

Ta'ang Students and Youths Union (TSYU) and Ta'ang Women Organization (TWO) issued a joint statement on battles that have been taking place in Mogoke and Mokeik areas from February 2 to 3, 2015.

### **A synopsis of the statement (Dated February 4, 2015)**

1. Attacks by Myanmar Tatmadaw (Burma Army) on TNLA troops, engaged in destroying opium fields, during February 2 and 3, wounded seriously 2 students and 3 villagers and caused 2000 villagers from 5 Ta'ang, one Chinese and one Lisu villages to flee and take refuge in Mogoke Town and nearby jungles.
2. As entire villages have to flee and schools have to be closed, at a time when exams for promotion are only a few days away, education of the children is affected. As the attacks targeted the civilians also, the Myanmar government must take action to stop attacks on civilians, immediately.
3. As Myanmar Tatmadaw employed over 1,000 troops from units based at Mogoke, Momeik and the foothill of Mandalay Hill, 2 helicopter gunships and one jet fighter, both sides suffer many dead and wounded.
4. The use of war helicopters, heavy weapons and excessive number of troops in the civil war would easily maim and kill the civilian populations, it is a failure to abide by the Geneva Conventions, and we strongly protest it.
5. While President Thein Sein is declaring for signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) on February 12, Union Day, as the launching of such massive offensives is detrimental to the signing of NCA, the TWO and TSYU absolutely protest and condemn it.

Demands: *We call on the government -*

- To immediately and unconditionally halt massive military offensives;
- To immediately cease bombardment and rocketing by the use of war helicopters and jets in the civil war;
- To regard narcotic problem as a national issue and resolve all problems relating to narcotic drugs together with the people;
- To take mainly the responsibility for resolving all the problems relating to war refugees and impairment to education.

Executive Committees  
TSYU & TWO

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### **Update on Situation in Ta'ang Region**

February 3, 2015

As Tatmadaw (Myanmar Army) suffered heavy casualty, 3 jet fighters came in as reinforcement to support the offensive.

Battles taking place near Mogoke Town and Pateela village started at 0945 hours, and went on well after dusk. As Myanmar side suffered heavy casualty, 3 helicopter gunships came in at about 1800 hours, as a reinforcement. At the same time 3 jet fighters came in and parked on the airstrip at Momeik to assist. Moreover, troops from units based at Mogoke, Momeik and the foothill of Mandalay Hill came to assist in the battles.

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3rd February, Breaking News

A battle took place near Pantila village in Migoke Township, Ta'ang Region between the TNLA and Myanmar Army troops, starting from 0945 hours until the time of this report.

Update: Myanmar aircraft attacked also on Hsainglein and Shwe Nyaungbin villages. Reinforcements of over 300 Myanmar troops from Momeik-Molon side and over 300 from Momeik-Khunka side marched towards the area where a battle was taking place.

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February 2, 2015

Troops from Battalion-717, under TNLA Brigade-2, and Myanmar troops from IB-223 clashed near Shwe Nyaungbin and Shwe Thaya villages in Momeik Township, from 0840 hours to 1700 hours.

In the clash, not less than 9 Myanmar troops were killed and one killed on the TNLA side.

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February 1, 2015

More fierce battles between TNLA and Myanmar troops -  
A battle took place on Namtsan-Panlon highway between troops from Battalion-773, under TNLA Brigade-3, and Myanmar troops from Division-77. Two were killed on Myanmar side and no casualty on TNLA side.

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January 27, 2015

On January 27, a clash took place from 0610 hours to 0700 hours, between troops from Battalion-478, under TNLA Brigade-1, and Pansay Militia, near Manpan village in Namtkham Township, Ta'ang Region. The militia troops started shooting when the TNLA troops approached the Pansay militia opium fields. The militia troops finally fled and the TNLA troops were able to destroy 50 acres of opium plantations.

