

His Excellency
General Min Aung Hlaing
Chairman of the State Administration Council
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
c/o Botschaft der Republik der Union Myanmar
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Your Excellency;

Please forgive me for turning to you on behalf of the former President and General Secretary of the Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC), The Reverend Hkalam Samson. This widely respected churchman was scheduled to fly out of Mandalay Airport to Thailand on December 4, 2022 for medical treatment. However, he was arrested and taken to the military headquarters for nightly interrogation. According to the information available to me, he is currently held in Myitkyina prison. As far as it has become known, he is accused of participating in an illegal association.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which was promulgated around 75 years ago, guarantees in Article 18 the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and in Article 20 the right to freedom of assembly and association. Against this background, I appeal to you, Excellency, to do everything in your power to secure the immediate and unconditional release of the Reverend Hkalam Samson.

Most respectfully,