

## Chin National Front Regional Committees Canada & U.S.A

Statement of
The First Regional Conference of Regional Committees of the Chin National Front
(Canada & USA)
September 3-4, 2005
Indianapolis, Indiana

The first Regional Conference of Regional Committees of the Chin National Front was held from September 3-4, 2005 in Indianapolis, Indiana and attended by party members, workers, and advisors of the Chin National Front living in North America.

Reaffirming previous Chin National Front's policy resolutions, the Regional Conference believes that the National Convention organized by Burma's State Peace and Development Council has not met the basic prerequisites necessary to bring about national reconciliation, democracy, and federalism in Burma. The Conference further believes that such a process will not bring solutions to the ethno-political conflicts and the constitutional crisis in the Union of Burma.

Recalling that the goals of the Chin National Front's are to secure the right of self-determination of the Chin people and the institution of democracy and federalism in Burma, the Regional Committees will be working hand in hand with groups and organizations committed to working for self-determination of ethnic nationalities, restoration of democracy and federalism in the Union of Burma.

Recognizing that the humanitarian crises plaguing the people of the Union of Burma are due to mismanagement of the State Peace and Development Council and that the people are in urgent and critical need of humanitarian assistance, the Regional Conference urges international donor groups and agencies to find appropriate means to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Burma, especially to the peoples of border areas by working with both the pro-democracy opposition groups and the ruling State Peace and Development Council.

Reiterating the fact that tens of thousands of Chin people have been forced to flee their homeland due to continued violations of fundamental human rights by the State Peace and Development Council, the Regional Conference emphasizes the need for continued provision of help and assistance to Chin refugees living in countries around the world. In this regard, the Chin National Front Regional Conference expresses its deep appreciation to Governments, inter-governmental agencies and groups for showing their continued concerns for the safety and well-being of Chin refugees.

The Regional Conference deeply regrets the storming and destruction of Camp Victoria, General Headquarters of the Chin National Front by Indian Security Forces on 21 June 2005. In this regard, we urge India to reconsider its policies towards Burma's democratic movement and to ensure that its actions and policies do not undermine its own reputation and image as the world's largest democracy. The Regional Conference, therefore, respectfully calls on the Government of India and people of Mizoram State to refrain from actions that might undermine the efforts to safeguard basic human rights and restore democratic governance in Burma.

Keeping in mind that for us to achieve our national goals and objectives it is absolutely vital for Chin people from all backgrounds and social strata to actively participate in and contribute to the national movement, the Regional Committee emphatically urges all Chin people to be conscious of their national obligations by contributing to our national goals and objectives.

Recognizing that respect for religious freedom is an inalienable part of fundamental human rights, the Regional Conference reaffirms the policies of Chin National Front regarding the promotion and protection of religious freedom and tolerance.

In order to facilitate the realization of the goals of the Chin National Front, the organization's Regional Committees in Canada and United States declare their commitment to working closely with Chin compatriots in their respective countries as well as with governments, non-governmental organizations, agencies and groups concerned with the promotion of democracy, human rights, and federalism in Burma.

Chin National Front Regional Committees Canada & United States of America