



Chin National Front
General Headquarters
CHINLAND

**THE CHIN NATIONAL FRONT STATEMENT ON THE 14th ANNIVERSARY
OF 8888**

1. Today, August the 8th, 2002, once again commemorates the 14th anniversary of the nationwide uprising against the Military Dictatorship of Burma, demanding the rule of democracy in Burma. Fourteen years have passed since then, yet the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) has so far done nothing in terms of making political development bound to lead to the establishment of democracy in Burma.
2. The Chin National Front wholeheartedly welcomes the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on May 6, 2002, from the 18-month long house arrest and allowing her to travel to upper Burma. In addition, allowing Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to have been able to visit to Mon State on July 20, 2002, to re-open offices of National League for Democracy party and releasing some political prisoners are viewed by the Chin National Front as positive steps taken by the SPDC. However, the Chin National Front still demands freely movement of all national political parties and the release of all political prisoners.
3. On May 6, 2002, a statement was issued by the SPDC, saying that all the ethnic nationalities of Burma are freely and fully to be able to participate in the process of political development, but in practical the SPDC still prohibits ethnic nationalities from forming political parties. It still launches attacks on ethnic nationalities, deliberately committing human right violations to exterminate all of them. The SPDC clearly contradicts the statement it has issued, in stead creating conflicts among all the nationalities of Burma. It is therefore essential that the SPDC stop prohibiting political parties of all nationalities from freely movement, attacking ethnic groups and committing human right violations.
4. It was in the spirit of the Panglong agreement, which came out of negotiation chipped in by all ethnic nationalities, that the Union of Burma was built. In the political life of Burma, it would not be complete without a full participation of all ethnic nationalities, for all of them have equal responsibility to bear. Today, to create harmony among all the ethnic nationalities is essential in order for meaningful political discussion to emerge. Such a process, however, must preclude a single political party from becoming a representative of all, but gear toward tripartite dialogue in which all ethnic nationalities of Burma could participate. Only then peace and harmony would be possible and the Union of Burma could be built.
5. Today, as we all are striving for democratic system in Burma, nothing but unity is that which we need to achieve first of all by respecting our differences.

6. The Chin National Front would therefore like to strongly urge on this 14th Anniversary of the 8888 that as the desire of the people of Burma for democracy has been shown on this very day of 14 years ago, we all march hand in hand towards our goal, the establishment of democracy in Burma.

**Central Executive Committee
Chin National Front
August 8, 2002**