

Chapter 1 : Karen National Union - Wikipedia

KNU warned that discussions about having a single military can be continued only after a thorough discussion of security issues. KNU said fights are breaking out in ethnic areas as the government and Tatmadaw ignored or restricted demands for serious political dialogues in the ongoing peace process.

A number of factors determine who wins this argument at any given time, including: A ceasefire agreement reached in late held despite the removal of the Prime Minister by government hardliners. Read full article Introduction Probably the largest of the non-Burman ethnic groups of Burma, the Karen took up arms against the central government after Burmese independence in By the late s all the main ethnic minority groups had taken up arms against the government. The Burmese military has held power directly or indirectly since The crackdown on pro-democracy forces drove a new generation of anti-government activists to flee to the border area, especially the area held by the KNU. The DAB comprised most of the members of an earlier alliance of armed ethnic organisations, the National Democratic Front NDF , together with several pro-democracy groups that supported the armed struggle or had taken up arms chiefly the All Burma Student Democratic Front. In the SLORC pioneered a strategy of negotiating bilateral ceasefire agreements without political dialogue, agreeing truces with the various ethnic armies that had been commanded by the crumbling Communist Party of Burma. With the SLORC continuing to gain the upper hand militarily, displacing much of the Karen civilian population, the semi-ceasefire that emerged in late gave the KNU opportunity to review the situation. Between congresses the party is led by a Central Committee and an Executive Committee. These parallel structures, overlapping but not entirely coinciding, afforded the opportunity for distinct factions to develop within the KNU-Kawthoolei-KNLA leadership with somewhat distinct outlooks and constituencies. For the younger, middle-level section of the KNU leadership it became clear that the burden of the conflict had become unbearable for the Karen population in the conflict area. However, there were foreign visitors to the KNU who urged the KNU to consider a strategy of minimising the impact of SLORC military superiority by entering a ceasefire and relying on a more political strategy. Plans were laid for a delegation to go to Rangoon in the hope that such an initiative could win international support. The intention was to mobilise international pressure for a new approach to the SLORC, recognising the need to open up some of the political issues i. Responding to military offensives Long-standing grievances of Buddhist elements in the Karen population which in the conflict area is substantially non-Christian against the mainly Christian KNU leadership erupted at almost exactly the same time and the SLORC quickly moved to fuel the split. Thai pressure on the ethnic armies in the border area the Karen, the Karenni and the Mon to negotiate increased. In , the militarily hard-pressed KNU moved towards ceasefire talks. This time several rounds of talks were held but broke down. Ostensibly his displacement by long-time General Secretary Saw Bathin opened the way to a new KNU stance, but it could not hide the fact that the militarily-weakened KNU was now in an even weaker negotiating position. In the wake of the military offensive in and the hardening of Thai attitudes towards providing refuge, the situation inside Karen areas deteriorated with increasingly large numbers of internally displaced persons IDPs. Those KNU leaders who in had advocated a ceasefire strategy were now preoccupied with trying to find humanitarian assistance for civilians. Reporting on the IDP situation led in some cases to renewed advocacy on the need for an end to the fighting. During , efforts to persuade the KNU to again try negotiation were renewed by the SPDC-backed mediator group and independently by other Karen community leaders. While international efforts were concentrated unsuccessfully on securing the involvement of the NLD, the SPDC sought participation of key ethnic communities, especially ethnic ceasefire groups. Perhaps it was thought that a quick ceasefire would lead to KNU participation in the Convention. With little progress occurring, talks were suspended while the Convention was in session and efforts to reconvene the talks met a series of delays from both sides. Staying engaged In the case of the KNU conflict with the military government of Burma, there are groups on both sides who are willing to attempt to find a negotiated settlement. However, the credibility of such elements in the SPDC has been severely eroded by the predominant hard-liners who appear unwilling to make any concessions to anyone or to hold serious dialogue. This had the effect of undermining

the position of those in the KNU who were willing to work seriously to achieve a ceasefire and reinforced the position of KNU hard-liners who do not consider a ceasefire necessary or attainable. Despite this there is no change in the KNU mindset regarding ceasefire talks. At the KNU Congress in late it was unanimously agreed that the ceasefire process should continue. It also stated that discussions were being held on the continuation of a peace process with the KNU, that the prospects were bright, and that arrangements had been made for an informal meeting for peace in Moulmein, the Headquarters of the Southeast Command. It stated that, if willing, a KNU delegation could proceed to Moulmein. A number of inter-related factors can be identified that have tilted the scales in either direction at different times: Concern about the effects of the conflict on the civilian population has shaped attitudes to engagement. Perceptions of the trustworthiness of counterparts and intermediaries and the credibility of past engagements were other important factors. The existence of a high-profile pro-democracy movement that has overshadowed the Karen cause internationally has also played a role in KNU thinking.

Chapter 2 : Karen Community Groups Demand KNU Take Their Concerns Seriously Â« Karen News

The KNU's Central Standing Committee held an emergency meeting from November 6 to 10 to review the high-level peace talks held last month between the Tatmadaw, the government and NCA signatories.

