



Chin National Front  
General Headquarters  
CHINLAND

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**Statement on the 17<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chin Revolution Day**

1. Today, March 20, 2005, marks the 17<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Chin Revolution Day. It was on this day that the Chin people started the fight against the military dictatorship to restore their right of self-determination, democracy and a system of federalism based on the principle of equality.

2. In 1947, together with other ethnic nationalities, we the Chin people co-founded the Union of Burma based on equality and self-determination for all the constituent members. However, our attempts to realize the ideals of federalism are still being impeded by Burman chauvinistic ideology and military authoritarianism. Our peaceful demands for reclaiming our fundamental human rights and democratic freedoms have been met with blatant rejection and counter-response to eliminate our national identities that make us a distinct and unique people. The Chin National Front has thus been engaged in an armed struggle to reclaim our inherent rights and to defend and protect the survival of Chin national identities.

3. In our ongoing struggle for freedom, justice and national self-determination, it is paramount importance that all Chin people act together in unity and solidarity behind the movement. It is only from our unity and solidarity that we gather our strength and it is only when we are strengthened that we will be able to resist all kinds of oppressions. Just as protecting our national identity is the supreme duty of every Chin national, so too should working for unity and solidarity be our primary national obligation. The Chin National Front urges all Chin people to actively join in the national revolution.

4. With the conviction that political problems can and should be resolved only through political means, the Chin National Front has been repeatedly making propositions to the State Peace and Development Council to enter into a political dialogue that will lead to national reconciliation. Not only has the SPDC regime not responded to these propositions, but it has proceeded to holding the National Convention with its hand-picked delegates. The Chin National Front wants to make it clear that it will not and is not ready to accept the outcomes of the National Convention under the prevailing environments under which the Convention is being conducted. This is because of the absence of representation by elected Parliamentarians of the 1990 elections and genuine ethnic representatives, the failure to make revision to the (6) objectives and (104) principle guidelines, lack of freedom of speech in the Convention proceedings and continued detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Tin Oo, U Khun Htun Oo and hundred of other prisoners of conscience.

5. The Chin National Front demands that the State Peace and Development Council

- immediately enter into political dialogue with democratic and ethnic opposition forces
- make ways for all legitimate political parties and ethnic representatives to attend the National Convention by revising the Convention procedures and by reopening the Convention objectives and principle guidelines for re- discussion
- unconditionally release all political party and ethnic leaders as well as all political prisoners and to grant them freedom to engage in peaceful political activities
- declare a nation-wide ceasefire to allow the full restoration of peace and tranquility throughout the country

6. In the event that the State Peace and Development Council refuses to listen to the demands of the people by proceeding with the National Convention in its current form, the Chin National Front strongly urges all the ceasefire groups, ethnic representatives and delegates who are attending the National Convention to withdraw from Convention in recognition that any outcomes of the Convention will only benefit the continuance the military dictatorship.

**Central Executive Committee**  
**CHIN NATIONAL FRONT**  
**20 March 2005**