



Burmese American Democratic Alliance

Advocating freedom for the people of Burma

Family and Friends of Martyred Karen National Union (KNU) leader Padoh Mahn Sha Lar Phan,

On behalf of the Burmese community in the San Francisco Bay Area, USA, we would like to add our deepest sympathy and sadness, as so many have around the world, regarding the tragic death of Padoh Mahn Sha.

We are profoundly shocked, saddened and outraged at the assassination of KNU General Secretary Padoh Mahn Sha Lar Phan. Truly, his death was not only a loss for the Karen movement; it was a big loss for Burma's Democracy movement and the Burmese people all over the world struggling for freedom and democracy in our homeland.

BADA had a close personal relationship with Padoh Mahn Sha. BADA representatives visited him frequently at his home and just last month, a BADA representative interviewed him. He was always open to us and kind enough to advise us on Burma's democracy matters. He had a gift for words and delivered an inspiring speech during his visit to the San Francisco Bay Area. He will be dearly missed by all of us.

He was not only an outstanding Karen leader who worked tirelessly to achieve unity among the Karen people but also an inspiration for the other Burmese democracy activist groups. He dedicated his life to working for freedom and peace for the Karen people and for all the people of Burma.

He was a great inspiration for our youth and always encouraged them to seek education, to become leaders and to serve our communities. He always hoped young people would assume responsible roles in life and also work for the Burmese democracy movement. Although Padoh is gone, we can never forget his legacy. We trust that a new Karen generation will follow his foot steps and carry on his work.

Our hearts go out to the family and friends of this great gentleman. He will be sorely missed. However, his life, his work and his principles set a shining example that we can all follow. To honor his memory we pledge to continue our fight for the unity and freedom for Burma.

May you rest in peace, Padoh.

Nyunt Than
President