



**OFFICE OF THE SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
KAREN NATIONAL UNION
KAWTHOOLEI
www.karennationalunion.net
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POLICY ON HUMANITARIAN OPERATION IN CEASEFIRE ZONE

POLICY GOAL

To provide the utmost security, to preserve and maintain human dignity, and improve living conditions of people in the ceasefire zones designated by the KNU and the Burmese Government.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- I. The KNU respects and promotes the fundamental principles of humanity and in turn expects impartiality, neutrality and independence. In practice, this means that humanitarian operations in Karen areas are welcomed on an as-needed basis, provided that the operation is administered impartially and without discrimination.
- II. The KNU respects and reaffirms its primary responsibility to uphold, protect and fulfill the rights of all citizens in Karen state, including the right to receive, without fear, any available humanitarian assistance from both local and international organizations.
- III. Where security and safety for either ordinary citizens or humanitarian assistance providers are at risk, the KNU is duty-bound to take the appropriate protective security measures. In implementing those measures, KNU will work to complement the humanitarian function performed by the humanitarian organizations and the Burmese government.
- IV. The KNU respects and promotes the implementation of International Humanitarian Law, Refugee Law and Human Rights Law as they relate to both the delivery and receipt of humanitarian relief.
- V. The KNU welcomes and promotes the central role of the United Nations in providing leadership and coordination of international humanitarian engagements.

IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

- I. All organizations, local or international, operating in KNU areas will have to register with the Office of General Secretary of KNU and only those who got approval can start their operation.
- II. A Memorandum of Understanding shall be signed between the KNU and the operating entity, and such MOU shall govern the scope and terms of humanitarian operation.
- III. The KNU shall issue operational permission and identification cards for all humanitarian workers to assist in the safe passage and security in the area.
