



NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT
★★★(BURMA)★★★

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Position Statement by NDF on Landmine Use

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The National Democratic Front (NDF) was formed on May 10, 1976. It is composed of armed revolution organizations of the various indigenous ethnic nationalities. In the 30 years of the existence of NDF, armed wings of the NDF member organizations have to use landmines, unavoidably, to defend themselves and their civilian populations. The revolutionary armed organizations primarily use landmines only with the intention to block the advance of SPDC's frontline troops, which regard the ethnic nationalities' areas as frontline battle fields, and to protect the innocent villagers. If there were no SPDC military operations, the NDF member organizations would have no need to use landmines.

For that reason, we, the NDF, declare our position on landmine use as follows.

1. We, the NDF, know well that the use of landmines is against the International Humanitarian Law and the Human Rights Law.
2. We demand that troops of the military clique, ruling Burma, immediately stop their indiscriminate and widespread use of landmines, which are killing and maiming the innocent civilians.
3. The NDF welcomes and supports some of its member organizations which have signed "Agreement of Cooperation and Repudiating the Use of Landmines" under Geneva Call.
4. The NDF member organizations' armed wings, which have to use landmines unavoidably in self-defense, are instructed to abide by the following rules.
 - a. To undertake measures in order not to absolutely harm the people and villagers;
 - b. To continue finding means and ways so that the use of landmines would be at the minimum possible;
 - c. If it is inevitable to use landmines, the use must be limited and subjected to strict rules, regulations and supervision;
 - d. To cooperate fully with the civilian population in the areas, where landmines are used, and undertake measures for educating the population about landmines;
 - e. To give the most possible and comprehensive aid and assistance, if there is accidental death, injury or loss of benefits due to landmine.
5. The NDF approves and permit any of its member organizations, which can agree to the stipulations laid down by the Geneva Call, to individually and separately consult with the organization, and continue to conduct as necessary.

In conclusion, we would like to say that none of the ethnic armies of the indigenous ethnic nationalities, which are the NDF member organizations, wants war. We want to stop the civil war and establish peace. We are just armed organizations which are struggling with the aim of establishing a federal union with full equality and self-determination rights for all the nationalities. We are neither separatist nor terrorist organizations.

If there is a genuine tripartite dialogue for the peaceful realization of political aims mentioned above, all the military activities, including the use of landmines, can be stopped without much problem.

Victory through Alliance!

Central Executive Committee
National Democratic Front
(Burma)