

Union Peace-making Work Committee and ABSDF hold Union level peace talks, 10 August 2013

Yangon, 10 Aug—The Union level peace talks between Vice-Chairman of Union Peace-making Work Committee Union Minister U Aung Min and party and Chairman of All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) Yebaw Than Khe, Vice-Chairman Yebaw Myo Win and General Secretary Yebaw Sanny and party were held at Myanmar Peace Center at No 10 on Shweli Street in Kamayut Township, here, this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chairman of Union Peace-making Work Committee Union Minister U Aung Min said that peace talks are being held as a new political platform, wishing ABSDF to join the peace Union Peace-making Work Committee, ABSDF hold Union level peace talks talks. He said that there can be a political rivalry and he would continue coming up with the differences, accepting agreements reached.

Vice-Chairman of the Union Peace-making Work Committee Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw National Races Affairs and Internal Peace-making Committee U Thein Zaw, Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and Chief Minister of Kayin State U Zaw Min discussed arrangements for more talks through mutual trust and understanding, and holding the talks in the presence of the people instead of resorting to armed struggle line and aspiration for openly and honestly building the trusts in line with the wish of the people.

After that, Chairman Yebaw Than Khe and Vice- Chairman Yebaw Myo Win of ABSDF disclosed expectation for success in coming talks based on achievement already in place and commitment to coping with remaining differences.

Then, the delegates from two sides exchanged and discussed the twelve point agreement. The leaders of two sides signed the agreement and exchanged the notes.

It was attended by Union Peace-making Work Committee Vice-Chairmen U Aung Min and U Thein Zaw, Committee members Union Ministers Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, U Ohn Myint, U Khin Yi and U Zeyar Aung, State Chief Minister U Zaw Min, Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, the Kayin state advocate-general, the state security and border affairs minister, the senior military officers from the Office of Commander-in- Chief (Army), members of Myanmar Peace Center, Chairman Yebaw Than Khe, Vice-Chairman Yebaw Myo Win, General Secretary Yebaw Sanny and CEC members from ABSDF. U Aye Tha Aung and U Win Kam Hlyam from United Nationalities Alliance, U Zin Aung from Myanmar New Society Democratic Party, U Kaung Myat Htut of Myanmar National Congress Party, U Min Ko Naing, U Ko Ko Gyi and U Mya Aye from 88 Generation Students and the delegates from Center for Peace and Conflict Study (CPCS) and Nippon Foundation attended the peace talks as observers.

After the talks, the press meet was held and the delegates from two sides answered the queries raised by the local and foreign media men.

Both sides have reached the following agreements:-

- to make efforts for ensuring nation-wide cease-fire through the accountability and responsibility by both sides;
- to agree to form an independent monitoring team in principle for ceasefires and local peace making processes;
- to officially invite political forces, political parties and organizations and persons for their inclusiveness in the country's political processes;
- to carry out continued discussions and scrutinizing by the remaining political prisoners scrutinizing committee for the release of all political prisoners;
- to continue holding discussion on democratic affairs, national equality and autonomy which are proposed by ABSDF;
- to have rights to independently hold discussions and meetings on the results of ABSDF's political talks, political stands and processes with the people and people-based organizations in accord with the laws;
- to hold continued discussion on the removal of ABSDF from unlawful association list; to hold continued discussions on the removal of ABSDF members from the black list and the cancelation of the charged members in accord with the law;
- to have rights to liaise with local and foreign based NGOs and CBOs in line with the existing laws;
- to have rights to engage with news agencies and media freely and independently;
- to continue making coordination on opening of liaison offices in Kaly, Payathonsu, Muse and Loikaw which are suggested by ABSDF for smooth operation of communication channels including local peace-making processes and ceasefires;
- to agree to draft Code of Conduct in principle which are to be abided by both army;
- to set the date for second Union-level talks in the coming November;

Union Minister U Aung Min said that they offered peace talks as of 18 August, 2011. They signed a statelevel ceasefire agreement with ABSDF at the 6th round of talks. They implemented the last point included in that agreement. The today's agreement also includes holding of new round of talks in the future. Today agreement covers 12 points, he added.—
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