

20 August 2020

Billion-dollar loans for Naypyidaw's Covid-19 Economic Relief Plan will fuel conflict

We, the undersigned organizations, are strongly opposed to the recent granting of over one billion US dollars of loans to the Naypyidaw government for its Covid-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP), by international financial institutions and governments.

This massive plan, which was rushed through parliament, will not benefit the ethnic people and the poor of Burma. It will be used to promote the interests of government and military elites, by aiding private banks -- which mostly lend to businesses in Yangon and Mandalay, in a process that will be riddled with corruption.

The funds will also be used to "fast-track" large-scale infrastructure projects, such as hydropower dams, even though these are strongly opposed by ethnic communities – who are demanding a moratorium on such projects until power is devolved under a new federal constitution. These projects are being secured by government troops, who commit abuses against local civilians with impunity.

CERP funds will also be allocated towards health services, but only through the inefficient, centralized government system, which was last ranked by the World Health Organization as the 2nd worst performing health system in the world. For decades, it has failed to address the health needs of the ethnic peoples. Throughout the Covid-19 crisis, government troops have even destroyed our own community screening and protection infrastructures in place to prevent the spread of the disease.

The CERP is clearly a vehicle for the government to exploit the pandemic to fill their coffers, and strengthen their hegemony -- but disastrous for the ethnic peoples, and for prospects of establishing a genuine federal union, which can end the 70-year-long civil war.

In fact, Burma does not need foreign loans. It is rich in natural resources, which, if properly managed, could enable the entire population to prosper. But these resources, mostly in our ethnic lands, have been plundered for decades by the Burma Army and their cronies, and used to buy weapons against us. The government allocates over US\$2 billion a year to the military in its central budget.

We are appalled that these massive loans have been granted to a government facing trial at the International Court of Justice for breaching the Genocide Convention, and whose security forces are committing ongoing atrocities against the ethnic peoples. These loans will surely subsidize the war against us, and yet we, our children and grandchildren, are the ones who will have to pay back the loans and suffer immense environmental and economic consequences.

The International Monetary Fund, World Bank, Asian Development Bank and Japan International Cooperation Agency have clearly ignored the interests of the ethnic peoples in providing loans to Burma's CERP. This is dangerous and irresponsible, and certain to fuel Burma's decades-long civil war.

We do not support any international loans to Burma until a federal democratic union is established where we can first ensure our existing resources are used equitably and any loans, if necessary, are for the benefit of all citizens, not just those in power.

Contact Persons:

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Endorsing organizations:

- 1. Ahlin Tagar Rural Development Organization
- 2. Ahr Thit Yaung Chi (Hline Bwe)
- 3. All Arakan Civil Society Organization Partnership
- 4. Alinsaetamarn Library & Resource Center.
- 5. Arr Marn Thit Social Development Organization
- 6. Ayeyarwaddy West Development Organization. (Magway Region)
- 7. Ayeyarwaddy West Development Organization. (Nagphe)
- 8. Ayeyawady Youth Network
- 9. Ayyar Pyo May Women Development Organization
- 10. AYY Famar Union
- 11. Arakan Oil Watch
- 12. Bago Women Development Group
- 13. Burma Medical Association
- 14. Burma Environmental Working Group
- 15. Canadian Burma Ethnic Nationalities Organization
- 16. Calgary Karen Community Association
- 17. Calgary Karen Community Youth Organization
- 18. Chin Land Affair Network
- 19. Chinland Natural Resources Watch Group
- 20. Child Prevention Network
- 21. Chin Women Development Organization
- 22. Chin State MATA Working Group

- 23. Child Care Foundation (Myawaddy)
- 24. Citizen Action For Transparency
- 25. Community Response Group
- 26. Community Association Development
- 27. Constitution Network (Hpa An)
- 28. Dawei Development Association
- 29. Dama Ahlin Social Development Organization
- 30. Dawei Watch Foundation
- 31. Doe Myay Community Development Organization (Twantay)
- 32. Doe Myae Civil Social Development Organization
- 33. Edmonton Karen Community Association
- 34. Farmers And Land Rights Action Group
- 35. Famar Agricultural Network
- 36. Federal Affairs and Policy Center
- 37. Free Education Service Organization
- 38. Free and Justice Women Network (Hpa An)
- 39. FREELAND Organization
- 40. Future Star Youth Organization
- 41. Future Light Social Development Organization
- 42. Future Light for Child
- 43. Future Light Center
- 44. Gayunarshin Social Development Organization
- 45. Genuine People's Servant
- 46. Golden Future Social Development Organization
- 47. Golden Heart Organization
- 48. Green Network- Mergui Archipelago
- 49. Halcyon
- 50. Human Rights Foundation of Monland
- 51. Hline Bwe Youth Network
- 52. Heartland Foundation(Lashio)
- 53. Hkumzup Development Committee
- 54. Htum Thit Sa Rural Development Organization
- 55. Hope For Children Development Organization
- 56. Hsar Du Wor CBO (Than Taunggyi)
- 57. Hsar Ka Baw CBO (Than Taunggyi)
- 58. Hsar Mu Htaw CSO(Than Taunggyi)
- 59. Htaw Mae Pa CSO (Hline Bwe)
- 60. Harmony Youth Association
- 61. IFI Watch Myanmar
- 62. International Karen Organization
- 63. Justice Movement for Community Innlay
- 64. Justice Society(Lashio)
- 65. Karen River Watach
- 66. Karen Community of Austin, Texas.

