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Calling for Justice for Naw Mu Naw

The Karen Organization of America strongly condemns the horrific murder of Karen woman Naw Mu Naw on July 16, 2020, by two Burmese soldiers in northern Karen State's Mutraw district. KOA and Karen communities across America are horrified to see the lives of innocent Karen civilians being killed repeatedly by the Burma Army in violations of the national ceasefire and peace agreement between the government and the Karen National Union.

The Karen Organization of America calls for justice for Naw Mu Naw and demands that the Burmese government and the military (Tatmadaw) carry out an independent and transparent investigation in collaboration with the Karen National Union and punish those responsible for this brutal murder. The murder of Naw Mu Naw is not an isolated incident, it is just a latest example of several ongoing arbitrary killings and continued human rights abuses committed by the Burma Army in Karen State and other ethnic regions across Burma.

While investigation and punishment of individual soldiers responsible for the murder of Naw Mu Naw is important, it will not be enough to bring an end to human rights abuses and military impunity in Karen State. A lasting solution to this systematic and ongoing abuses and killings is for the Burma Army to withdraw their troops and remove all their military outposts in the Karen territories so that Karen civilians can live in peace with security.

The Karen National Union and Karen people have invested heavily in peace and national reconciliation by signing the national ceasefire agreement and working with the government to bring an end to Burma's decades long armed conflict peacefully. Despite the Karen best effort and intention, the government and the military continue to undermine the peace process and ignore the desire of the Karen people to live in peace and security on their own land. Continued human rights abuses and increased militarization of the Karen state in violations of the ceasefire agreement have undermined Karen people's trust in the government peace process. To maintain trust and cooperation of the Karen people in the peace process it is important that the government

and the military begin the immediate demilitarization of the Karen State and engage in meaningful dialogue.

KOA Executive Committees

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The Karen Organization of America is an umbrella organization of the Karen communities in the United States working to promote Karen solidarity, human rights, and democracy.

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