

**Karen National Union  
Supreme Headquarters**

Letter No. SHQ/N-38/02

Date: - 6/1/2003

To  
District Chairmen  
Karen National Union  
Districts of Thaton, Toungoo, Nyaunglaybin, Mergui-Tavoy, Papun, Kawkareik and  
Pa-an

Brigade Commanders  
Karen National Liberation Army  
Brigades 1/2/3/4/5/6/7

**Subject:     Recruiting**

1. Many countries have traditions, rules and laws designating youths of 18 years and under as children, who have not reached maturity. For that reason, children of 18 and under are not allowed by law to vote, to marry, to drink or buy alcohol. Accordingly, children as defined by law, shall not be recruited into the army or trained for military service.
2. The Karen revolution shall also appreciate international laws, protect the rights of children and respect the rules followed by many countries.
3. In line with various reasons given above, this is the directive to the effect that you shall not accept youths of 18 and under in the Karen National Liberation Army.

**Mahn Sha Lar Hpan  
General Secretary  
Supreme Headquarters**

CC to  
(1) Presidents 1 / 2 KNU SHQ  
(2) Gen. Officer Commanding (GHQ)  
(3) Adjutant General (GHQ)