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January 27, 2015

#### More Clashes

On January 27, a battle took place between TNLA Battalion-478 and troops from Myanmar Division-88, from 0800 hours until the time of this report, near Manpan village, in Namtkham Township. Battle had been taking place for 4 successive days between TNLA troops, who were destroying opium (poppy) fields, and Myanmar troops in the area where most of the opium fields were cultivated.

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January 26, 2015

Destruction of Opium Fields Suspended due to Myanmar Tatmadaw Offensive -

As Myanmar Tatmadaw had been blocking and attacking the TNLA troops, who were destroying opium fields in Pansay area of Namtkham Township, where opium fields were most numerous, 3 head-on battles took place on January 25 and 26.

As Myanmar Tatmadaw had reinforced its troops in the area with 5 more columns of troops, the TNLA troops had to evacuate the area and suspend the program of destroying opium fields, which is part of drug eradication program in Ta'ang Region.

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January 26, 2015

On January 26, a battle took place from 0810 to 1500 hours, between troops from Battalion-487, under TNLA Brigade-1 and Myanmar Tatmadaw Division-88, near Joan-nan village in Pansay area of Namtkham Township. A battle took place again between the two sides from 1800 to 2030 hours.

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#### Fierce Clashes in Pansay Area, Namtkham Township

Clashes were taking place today, January 25, starting from 1900 hours, between the TNLA troops and Myanmar troops. The clash took place, because Myanmar troops from Division-88 came to attack the TNLA troops of Brigade-1, who were destroying Pansay Tayok opium fields.

Troops from Myanmar Division-88 started to attack the TNLA troops, who were destroying opium fields in 5 different places, in Pansay area.

Commander of Myanmar Division-88, Brigadier Thet Tun Oo told the people of Namtkham Region that he would take action of even burning down villages of those who cultivate opium. However, instead of taking action against the opium growers, he was launching offensives against the TNLA troops, who were engaged in destroying opium fields.

The TNLA troops of Brigade-1 has been destroying opium fields in Pansay area for 3 days and have managed to destroy 100 acres of opium fields. Pansay Tayok Kyaw Myint Militia has planted about 1,000 acres of opium, but it is not as much as last year.

It was on the demand of Pansay Kyaw Myint that the MOC commander Lt. General Aung Than Htut himself ordered Division-88 to attack the Ta'ang troops, who were destroying opium fields.

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On January 26, at about 1030 hours, Myanmar troops started to fire heavy weapons towards the TNLA Battalion-112 camp, which was situated between Takunt and Pansay villages. Myanmar Division-88 suffered heavy losses and had to replenish its strength. It incurred losses in offensives against the TNLA forces, engaged in destroying opium fields. More fierce clashes are bound to occur in the near future.

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January 24, 2015

On January 24, at about 1030 hours, IB-69 under Myanmar Tatmadaw MOC-16, fired heavy weapons into Pankern village of Minebaw Village Tract, in Kutkai Township, Northern Shan

State, though there were no enemy in the village. The shelling wounded two Kachin nationals, Nortauk (29) in the forehead, and Khun Samla (31) in the stomach.

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Myanmar Tatmadaw Destroyed Narcotic-Drug Prevention Billboard  
January 24, 2015

On January 20, at 1730 hours, Myanmar troops from LIB-107 under Division-77 smashed up the billboard warning the villagers not to grow, traffic or use narcotic drugs, set up by the TNLA, in Lwepan village of Myothit Village Tract, Namtsan Township, Ta'ang Region.

Moreover, the Myanmar troops threaten the village head, saying that if such billboard was found in the village in the future, they would do something in the village.

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Update  
January 20, 2015

On January 20, from 0845 to 0930 hours, a head-on battle took place between the TNLA troops and Myanmar Tatmadaw troops at a place between Nyaungtauk and Yaungpan villages in Momeik Township, Ta'an Region. The battle took place when Myanmar Tatmadaw troops marched up from Momeik Town, for offensive, to TNLA Brigade-3 area. In the battle, five were killed on Myanmar Tatmadaw side.

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