- 67. Karen Human Rights Group
- 68. Karen Community Society of British Columbia
- 69. Karen Organization of America
- 70. Karen Community of Regina
- 71. Karen Community of Minnesota
- 72. Karen Community of Saskatoon
- 73. Karen Community of Winnipeg
- 74. Karen Community of Thunder Bay
- 75. Karen Community of Toronto
- 76. Karen Community of Hamilton
- 77. Karen Community of London
- 78. Karen Community of Winsor
- 79. Karen Community of Learnington
- 80. Karen Youth of Toronto
- 81. Karen Community of Ottawa
- 82. Karen Youth of Norway
- 83. Karen Community of Ireland
- 84. Karen Community of Israel
- 85. Karen Community of Finland
- 86. Karen Swedish Community
- 87. Karen Community of Czech Republic
- 88. Karen Community of Nebraska
- 89. Karen Community of Iowa
- 90. Karen Community of Kansas City
- 91. Karen Organization of Illinois
- 92. Karen Community of Louisville
- 93. Karen Community of Utica
- 94. Karen Community of Akron Inc
- 95. Karen Community of North Carolina
- 96. Karen Community of Canada
- 97. Karen Community of Kitchener-Waterloo
- 98. Karen Community of Norway
- 99. Karen Affairs Group (Hpa An)
- 100. Karen Environmental and Social Action Network- Kawthoolei
- 101.Karen State Women Network (Hpa An)
- 102. Karen Youth Organization KYO (Kyar Inn Sate Kyee)
- 103. Karen Youth Organization (Hpa Pun)
- 104. Kachin Development Networking Group
- 105.KNU Concerned Group
- 106.Kyaukpyu SEZ Watch
- 107. Kaung Myat Hnalonethar Health Care Organization
- 108. Kan Chay Arr Man Fishery Development Organization
- 109. Kanpetlet Land Development Organization
- 110.Kayah Earthrights Action Network

111.Kayan New Generation Youth 112. Karuna Foundation (Kawkareik) 113. Kyondoe Youth Development Group 114. Karenni Civil Society Network 115.Karenni State Farmer Union 116.Kyun Ta Htaung Myay Foundation 117.Kayah Baptist Association-CSSDD 118. Karenni Human Rights Group 119.LAIN – Technical Support 120.Lin Lett Kyal Social Development Organization 121. Light Social Development Organization 122.LatButta Famar Union 123. Living Water Organization 124.Lu Mu Htar CBO (Than Taunggyi) 125. Myanmar Digital Rescue 126. May Doe Arrman Women Development Organization 127. Myanmar Cultural Research Society MCRS 128. Myanmar People's Alliance (Shan State) 129. Muditar Organization 130. Myit Ma Ayeyarwaddy Development Organization 131. Myanmar Press Freedom Center 132. Mwetaung Area Development Group 133. Mon Literature and Culture Association (Kawkareik) 134. Mi Kayin Youth (Hpa An) 135. Myanmar Labour News 136. Mon Youth Progressive Organization 137.Ninggawn Institute 138.Nyan Lynn Thit Analytica 139. Nyein Thanlwin Foundation 140. Open Development Foundation 141. Peace Working Committee 142. Peasants Legal Aid Network 143. Pwintphyu development organization. 144. Paungsee Myittar Organization 145. Pone Yate Sit Regional Development Organization 146.Pan Tain Shin Women Rural Development Organization

- 147.Pan Thi Kyo LGBT Organization
- 148. Phyu Sin Myittar Social Development Organization
- 149.Paung Ku
- 150. Progressive Voice
- 151.Pa-O Youth Organization
- 152. Resource Rights for the Indigenous Peoples
- 153. Rakha Strength Social Development Organization
- 154. Rural Social Development Organization

