



Drug-Eradicator: Lt-Gen Gam Shawng

Lt-Gen Gam Shawng also holds two powerful positions: Chief of Staff of the Kachin Independence Army and Deputy Chair of the Kachin Independence Council (KIC). His name was recorded in history when he commanded that scores of drug users be shot in 1990, while serving as a Commanding Officer in the No. 6 Battalion in Hpakant.

He gradually garnered higher roles in the KIO/A, serving as Commander of the No. 1 Brigade, Chief of the KIO Representative Office (the Liaison Office in Myitkyina) and as General Secretary of the KIO central committee. He then took a position as Chief of Staff after La Sang Aung Wah's failed mutiny in 2004. During the decade of Lt-Gen Gam Shawng's leadership, the KIA has expanded three Brigades—Nos. 6, 7 and 8—and many battalions. The greatest success of the KIA thus far has been to found the military academy in which many potential young leaders, as well as cadets from different ethnic armed groups, are trained.

: 1994–2011[[edit](#)]

The KIA neither disarmed nor surrendered, continuing to recruit, train and mobilise soldiers.^[6] Before the ceasefire the KIA was primarily a guerrilla force, but peace provided an opportunity to establish a [military academy](#) and design officer-training programs.^[12]

Although the ceasefire was still in place,^[8] in 2009 many Kachins expected a renewed outbreak in conjunction with the [elections scheduled for 2010](#). The military junta demanded that all ethnic armies disarm, because the constitution requires only one army in Myanmar. According to KIA chief of staff Gen. Gam Shawng Gunhtang, the demand to disarm was "not acceptable".^[7] In February 2010, Shawng said: "I can't say if there will be war for sure, but the government wants us to become a border guard force for them by the end of the month ... We will not do that, or disarm, until they have given us a place in a federal union and ethnic rights as was agreed in Panglong Agreement in 1947".

NOMINATION

General Gam Shawng Gunhtang is nominated for Honorary Doctor of University in Military Science for his leadership in expanding three brigades number 6, 7, 8 and many battalions as well as leadership in self sufficient in arms and training People Defence Forces for both Kachin and Myanmar who come to KIA controlled areas.

St Clements University and People Defence Force Academy (PDFA) of The Institution of Professional Engineers Myanmar, Military Engineering Branch jointly nominate General Gam Shawng Gunhtang for Honorary Doctor of University in Military Science.