

## **Press Statement Clarifying Clashes with RCSS/SSA Military Column Violating Ta'ang Territory**

1. As the RCSS/SSA Shan State Army troops, in territorial aggression, have entered into some of the areas in the regions of Kyaukme, Namt-san, Manton and Namtkham, where the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) has been operating, clashes have taken place between the two sides. In some guerilla areas of those regions, together with the TNLA, the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the SSPP/SSA Shan State Army troops have set up bases, have been operating together and have made joint resistance operations, from time to time, against the Myanmar Tatmadaw's attacking columns.
2. Requests and prohibitions against area expansion have been made several times, out of concern that undesirable conflict between fellow ethnic armed resistance organizations could arise by the entrance of the RCSS/SSA, which is on good terms with Tatmadaw, into Ta'ang Region, currently known as Northern Shan State, where the KIA, SSPP/SSA, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and the Arakan Army (AA) troops, together with our own TNLA troops, are clashing every day with the Tatmadaw troops.
3. In the first week of October, an initial clash took place between the TNLA troops and about 200-strong RCSS/SSA troops, who forcibly penetrated into our own area, near Kyauk-pyu village, situated on the border between Namt-san and Thibaw Townships. Subsequently, the RCSS/SSA troops went into hiding around Kyaukme Township, and after the RCSS's signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), as they entered into Namt-kham and Mantong Townships through Namt-san and Namtu Townships in the second week of November, fierce clashes took place with our own troops.
4. From November 27 night up to this day, more than 10 fierce clashes had taken place, and Myanmar Tatmadaw columns from Div. 77 and 88 had been giving protection to the RCSS/SSA troops and shelling our own troops with heavy weapons. Three Myanmar Tatmadaw columns, after shelling positions of our dispersedly deployed troops, charged in with large number. Though the RCSS/SSA troops had suffered heavy casualty, we have not publicized the exact figures, in consideration for the RCSS being a fellow ethnic nationality organization. The aiding Myanmar Tatmadaw side had suffered at least ten dead and wounded.
5. The armed clashes happening between our TNLA and the RCSS/SSA troops are clashes between two organizations and not a racial strife between the Ta'ang and Shan peoples. In the armed clashes, the TNLA has absolutely never detained, beaten or tortured the innocent local populations.

News and Information Department  
PSLF/TNLA

December 6, 2015

[Note: This is unofficial translation]