



Statement on the 224th Anniversary of the Downfall of the National Sovereignty of Arakan

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Since 6000 B.C.E, the Arakan nationals had been standing proud amidst the world, establishing independent literature, culture and sovereignty. However, taking advantage of the lack of national solidarity and political instability, the Burmese chauvinists conspiring to enslave Arakan colonized it when the request to intervene in the crisis in the Arakan Palace to enthrone a prince that won popular support.

Far from being content with colonizing Arakan, the Burmese imperialist governors had burmanized Arakanese language, literature and culture during their reign between 1784 and 1826. Raping and forcing Arakanese women in marriage, the Burmese expansionists had plotted the extinction of nationality.

However, during the British and the Japanese occupation of the entire Burma, the Arakan nationals, without recalling ethnic conflicts during feudal ages, joined hands with other ethnic nationalities including Burmese to fight for the liberation off the yoke of slavery.

During the anti-colonialist era, the Burmese leaders made two promises to their Arakanese counterparts that they would recognize Arakan as a republic and give back Mandalay Mahamuni Image when freedom from slavery was achieved. However, Arakanese national leaders that fought against the British and the Japanese at the sacrifice of their lives had been imprisoned branded as insurgents and bandits when Burma actually gained independence.

Arakan national liberation spirit was also enfeebled by deceiving Arakanese leaders of flexible nature with the logus-bouguis federal constitution and peace in exchange for arms.

Instilling parochial racial and religious prejudices, successive Burman regimes from 1947 up to now have been driving a wedge between Arakanese and its sub-ethnic groups, northern and southern Arakan, diverse ethnic and religious groups. (divide and rule) On the other hand, allowing forced marriage to and rape cases against Arakanese women to the SPDC troops, which are the henchmen of the Burman imperialists, they have been conspiring to destroy Arakan national society. Moreover, luring the people into quasi-union constitutional trap, bluffing that civilian government will be constituted, and democratic system institutionalized, they have been trying to enslave Arakan nationals forever by monopolizing natural resource extraction projects, economy and commerce.

Thus, on the 224th anniversary of the downfall of the national sovereignty of Arakan that falls on the 31st December 2008, we, the All Arakan Students' and Youths' Congress, would like to put all

Arakan nationals on alert as follows so that our national identity, cultural heritage and national interest could be safeguarded.

1. Be oriented to national solidarity.
2. Protect Arakan natural resources, its national identity, cultural heritage and national interest.
3. Fight imperialism, chauvinism and militarism with whichever arms available.

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