National ceasefire, and then what? The long-running conflict between the military and the armed ethnic group had made the area poorer and pushed him over the border into Thailand. He would cross back into Myanmar to sell bamboo when the fighting paused, but in , when the gunfire stopped, he came back for good. However, claiming ownership of the land he had been cultivating for the past five years was not easy. In fact, nobody really knows to whom it belongs. Across Tanintharyi, many [development] projects are hanging by a thread, and many people But in reality, many border areas are controlled by armed ethnic groups like the KNU. The area is not linked to the national energy grid the region has the highest bills in the country , paved roads are almost non-existent, and clean water is rare. Katrakee village is made up of souls living in huts. They live by growing seasonal fruit which they export to Thailand, but more often than not, demand on the Thai side falls, and farming stops. However, Katrakee village has more resources than meet the eye. Katrakee is in Tanintharyi Region, the large strip of land on the Andaman Sea at the southern tip of Myanmar. Its economy mostly relies on fishery, agriculture, tourism and the mining of tin, gold and coal. Dawei, its capital, is home to one of the special economic zones set up by the previous military government across the country to attract investment. And it has attracted many. Some are eyeing Katrakee village. Noble Prince, and Sun and Rainbow, two companies with links to the KNU, want to build an industrial zone in the area, but the project would require U Hla Khin and his neighbours relocate. The KNU talks of resettlement and compensation for the affected villagers, but details are scant. Representatives of the two companies came to the village once to explain that the mega project will provide jobs for the local community and displaced people, who, up until now, have been languishing in camps. While U Hla Khin says the project is a good thing, he would like to know what will happen to him. U Hla Khin is in limbo, as are the businessmen who want his land. The peace dividend When the Myanmar army offered a Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement NCA in , armed groups who dropped their weapons were offered the promise of political dialogue as well as the opportunity to do business deals like the Noble Prince and Sun and Rainbow project. The KNU-backed companies have an agreement with Power China International Group, a state-owned energy company, to build a dam on the Tanintharyi River as well as a small port and a road. The two companies are still awaiting the go-ahead from the central authorities. They have been told that such a large project has national consequences and that its implementation requires a decision by the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre, one of the many gears in the peace process machinery. Patience is wearing thin. It will be too late to start economic development after we get peace. Power China promised to invest millions of dollars â€” some of which would end up in KNU coffers â€” but the way the money will be divided must be approved by the Myanmar Investment Commission, a central government body responsible for verifying that investment proposals meet regulatory requirements. Across Tanintharyi, many such projects are hanging by a thread, and many people like U Hla Khin wonder what will happen to them. Daw Nyo Sein, 57, is one of them. Her and her two young children have been living in Thailand for 12 years. When the fighting stopped, she opened a restaurant in Htee Khee, near the Thai border. There were seven like her in when she arrived, but now there are Many came as trade started to flow through Htee Khee border crossing, a port of entry from Thailand where machinery makes its way to the special economic zone in Dawei. But for now she continues to cook for customers. The promised land The problem might become much bigger soon. Over , people have fled to Thailand, some of them economic migrants and others displaced by fighting. Now that the gunfire has stopped, people will want to come back. According to KNU leaders, the current Myanmar law is part of the problem. The KNU has issued land use and owner rights to the people in Katrakee, he says, but the government does not necessarily recognise KNU-issued documents, and vice versa. In fact, it was introduced by the British colonizers. But the next round of talks in December is likely to be postponed till next year. Land problems of all sorts can be found across Tanintharyi. Further south, in Maw Taung, a government-controlled area, corrupt Myanmar

DOWNLOAD PDF CEASEFIRE CONCERNS FOR THE KNU.

officials have sold land titles to investors where families have settled. It failed miserably, and the consequences are still being felt today. But if the new government fails to settle crucial land ownership issues with the groups that have signed, it is hard to see how it will convince the others.

Chapter 3 : Burma, Karen Rebels Cement Ceasefire

KNU Gets Front Page Treatment Ahead of Ceasefire Signing "Karen in Capital," read the front page headline in Tuesday's edition of the state-run English-language daily ahead of a much vaunted ceasefire signing.

Chapter 4 : Choosing to engage: Strategic considerations for the Karen National Union | Conciliation Reso

Concerns Grow Over Conflict Between KNU and Mon Armies in Ye Township. Tension is high after fighting between soldiers from the Karen National Union and the New Mon State Party in Ye Township the last weekend. It adds to government concerns as both ethnic armies are signatories to the National Ceasefire Agreement.

Chapter 5 : Concerns Grow Over Conflict Between KNU and Mon Armies in Ye Township Â« Karen News

Karen Community Groups Demand KNU Take Their Concerns Seriously. Karen community groups claim the Karen National Union is ignoring their concerns about the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement with the government. The claims came at a meeting 15 community-based Karen groups had with the KNU leaders to discuss the nationwide ceasefire agreement.

Chapter 6 : Summit deals another setback to the search for peace | Frontier Myanmar

Since , the KNU has committed to ceasefire with the government in order to seek the solution to political issues not by arms but by peaceful means, and the KNU remains committed to put effort toward achieving sustainable peace.

Chapter 7 : Ceasefire Implementation

Karen community groups claim the Karen National Union (KNU) is ignoring their concerns about the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement with the government.

Chapter 8 : Peace Commission to meet as ceasefire signatories withdraw from peace process | Frontier My

A threat by the Karen National Union (KNU) to withdraw from a major ethnic alliance has raised concerns that the Karen rebels will move ahead to sign a nationwide ceasefire accord with the government before other armed groups are ready.

Chapter 9 : Karen Groups Demand KNU Take Their Concerns Seriously

The Karen National Union (Burmese: ကရင်အမျိုးသမီးတပ်မတော်, ကရင်အမျိုးသမီးတပ်မတော်; abbreviated KNU) is a political organisation with an armed wing, the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), that claims to represent the Karen people of Myanmar (Burma).