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Letter of Condolences for Padoh Mahn Sha Lah Phan

We, Shan Youth Committee (SYC) are deeply saddened to learn that Padoh Mahn Sha Lah Phan, General Secretary of the KNU and one of the great leaders of Karen people and Burma's democracy movement was assassinated on 14th Feb, 2008.

Until his last minutes, Padoh Mahn Sha dedicated his entire life to work for the freedom of not only the Karen people, but all the people of Burma. He had been an idol for the people who are fighting for equality, self-determination, federalism and democracy in Burma. He had also played a leading role at the National Council of the Union of Burma on the struggle for a genuine federal union.

The assassination of Padoh Mahn Sha is a great misery and loss to pro-democracy movement of all ethnic nationalities in Burma.

On this heartbreaking incident, we, Shan Youth Committee (SYC) along with the Shan community would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Padoh Mahn Sha, the Karen National Union (KNU) and all Karen people.

However, we believe this sorrowful incident will not and cannot stop us from continuing the struggle for political and social change in Burma. As Shan people always refer to our hero as "tiger", we, (SYC) would like to honour Padoh Mahn Sha as brave and strong as "tiger" for the Union of Burma. What the Tiger had done will be remembered even after he left the earth. Therefore, what Padoh Mahn Sha had done for the Karen people and the Union of Burma will never be forgotten and will be carried on.

With deepest honour to Padoh Mahn Sha Lah Phan,

Shan Youth Committee
(Comprising 9 community-based organizations)

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