



The Karen Women's Organization Condemns Escalating Violence in Karen State & Calls for Immediate Intervention by the International Community

[28th March 2021]: The Karen Women's Organization (KWO) strongly condemns the Burma Army's escalation of attacks on innocent Karen civilians, using jet fighters. On 27 March, Burma Army soldiers launched night-time airstrikes on Day Bu No Village, Lu Thaw Township, Mu Traw District, killing three civilians and injuring seven others. Moreover, this attack caused more than 10,000 people to flee and hide in the forest. Today, the Burma Army continued airstrikes in five areas in Lu Thaw Township, Mu Traw District.

It is feared attacks will soon be launched on villages along the Salween River, including Mae Nu Hta, Kho Kay and Ei Htu Hta IDP camp. Many villagers are now hiding in terror in the jungle, and more than 3,000 have crossed to Thailand to take refuge.

Yesterday, Burma Army leaders celebrated Armed Forces Day with an extravagant ceremony, but as they dined, their soldiers were busy killing innocent civilians across the country. We condemn those who participated in the junta's celebrations. They are equally responsible for the deaths yesterday, which included children as young as one year old.

Burma's security forces must be held accountable for their crimes. Diplomats and governments must stop giving legitimacy to this murderous regime. It's clear the Burma Army leaders are not capable of change nor are they open to any dialogue to stop the violence.

We call urgently for concerted international action to prevent further mass atrocities. We call for a UN Security Council resolution to:

- refer the situation in Burma to the International Criminal Court,
- immediately dispatch a monitoring body to Burma, and
- impose a global arms embargo on Burma.

Executive Committee
Karen Women Organization