

Statement by Nationalities Brotherhood Forum

No.5/2011

We, the Nationalities Brotherhood Forum/Parties very joyfully welcome the decision to halt the construction of the Myitsone Dam that was taken by President U Thein Sein after serious consideration was given to the grave concerns of the people of Kachin State and all the nationalities in the Union. The decision was contained in the President's letter that was sent to the Chairs of the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Amyotha Hluttaw on 30 September 2011. We consider this to be a practical outworking of the Union spirit.

In our Statement No.4/2011 on 3 August 2011, we called for the establishment of a Peace Committee under the leadership of the new government that would consist of representatives of the Nationalities Brotherhood parties, elected legislators, dignitaries, and experts, to hold workshops and consultations to find solutions. But up to now, armed conflict is still taking place in the ethnic nationalities areas. We are deeply concerned and worried about the situation.

The present Peace Committee that was formed does not include the people that we recommended. We request that such personages be included. We also call on and urge both sides to announce a cease-fire and convene as soon as possible, workshops and consultations to establish internal peace.

In President U Thein Sein's letter, he mentioned that according to the authority invested in him by the Constitution, he will be freeing political prisoners. We, therefore, urge the President to implement his decision as soon as possible and free all political prisoners including U Hkun Htoon Oo who is serving a lengthy sentence and other nationalities leaders, as well as Min Ko Naing and other student leaders.

U Zo Zam, Chairman, Chin National Party



U Naing Ngwe Thein, Chairman, All Mon Region Democratic Party



U Saw Than Kyaw Oo, Chairman, Phalon-Sawor Democratic Party



U Sao Than Myint, Treasurer, Shan Nationalities Democratic Party



U Oo Hla Saw, General Secretary, Rakhine Nationalities



Development Party

Date: 2 October 2011

Place: Yangon