



## CHIN NATIONAL FRONT

General Headquarters, Chinland

Tel: (+91) 3892346197, [www.chinland.org](http://www.chinland.org)

### Deed of Commitment

We, representatives of the Chin National Front/Army:

*Condemn* the use and the recruitment of child soldiers;

*Affirm* that the term child, consistent with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, is defined as a person below 18 years of age;

*Agree* that a “child soldier” is defined as: “any person under 18 who is part of any kind of regular or irregular armed force/group in any capacity, carrying or not carrying arms; including but not limited to cooks, porters, messengers, and those accompanying such groups, other than purely as a family member; it includes girls recruited for sexual purposes and forced marriages”.

*Recognize* the importance of cooperation among, and the active participation of, various stakeholders in the community, including families, children and youth, in improving the lives and well-being of children in Burma and in its border areas;

*Concerned* by the harmful and widespread impact of armed conflict on children and on its long-term consequences on the development and security of communities and families we work with;

*Affirm* and uphold the following human rights instruments for the protection of children associated with armed groups and forces: the Optional Protocol [to the Convention on the Rights of the Child] on the involvement of children in armed conflict which states that armed groups should not, under any circumstances, recruit or use in hostilities persons under the age of 18 years; International Labour Organization Convention NO. 182 on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Form of Child Labour which prohibits forced or compulsory recruitment of children for use in armed conflict; and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which categorizes the conscription, enlistment or use in hostilities of children under the age of 15 as war crimes in both international and non-international armed conflict;

*Recognize* the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005) and previous Security Council resolutions on children and armed conflict and the need to comply with the international norms contained therein;

We hereby declare our commitment and adherence to the principles of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and shall take the necessary and immediate actions, as follows:

- 1) We will not recruit or use in any circumstances, “voluntary” or by force, any person under the age of 18 years;
- 2) We will undertake all feasible measures, including the adoption and strict enforcement of rules and codes of conduct of our members, to prevent the recruitment, involvement or use of children as soldiers within CNF/CNA;
- 3) We will permit the monitoring, by independent third parties agreed upon, of our commitment and adherence to the principles of the Optional Protocol and compliance with the provisions thereof and will seriously address their findings and recommendations;
- 4) We will undertake to make the principles and provisions of the Optional Protocol widely known and promoted by appropriate means, within our own organizations and communities we work with;
- 5) We will undertake all feasible measures to ensure that children within our jurisdiction/protection recruited or used in hostilities are demobilized or released from service as stated in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1612;
- 6) We will also facilitate the provision of appropriate assistance by United Nations agencies, international development organizations and NGOs, for the physical and psychological well-being and social reintegration of demobilized or released children within CNA;
- 7) We will cooperate and regularly consult with other international and non-governmental organizations in the implementation of the principles of the Optional Protocol and other aforementioned human rights instruments, including in the prevention of any activity that leads to the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict;
- 8) We will develop a time-bound plan of action together with various stakeholders to specify the objectives and specific measures to implement the Deed of Commitment.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Paul Sitha".

Paul Sitha  
General Secretary  
Chin National Front



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Thomas Thang Nou".

Brig. Thomas Thang Nou  
Chief of Staff  
Chin National Army

Date: 10-3-2009