

15th Annual Edition

# BURMA

HUMAN RIGHTS YEARBOOK 2008



HUMAN RIGHTS DOCUMENTATION UNIT  
NATIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF BURMA



## Appendices

# BURMA

HUMAN RIGHTS YEARBOOK 2008





## Acronyms

3D	Three Diseases Fund
AAPP	Assistance Association for Political Prisoners
AASYC	All Arakan Students and Youth Congress
AB	Artillery Battalion
ABFSU	All Burma Federation of Student Unions
ABFSU-FAC	All Burma Federation of Student Unions – Foreign Affairs Committee
ABMA	All Burma Monks Alliance
ABMU	All Burma Muslim Union
ABRC	All Burma Refugees Committee
ABSDF	All Burma Students' Democratic Front
ACT	Artemisinin-based Combination Therapies
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre
ADSL	Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line
AFP	Agence France Presse
AFPLF	Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League
AHRC	Asian Human Rights Commission
AI	Amnesty International
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AIIMS	All Indian Institute of Medical Science
AIR	All India Radio
ALA	Arakan Liberation Army
ALD	Arakan League for Democracy
ALP	Arakan Liberation Party
ALRC	Asian Legal Resource Centre
ANC	Arakan National Council
AP	Associated Press
APFWLD	Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development
APG	Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering
ARAC	Arakanese Refugees Affairs Committee
ARNO	Arakan Rohingya National Organisation
ARV	Anti-Retroviral Treatment
AS	Angular Stomatitis
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASP	Assistant Superintendent of Police
AWA	Arakan's Women Association
AzG	Artsen zonder Grenzen (MSF-Holland)
BAD	Border Area Development
BAJ	Bridge Asia Japan

BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
BC	Bagan Cybertech
BCN	Burma Centrum Nederlands
BDR	Bangladesh Rifles
BDRS	Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
BERG	Burma Ethnic Research Group
BESU	Basic Education Student Union
BEW	Burma Economic Watch
BFM	Bounding Fragmentation Mine
BHA	Burma Housewives Association
BI	Burma Issues
BID	Best Interest Determination
BLC	Burma Lawyers' Council
BLSO	Burma Labour Solidarity Organisation
BM	Blast Mine
BMA	Burma Media Alliance
BMA	Burmese Media Association
BMWEC	Burmese Migrant Workers Education Committee
BNA	Burma News Association
BP	Bangkok Post
BPHWT	Back Pack Health Workers Team
BRAT	Burmese Rohingya Association in Thailand
BSF	Border Security Forces
BSI	Bureau of Special Investigation
BSPP	Burmese Socialist Program Party
BWU	Burmese Women's Union
CAAC	UN Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict
CAPS	Continuous Assessment and Progression System
CATW	Coalition against Trafficking in Women
CAT	Convention Against Torture and Cruel, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CBC	Calvary Baptist Church
CBI	Central Bureau of Investigation
CBMT	Chin Back Pack Medical Team
CBO	Community-Based Organisation
CCC	Central Coordination Committee
CCSDPT	Committee for the Coordination of Services for Displaced Persons in Thailand
CCTV	China Central Television
CCW	Convention on Conventional Weapons
CD	Compact Disk
CDMA	Code Division Multiple Access
CEC	Central Executive Committee
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CFR	Council on Foreign Relations
CHRO	Chin Human Rights Organisation
CIA	Central Intelligence Agency (United States)
CIA	Chin Integrated Army
CICC	Center for the International Cooperation for Computerisation
CID	Criminal Investigations Department
CIDKP	Committee for Internally Displaced Karen Persons
CLCC	Central Chin Literature and Culture Committee
CAN	Chin National Army
CNC	Chin National Confederation
CNF	Chin National Front
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas
CNN	Cable News Network
COMMIT	Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking
CPB	Communist Party of Burma
CPCC	Commodity Price Control Committees
CPI	China Power Investment Corporation
CPJ	Committee to Protect Journalists
CPRCS	Committee for the Prevention of the Recruitment of Child Soldiers
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPP	Committee Representing People's Parliament
CSW	Christian Solidarity Worldwide
CU	Cultural University
DAB	Democratic Alliance of Burma
DaKaSa	Regional Administration Headquarters
DBA	Don Bosco Ashalayam
DDSI	Directorate of Defence Services Intelligence
DDU	Deen Dayal Upadyay
DFID	British Department for International Development
DFM	Directional Fragmentation Mine
DHF	Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever
DKBA	Democratic Karen Buddhist Army
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment Short Course
DPA	Deutsche Presse Agence
DPDC	District Peace and Development Council
DPNS	Democratic Party for a New Society
DSA	Defense Services Academy
DSI	Defence Service Intelligence
DVB	Democratic Voice of Burma

