



## **Statement on 254<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Hongsawatoi Fallen Day**

Today, the 8<sup>th</sup> Waning day of the second month in Mon Lunar Calendar, is the 254<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hongsawatoi Fallen Day. On this Memorial Day, we pray for and pay respect to those who were brutally massacred in genocide at the falling of Hongsawatoi Mon kingdom. Our commemoration of the fallen of Hongsawatoi shall also tell the world that silent genocide has continued in Burma until present day. During this commemoration, therefore, we would like to encourage all Mon people around the world that it is our historic duty to continue to observe the Hongsawatoi Fallen Day every year without fail.

In 1757, Burman leader, U Aung Zeya invaded and devastated the Mon Kingdom, Hongsawatoi, by killing countless numbers of Mons including women, children, and Buddhist monks. Thousands of those lived fled to Thailand to escape the persecution. Due to the occupation and repression, our people not only have lost our self-determination rights but also become a minority in our own land.

Around the world, after the massacre of millions of Jews by Hitler during the War World II, the incidence of genocide has been minuscule. However, silent genocide and ethnic cleansing still continue in Burma. Successive Burmese governments have pursued ethnic cleansing policies and persecuted thousands of non-Burman ethnic groups. The persecutions of civilian have expended to the killing of thousands of peaceful demonstrators in 1988's nationwide uprising and in 2007's Saffron Revolution.

The political deadlock and civil war in Burma continue because Burmese military regime has adopted Burman's chauvinist attitude toward non-Burman ethnic groups. Although Burma now has formed a new government, it is merely military government with a different uniform. The regime has not only restricted on non-Burman ethnic rights but also democratic rights. Although ethnic and democratic leaders are fearlessly demanding political dialogue, the regime has ignored the demand. Political and human rights situations show no signs of improvement; political prisoners have not yet been released; freedom of press or expression and the teaching of ethnic languages are still restricted; and human rights violations and civil war in ethnic areas have continued.

On this special day, therefore, we urge all the civil societies and the people of Burma to support the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) and the Committee Representing the People's Parliament [CRPP] in order to solve Burma's political problem through tripartite dialogue. At the same time, we also urge all the Mon to continue the fight for our self-determination rights.

Dated: May 25, 2011

**Central Committee  
The Mon Affairs Union(MAU)**

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