



## **Karen Women Organization**

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### **KWO 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Statement**

5<sup>th</sup> April 2008

Today, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2008, is the 23<sup>rd</sup> time we have celebrated KWO Day.

But even as we are celebrating this day, Karen women and children, together with other civilians in Burma, are still suffering from oppression, human rights abuses and violence by the ruling Burmese military regime.

Now the Burmese military regime is trying to push their constitution onto the civilian population. They are trying in many ways to gain support for the constitution, which will prevent opposition groups from competing in the planned 2010 elections.

The military regime is continuing to use violence and oppression against the ethnic resistance groups and opposition groups based along Burma's borders. Furthermore, they use unjust strategies and abuse democracy leaders such as Aung San Suu Kyi, and leaders of ethnic groups. The KWO remains strongly opposed to such tactics.

Moreover, the KWO pays tribute to the monks and laypeople who have dedicated and sacrificed their lives for the peace of Burma, and those who have been trying to escape from the military regime, which is continuing to hunt them down.

Therefore, KWO urges the people of Burma living both inside and outside of its borders, to work together to overthrow as soon as possible the military regime, which is holding on to political power. KWO urges civilians inside Burma to stand against any kind of act by military groups who oppress them. Administrative and military leaders should stand for the rights of the civilians of Burma and oppose injustice.

The DKBA and ceasefire groups should realise that their real enemies are the leaders of those who oppress the Karen people and other ethnic groups. The DKBA and ceasefire groups should understand the suffering of the Karen and should come together to join hands with Karen civilians to overthrow the military dictatorship.

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