

**KARENNI NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE PARTY  
HEADQUARTERS**

**Statement No. 02/06  
Statement on the use of landmine**

We, the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), wish to announce our stance on the use of landmines during the national struggle movement for self-determination.

We abhor the use of landmines in warfare and understand the international condemnation of the use of landmines because of the high risk to civilians. However in certain circumstances we use them to defend our troops as we lack alternative means of defence. Our use of landmines is extremely limited and steps are taken to avoid civilian casualties. We only use them in military zones, not in civilian areas. The Karenni army does not place landmines on roads and in other areas used by innocent civilians. They are used for defensive purposes and we have no intention of placing them in war-free-zones.

The Karenni Army has not been involved in the manufacture of landmines since 1989, nor do we procure landmines. Landmines are used extensively by the Burmese army and their collaborators and we use landmines which have been seized from the Burmese army during confrontations.

We, the KNPP, agree that the use of landmine is immoral, for they carry too high a risk, but we are engaged in confrontation with an enemy that has no scruples.

The KNPP are willing to cooperate with legitimate individuals or organizations that engage in landmine education or lobby to ban the production of landmines in order to reduce their use. This cooperation would help ensure the clearance of landmines when peace finally comes to our country.

Executive Committee  
KNPP

Date: August 31, 2006