

Statement by student organizations and civil society groups Re:the murder of ethnic Kachin student, Gum Seng Awng, by a Burmese soldier in Myitkyina

23rd, June, 2016

On 20th June 2016, Gum Seng Awng, aged 19 and a first-year student at Myitkyina Computer College, was shot dead around 9:30PM in Myitkyina, Kachin State, by a Burmese government soldier - private Maung Maung (Tha/511568) from the 727th Logistics and Transportation Battalion under Northern Regional Military Command. At the time of the incident, the soldier was on duty as a guard at Balaminthin Bridge. The deceased student was the son of Mr. De Wa and Ms. Lahtaw Nang Ing, residing at house number 1/107, Kyunpintha quarter, Myitkyina, Kachin State.

This killing of an ethnic Kachin student attests to the military personnel's complete disregard for the existing laws, posing a serious threat to collective dignity and the safety of whole student communities from Burma. We strongly **condemn such an abhorrent act against an unarmed student** by a government soldier.

Since 2011, when the civil war was resumed in Kachin State, there has been a series of grave human rights violations against civilians such as the case of Miss. Ja Seng Ing, a ninth grader who was shot dead by Burmese government soldiers in Phakant township. Her case ended without justice served. We are seriously concerned that the murder of Gum Seng Aung will end in a similar way with no justice and accountability.

Whilst the country is inching towards the path to democracy, the killing of Gum Seng Awng with no regard for his dignity or right to life could damage the ongoing peace process led by the National League for Democracy (NLD) government. Considering this, we strongly denounce the horrendous killing of a student.

We urge the President Htin Kyaw-led government to bring the perpetrator to justice with full force of the State and have him tried in a civilian court in a transparent and fair manner.

There are (142) groups undersigned, demand justice for Gum Seng Awng.

If you want to know more information, please visit below the website,

<https://web.facebook.com/Justice-for-Gum-Seng-Awng-1143487419041857/?fref=ts>