



## URGENT RELEASE: THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS UPDATE AND KEY MESSAGES FOR KACHIN STATE AND NORTHERN SHAN STATE

The Joint Strategy Team (JST) for Humanitarian Response in Kachin and Northern Shan State would like to raise its deepest concern over the recent increases of clashes and military actions near the Central Shan State and Moenyin in Kachin State which have created **new displacements over 10,000 civilian population**. JST would like to request your urgent action and support for the safety and protection of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) as well as ensuring unhindered and continuing humanitarian access and assistance for the IDPs.

Despite the government and the Tamadaw's have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, the Myanmar government continues its military offensives. Just days before the general election, the Government Tamadaw launched a major offensive against the Shan State Army (SSA-North) in the central part of Shan State which have displaced more than 10,000 civilians from their villages. On the 14<sup>th</sup> November, fighting broke out again in Moenyin township, Kachin State and affected civilians have to flee from their villages to different directions. Four civilians have been arrested on 17<sup>th</sup> November and they have not been released yet up to now and we are concerned about their situation. Continuous fighting, use of airstrikes and heavy artillery have intensified fear of civilians and increased anxiety as they are terrified by these incidents.

Under such circumstances which threaten IDPs' lives and hamper the peace process and current democratic transition, **the undersigned organisations, /the Joint Strategy Team), are actively responding to the emergency needs of IDPs and doing their outmost to ensure their safety and security**. In light of recent developments, the JST wishes to deliver the following **urgent key messages** to all stakeholders:

- 1. We urge for an immediate cessation of hostilities:** A peaceful solution to the conflicts in Myanmar is a critical priority for the future of the country and its people.
- 2. We call for full respect for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law.** All parties to the conflict (the Myanmar government armed forces, the KIA, SSA- North) should respect the rights of civilians, and observe the principles that distinguish between civilians and combatants, and take precaution to avoid civilian casualties in the case of a military offensive. It is also critical to ensure that civilians are not exposed to any "violence to life and person, cruel treatment and torture, outrages upon personal dignity, in particular humiliating and degrading treatment." We urge for immediate release of civilians who have been arrested.
- 3. The protection, safety and security of the Internally Displaced Persons is urgent and should be the top priority for all stakeholders involved in this humanitarian crisis.**
- 4. We call upon all Humanitarian organisations (international and national) and the donor community to provide the urgently needed humanitarian assistance and to actively advocate to stop these attacks against civilian populations.**

Joint Strategy Team  
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