

NDSC Information Team Leader clarifies AA terrorists' drug trafficking and distribution

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The AA insurgent groups have been paying and luring residents with money to transport narcotic drugs, not only selling them within Rakhine State but also trafficking them across the border into Bangladesh and other countries via maritime routes. It was also mentioned by the Commander of the Ramu Command of Bangladesh Border Guard (BGB) himself during a press conference on 15 September that such activities have been taking place. In the past, when Myanmar's border guard police were able to effectively maintain security along the Rakhine-Bangladesh border, such incidents were well controlled. However, in areas now under the AA insurgent group, their members themselves have been found directly transporting narcotic drugs into Bangladesh and other countries without obstruction. It has further been discovered that the money earned from these drug trafficking and distribution operations is being used to purchase provisions, arms, and ammunition.

The PDF insurgent groups operating under the AA insurgent group's network have also been involved in drug transportation and distribution routes. Their desire to profit from these illegal activities has led to large-scale arrests. Following these crackdowns, internal financial shortages, conflicts, betrayals, and even mutual accusations and killings have occurred within their groups. Up to now, a total

of 823 members of PDF terrorist groups across the country have returned to the legal fold. In addition, there are still groups that are in contact and making arrangements to return to the legal fold. From 2018 to the present, the Government has announced 27 ceasefire statements with various Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs). Furthermore, due to political differences, the government has also extended an invitation three times to the PDF and other armed groups to return to the legal fold and resolve issues within the framework of the law. At this point, what I would like to say is that the AA insurgent group is not only carrying out insurgent activities under the pretext of racial and ethnic issues, but is also engaging in the trafficking and distribution of narcotic drugs — a danger to all humankind — not only within Rakhine State but across Myanmar and even to neighbouring countries. Although they claim to be acting in the name of ethnic interests, it is in fact the Rakhine youth themselves who are becoming victims of drug abuse. Therefore, as national brethren and citizens of Myanmar must all stand together to oppose the extremist acts of the AA terrorist group — the so-called Arakan Drug Army — whose operations harm the people of Myanmar and pose threats to neighbouring countries as well. I would also like to urge everyone to promptly report any related information to the responsible authorities. Thank you all.