

KNU holds press conference on recent blasts

Yangon, 21 Oct—Following is the questions raised by journalists and answers of Pado Mahn Nyein Maung, Member of the KNU Central Executive Committee during the Q & A Session of yesterday's press meet on the recent blasts in October.

The press conference was held at the Myanmar Peace Centre here, yesterday.

VOA (Myanmar Section)

Q: If KNU has no responsibility for the blasts, which organization may have connected with recent blasts?

A: Still, we have not yet explored the persons who masterminded the attacks. We can assume that there is someone who masterminded the blasts. So far, we have come to know that they are just youths and they have no big ambitions. We will cooperate with the government to expose those involved in the blasts.

Echo Journal

Q: Some are saying that the intention of the attacks is to paralyze the foreign investment. What do you think?

A: I don't believe that fact. But, I assume that the attacks are intended to create misunderstanding between KNU and the government, to hamper the peace making process and to provoke the religious tensions. They targeted the holy places of Buddhists. So, we assume that the attacks are intended to trigger conflicts between Buddhists and other faiths.

The Street View Journal

Q: Is KNU going to hold meetings in connection with the blasts?

A: Sure, we will. We, leaders of KNU will gather to discuss and review this problem. We will cooperate with the government and will expose the truth about the blasts.

Hot News Journal

Q: How will you identify those who masterminded the blasts?

A: Any organization can't totally control its members. Frankly speaking, there are some or a few who don't want to obey the instructions of the central executive committee of KNU. In KNU, some trust the reforms of the country. Some don't accept the reforms and some doubt the reforms. We must go forward exercising tolerance, forgiving each others. If members of KNU involve in the attacks, this is not the policy of KNU. We will probe into the blasts.

Pyi Myanmar Journal

Q: Have the suspects of the blasts the rights to hire lawyers? Are they subjected to torture upon interrogation?

A: The country is changing. Nothing can be hidden. I was arrested in 2011 and there was no torture. Authorities treat me with respect. They asked advice from me for peace. When we

talked to Saw Myint Lwin, we took video footage to record the meeting. They have no injuries and they are treated properly. They confessed to the blasts out of their own volition.

Hong Kong TV

Q: KNU have any way to contribute to the peace building process? If so, please let us know about it.

A: Today, we are working for achieving the nation-wide peace accord. We must try to hold political dialogue. Not only KNU, but also other national aces are willing to do so. The government is also willing to do the same. The government has not rejected what we proposed and we will negotiate the different views we have. I believe that we will be able to solve the problem.

Nyein Ko Ko (European Press)

Q: You said that the policy of KNU's central executive committee is disagreed by some at lowest level? So, can KNU control such situation?

A: We have been brought to the negotiating table after more than 60 years of war. We were enemies, but now is we should become friends. There may be hardliners in our organization. They are like a disease. We need short-term or long-term remedy, but no short cuts to make a quick recovery.

Dr Zaw Than (SankeiShinbum)

Q: There are Buddhists, Christians and others in KNU. Is it an attempt of non-Buddhist group as there have been attempts to attack religious buildings?

A: It has nothing to do with any religious group. These incidents were due to political disagreements and hatred of an individual. Anyone with different religion is allowed membership in KNU. The principle of KNU is based on neither religion nor race.

U Aung Thura (7 Day News Journal)

Q: According to the government's release, Saw Nay Toe is an economic in-charge of KNU's Brigade (5). Is it right? What was his assignment in KNU?

A: He is only a township level economic incharge, not the in-charge of the KNU (Central).

U Myat Khaing (Snap Shot Journal)

Q: Is the press conference organized by KNU itself or the government?

A: We are waiting for a long time to have a chance of holding such press conference. It is a great opportunity for us to speak here. It is a fruitful result of the peace process.

Union Daily

Q: Are they in service in KNU?

A: If they are tied to KNU, we will be held accountable for the incident. Action will be taken after investigation in a fair and just way.

DVB News Agency

Q: Is there any relations between recent bombings and a peace agreement signing ceremony to be held in October and November?

A: We see these destructives acts as perpetration to cause a misunderstanding about the nationwide ceasefire agreement between the government and ethnic groups and to raise

doubts in the inter-national community that Myanmar can guarantee security when it hosts the SEA Games and takes the ASEAN Chair in 2014.

Q: Will KNU take part in the nationwide ceasefire agreement?

A: KNU is at the front.

5 Network

Q: Is there any connection to the religious tensions occurred in Myanmar recently as bombers had a plan to attack Shwedagon Pagoda? I want to know why they target the religion if there is such connection.

A: Recently, it is not stable with regard to the racial and religious issues. I think they want to create misunderstandings between the two races or two religions.

Myanmar Post Journal

Q: Let me know what further measures will be taken as we heard there are differences between KNU (Central) and Brigade (5) and Saw Myint Htoo is tied to the gold mining business of Brigade (5).

A: Every organization used to have differences between the upper and lower tiers. We exercise democratic practices and negotiations are made to end the differences.

U Win Zaw Tun (Venus News Journal)

Q: How far will KNU assume responsibility for the incidents? Any message for the people?

A: KNU's attitude had already been mentioned that we have the sense of responsibility and accountability for probing into this case in a fair and just way and taking necessary measures.

Popular News Journal

Q: Is there any plan to keep the criminals in KNU when they were released from prison?

A: Saw Myint Lwin is not a KNU's fulltime serviceman. He is a militiaman. It was up to him to make own decision if he was freed.

Kumudra Journal

Q: Is there any plan, on KNU's part, to make a apology for casualties caused by the incidents?

A: KNU do apologize to the sufferers through the media. We try our best not to recur such tragic incidents.

Aung Thit Lwin (7 Day Daily)

Q: Let me know further measures KNU will take in order to control possible dangers as Saw Nay Toe is still at large and the connection between Saw Tun Tun who got involved in Toungoo bombing and KNU.

A: Action will be taken against the suspect who is still at large. KNU alone cannot control the possible dangers. Only cooperation with the government could ensure national security and the rule of law.
