

Country/entity	Myanmar
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Statement on Initial Agreement between the Karen National Union (KNU) and Burmese Government
Date	13 Jan 2012
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Myanmar Conflict (1948 -)

Internal conflict, mostly along ethno-political fault lines, has been a constant feature of Myanmar since its independence in 1948. The conflict has two distinct dynamics. First a struggle between an authoritarian government and a pro-democracy opposition which has the characteristics of authoritarian conflicts; and second a struggle between the government and ethnic armed groups which has the characteristics of an identity conflict. The two oldest and strongest militias fighting the government are the Karen National Union (KNU), which has remained active since the late 1940s, and the Kachin Independence Organisation, which was formed in the early 1960s. In total, there are more than a dozen mostly ethnic-based guerrilla groups active throughout the country. Especially in the period of junta dictatorship that lasted until 2011 the government attempted to crush the rebellions, which led to numerous human rights violations. With the start of democratic reforms in the aftermath of the 2010 elections, peace negotiations have taken place and resulted in the signing of various agreements, although conflicts remain active.

Close
Myanmar Conflict (1948 -)

Stage	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Myanmar ceasefires process with ethnic armed groups
Parties	The 19-member KNU delegation held talks with Railways Minister, U Aung Min, and other representatives of the Burmese government
Third parties	-
Description	Short 1-page agreement outlines the 11 points of the KNU, including the establishment of a ceasefire, a guarantee of Human rights, the need for trust, the need for basic development, the need for involvement of the national media in the peace process, the end of forced labour, exploitation and other crimes against villagers, and so forth.

Agreement document

[MM_120113_KNUandBurmeseGovernment.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group** No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society Page 1, • The eleven points of the KNU proposal are:
... 9. Ensure the legitimacy of representatives involved in negotiations, provide adequate time for their consultation with respective constituencies and establish a clear role for third parties.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general Page 1, • The eleven points of the KNU proposal are:
... 2. Guarantee the human rights and safety of all civilians.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Slavery
Page 1, • The eleven points of the KNU proposal are:
... 6. Immediately stop forced labour, arbitrary taxation and extortion of villagers.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles
Page 1, • The eleven points of the KNU proposal are:
... 5. Allow national media outlets to participate in the peace processes, in order to provide accurate information about developments.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 1, • The eleven points of the KNU proposal are:
... 4. Support the basic needs of the people and ensure that development projects have the full participation and support of local villagers.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation Socio-economic reconstruction→Taxation→Reform of taxation
Page 1, • The eleven points of the KNU proposal are:
... 6. Immediately stop forced labour, arbitrary taxation and extortion of villagers.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Land reform and management
Page 1, • The eleven points of the KNU proposal are:
... 7. Release all political prisoners and provide solutions to settle land rights issue.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees

No specific mention.

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Page 1, • The KNU delegation reached an initial agreement with the Burmese government's representatives towards a ceasefire agreement. When the delegation returns to our headquarters, the KNU leadership will discuss about subsequent steps required in this dialogue with the Burmese government.

Page 1, • The eleven points of the KNU proposal are:

1. Establish a nationwide ceasefire and immediately cease military operations in ethnic areas.

Police

No specific mention.

Armed forces

No specific mention.

DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces

No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces

No specific mention.

Corruption

No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime

Page 1, • The eleven points of the KNU proposal are:

... 6. Immediately stop forced labour, arbitrary taxation and extortion of villagers.

Drugs

No specific mention.

Terrorism

No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release Page 1, • The eleven points of the KNU proposal are:
... 7. Release all political prisoners and provide solutions to settle land rights issue.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation Page 1, • The eleven points of the KNU proposal are:
... 3. Build trust among the people.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Previously on file with author. Also available at: http://theirwords.org/media/transfer/doc/mm_knu_knla_2012_20-a223e74f2ea635df310cc3a304646ac9.pdf.
