. In the past ten years the military has purchased significant new equipment and technology, and this is being used against the civilian population.

IKO calls on every government to impose sanctions to reduce revenue which is going to the military and paying for military equipment used against our people. The sanctions must include:

1. Stopping companies doing business with the military and Burmese military companies.
2. Stopping imports of timber and gems from Burma.
3. Stopping payment of oil and gas revenues.
4. Stopping Burmese military banks access to the Swift international financial transfer system.
5. Imposing an arms embargo and a ban on the supply of any equipment and technology to the Burmese military.

All UN members should publicly state their support for referring Burma to the International Criminal Court in order to maximise pressure on China and Russia not to use their veto power to block a Resolution making the referral.

International donors must now urgently work with local civil society organisations in Karen state and other ethnic states where Burmese military attacks and militarisation have caused displacement and increased poverty.

Internally displaced people were not prioritised for support by international donors and were left in squalid camps without proper food, shelter, medical care and education for their children. The Burmese military has shown it will continue to indiscriminately target civilians and cause more displacement, at the same time as restricting humanitarian access from inside Burma.

Thousands of people from across Burma who have fled to ethnic areas since the coup are also in desperate need of humanitarian assistance. The majority are in Karen State.

We call on donors to work flexibly with local civil society organisations to provide urgently needed humanitarian assistance.

The international response to the military coup has been too slow and too weak. The people of Burma are doing everything they can to resist the military. The international community is not doing everything it can do. We call on every government to use every point of leverage they have to apply more pressure on the military.

**Central Executive Committee
International Karen Organization (IKO)**