EC	European Commission
ECS	Economic Cooperation Strategy
EGAT	Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand
ENC	Ethnic Nationalities Council
ENSCC	Ethnic Nationalities Solidarity and Cooperation Committee
EP	Employee Pass
EPDC	Electric Power Development Company
ERI	Earth Rights International
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EU	European Union
E-visa	Electronic Visa
EWEC	East-West Economic Corridor
EYNG	Ethnic Youth Network Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
FBR	Free Burma Rangers
FCDCC	Federal Constitution Drafting and Coordinating Committee
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FEC	Foreign Exchange Certificate
FFSS	Free Funeral Services Society
FOT	Field Observation Team
FPAB	Family Planning Association Bangladesh
FRC	Foreign Resident Card
FRRO	Foreigners Regional Registration Officer
FTI	Federation of Thai Industries
FTUB	Federation of Trade Unions – Burma
FTUK	Federation of Trade Unions-Kawthoolei
GAIL	Gas Authority India Ltd.
GAO	Government Accountability Office
GBA	Gankaw Baptist Association
GBSV	Gender-Based and Sexual Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHQ	General Headquarters
GHRE	Grassroots Human Rights Education
GOI	Government of India
GONGO	Government Organized Non-Governmental Organisation
GTI	Government Technical Institute
HI	Handicap International
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HQ	Headquarters
HRDP	Human Rights Defenders and Promoters
HRDU	Human Rights Documentation Unit



HREIB	Human Rights Education Institute of Burma
HRP	Hongsowatoi Restoration Party
HRW	Human Rights Watch
HURFOM	Human Rights Foundation of Monland
IAUP	International Association of University Presidents
IB	Infantry Battalion
ICBL	International Campaign to Ban Landmines
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
ICFTU	International Confederation of Free Trade Unions
ICG	International Crisis Group
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ID	Identity
IDC	Immigration Detention Centre
IDMC	Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IHH	Internationale Humanitare Hilfsorganisation
IIRO	International Islamic Relief Organisation
ILC	International Labour Conference
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMNA	Independent Mon News Agency
INGO	International Non Governmental Organisation
INO	Inntha National Organisation
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
IRAC	Islamic Religious Affairs Council
IRC	International Rescue Committee
IRD	Internal Revenue Department
ISG	Interim Shan Government
ISP	Internet Service Provider
IT	Information Technology
ITBMU	International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University
ITN	Insecticide-Treated Mosquito Net
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JRS	Jesuit Refuge Service
KA	Karenni Army
KADC	Kachin Anti-Dam Committee
KB	Kanbawza Bank
KCBA	Kuki Chin Baptist Association

KDA	Kachin Defence Army
KDHW	Karen Department of Health and Welfare
KDNG	Kachin Development Networking Group
KDP	Kokang Democratic Party
KDRG	Karenni Development Research Group
KhaMaYa	Light Infantry Battalion
KHRG	Karen Human Rights Group
KIA	Kachin Independence Army
KIC	Karen Information Committee
KIO	Kachin Independence Organisation
KNA	Karen National Association
KNAHR	Karenni News Agency for Human Rights
KNDA	Karenni National Defence Army
KNG	Kayan National Guard
KNG	Kachin News Group
KNLA	Karen National Liberation Army
KNLP	Kayan New Land Party
KNO	Kachin National Organisation
KNPLF	Karenni Nationalities People's Liberation Front
KNPP	Karenni National People's Party
KNPP	Karenni National Progressive Party
KnRC	Karenni Refugee Committee
KnSO	Karenni National Solidarity Organisation
KNU	Karen National Union
KNU/KNLA PC	Karen National Union / Karen National Liberation Army Peace Council
KORD	Karen Office for Relief and Development
KPF	Karen Peace Force
KRC	Karen Relief Committee
KSC	Kachin Solidarity Council
KSDF	Kuki Students Democratic Front
KSDP	Karenni Student Development Program
KSWC	Karenni Social Welfare Committee
KSWDC	Karenni Social Welfare and Development Committee
KTO	Ko Than Oo
KVTBA	Kabaw Valley Thadou Baptist Association
KWA	Kachin Women's Association
KWAT	Kachin Women's Association – Thailand
KWO	Karen Women's Organisation
LBVD	Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department
LDC	Least Developed Country
LDF	Lahu Democratic Front
LIB	Light Infantry Battalion
LID	Light Infantry Division