155. Rule of law watch group 156. Reliable Organization 157. Rual Development Organization 158.Shan Sapawa 159. Social Program Aid for Civic Education 160. Shwe Chinthae Social Service Group (Shwebo) 161. Saytana Shaesaung Youth Organization 162.SarPhyu Famar Network 163. Sarnar Kyi Phyu Social Development Organization 164. Shwe Thinkha Social Development Organization 165.Swam Su Ti Rural Development Organization 166. Shwe Nathar Famar Development Organization 167. Saytanar Shin Social Development Organization 168. Southern Youth Development Organization 169. Students and Youth Congress of Burma 170. Shan Women Development Network 171.Sane Lann Myo Set (Hpa An) 172.Salween Network 173. Summer Shelter Library 174. Sittaung Thanzin Network 175.Synergy 176.Syracuse Karen Community Inc 177. Save the Natural Resource 178. Save the Salween Network 179. Taunggyi Education Network 180. Ta'ang Legal Aid 181. Transparency and Accountability Network of Kachin State 182. Tarkapaw 183. Thit Sar Gone Network 184. Thunder Bay Karen Community Association 185.THWEE CSO (Kawkareik) 186. Third Eye Organization 187. Uakthon Local Social Development Organization 188. Union of Karenni State Youth 189. Wan Lark Development Foundation 190. Worker Development Organization 191. We Generation Network (WGN) 192. Windayel Village Social Organization (Hpa An) 193. Waingmaw CSO Network (WCSON) 194. Women Capacity Building (Kawkareik) 195. Women League of Burma (1. Burmese Women's Union) (2. Pa-O Women's Union)

(3. Karenni Women's Organization)

(4. Rakhaing Women's Union) (5. Kachin Women's Association Thailand) (6. Shan Women's Action Network) (7.Kukki Women's Human Rights Organization) (8. Ta'ang Women's Organization) (9. Karen Women's Organization) (10. Tavoy Women's Union) (11.Kayan Women's Organization) (12.Women's for Justice) (13. Lahu Women's Organization) 196. Young Ni Oo Social Development Organization 197. Young Ni Oo Women Group 198. Yai Ywal Yar Youth Development Organization 199. Yatanar Youngyi Social Development Organization 200. Youth Circle 201.3 Dimension Community Development Group 202.တောင်သူလယ်သမားသမဂ္ဂ 203.ကန့်ဘလူမြို့နယ် 204.ကလျာကာမိတ္တလူမှုကူညီရေးအသင်း (ရေဦး) 205.အနာဂါတ်အလင်း ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မတီ 206.အလင်းရောင်ပန်းတိုင် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မတီ 207.ရေအေးမိတ်ဖက်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေးကော်မတီ 208.စိမ်းလဲ့ဖရာ အမျိုးသမီးဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးအဖွဲ့ 209.မွန်စာပေနှင့် ယဉ်ကျေးမှုအဖွဲ့ (ကော့ကရိတ်မြို့နယ်) 210.လွတ်လပ်သောလူ့ဘောင် (ဖားအံမြို့နယ်) 211.၀င်းဒရယ်ကျေးရွာလူမှုရေးအဖွဲ့ (ဖားအံမြို့နယ်) 212.လူငယ်အစည်းအရုံး - ပဲခူး 213.မြန်မာရပ်လူငယ်အဖွဲ့ - သီပေါ 214.အမျိုးသမီးစွမ်းဆောင်ရည်မြှင့်တင်ရေး (ကော့ကရိတ်မြို့နယ်) 215.ငွေရောင်အနာဂတ်အဖွဲ့ - သီပေါ 216.သီပေါအမျိုးသမီးကွန်ရက် - သီပေါ 217.လီဆူအမျိုးသမီးအဖွဲ့ - သီပေါ 218.လွတ်လပ်သော အရှိချင်းများအင်အားစု 219.ဒို့မြေကွန်ယက် 220.ပွင့်ဖြူလယ်ယာမြေကွန်ယက် 221.အမျိုးသမီးကိုယ်ထူကိုယ်ထအဖွဲ့ (ရန်ကုန်အခြေစိုက်) 222.ရခိုင်ပြည်အရပ်ဖက်အဖွဲ့ အစည်းများ ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေးကော်မတီ 223.ပြည်သာယာ ဌာနေအမျိုးသမီးများ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးအဖွဲ့ 224.မင်းလုလူငယ်စင်တာ