LNDO	Lahu National Development Organisation
LNO	Lahu National Organisation
LPO	Labour Protection Office (Thailand)
LTAC	La-mine Township Administrative Championship
MAA	Myanmar Accounting Academy
MAG	Mon Armed Group
MAMD	Mon Army, Mergui District
MAN	Muslim Agency for News
MANA	Myanmar Anti-Narcotic Association
MAP	Migrant Assistance Program Foundation
MAPT	Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trade
MART	Myanmar Agricultural Produce Trade
MAS	Military Affairs Security
MaYaKa	Myitkyina Township Administrative Office
MBT	Mine Ban Treaty
MBTU	Million British Thermal Units
MCS	Mon Canadian Society
MDC	Myanmar Development Committee
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MDUF	Myeik-Dawei United Front
MED	Micro-Enterprise Development
MHD	Malteser Hilfsdienst Deutschland
MI	Malteser International
MI	Military Intelligence
MICTDC	Myanmar Information Communications and Technology Development Corporation
MIS	Military Intelligence
MLCC	Mon Literature and Culture Committee
MMA	Myanmar Medical Association
MMA	Myanmar Music Association
MMCWA	Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association
MMPE	Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise
MNA	Myanmar Nurses Association
MNC	Mon National Council
MNCWA	Myanmar National Working Committee for Women's Affairs
MNDAA	Myanmar National Democracy Alliance Army ( a.k.a Kokang)
MNDF	Mon National Democratic Front
MNED	Mon National Education Department
MNF	Mon National Front
MNLA	Mon National Liberation Army
MNWA	Mon National Warrior Army
MOB	Myanmar Oriental Bank
MOC	Military Operations Command

MOGE	Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOI	Ministry of the Interior
MOMC	Military Operation Management Command
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MP	Member of Parliament
MPCB	Motion Picture Censor Board
MPF	Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory
MPMEEA	Myanmar Pharmaceuticals and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association
MPT	Myanma Post and Telecommunications
MRA	Monland Restoration Army
MRC	Myanmar Red Cross
MRDC	Mon Relief and Development Committee
MRE	Mine Risk Education
MRO	Mon Refugee Organisation
MRP	Mon Restoration Party
MRTLCL	Myanmar Rice Trading Leading Committee
MSF	Medecins Sans Frontieres
MSF	Military Security Force
MSG	Monosodium Glutamate
MSI	Marie Stopes International
MT	Myanma Teleport
MTA	Mong Thai Army
MTC	Mae Tao Clinic
MTP	Mara Thyutliapy
MTUF	Mergui-Tavoy United Front
MUB	Myanmar Universal Bank
MWAC	Myanmar Women Affairs Committee
MWAF	Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation
MWEA	Myanmar Women's Entrepreneurs Association
MWO	Mon Women's Organisation
NaSaKa	Border Security Force (Western border)
NaTaLa	Ministry of Border Affairs
NC	National Convention
NCCM	National Catholic Mission on Migration
NCGUB	National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma
NCO	Non-Commissioned Officer
NCRC	National Committee on the Rights of the Child
NCSN	Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland
NCUB	National Council of the Union of Burma
NDAA-ESS	National Democratic Alliance Army-Eastern Shan State (a.k.a 'Mongla Group')
NDA-K	New Democratic Army – Kachin

NDD	Network for Democracy and Development
NDF	National Democratic Front
NDPHR	National Democratic Party for Human Rights
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NG-SS	New Generation - Shan State
NHEC	National Health Education Council
NHK	Japanese Broadcasting Corporation
NHPC	National Hydroelectric Power Corporation
NIB	National Intelligence Bureau
NIM	Nanyang Institute of Management
NLD	National League for Democracy
NLD-LA	National League for Democracy – Liberated Area
NLM	New Light Myanmar
NMG	Network Media Group
NMSP	New Mon State Party
NNN	Nippon News Network
NPE	News and Periodicals Enterprise
NPED	Myanmar Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development
NRP	National Reconciliation Program
NSA	Non-State Actor
NSC	National Security Council
NSCN	National Socialist Council of Nagaland
NTF	National Task Force
NUPA	National United Party of Arakan
NWCWA	National Working Committee for Women's Affairs
NYP	Nanyang Polytechnic
OBE	Office for Basic Education
OCDP	Operations Centre for Displaced People
OCMI	Office of the Chief of Military Intelligence
OFID	OPEC Fund for International Development
OH&S	Occupational Health and Safety
OMAS	Office of the Military Affairs Security
ONGC	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
ONI	Open Net Initiative
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
OSI	Open Society Institute
OSS	Office of Strategic Studies
PABs	Provincial Admissions Boards
PCF	Prison Charity Foundation
PDC	Peace and Development Council
PDF	People's Defence Front
PHAMIT	Prevention of HIV/AIDS Among Migrant Workers Project

PHR	Physicians for Human Rights
PLF	Palaung Liberation Front
PLO	Pa-O Liberation Organisation
PNA	Pa'O National Army
PNO	Pa'O National Organisation
PNUO	Pa'O Regional Nationalities Unity Organisation
POC	Person of Concern
PPLO	Pa-O People's Liberation Organisation
PR	Permanent Resident
PR	Public Relations
PSB	Press Scrutiny Board
PSI	Population Services International
PSLF	Palaung State Liberation Front
PSLP	Palaung State Liberation Party
PSO	People's Strength Organisation
PSRD	Press Scrutiny and Registration Department
PTT-EP	Petroleum Authority of Thailand Exploration and Production Public Co. Ltd.
PYAN	Palaung Youth Action Network.
PYNG	Palaung Youth Networking Group
PWO	Palaung Women's Organisation
RA	Rohingya Army
RELA	Malaysian Volunteer Corp (Ikatan Relawa Rakyat)
RFA	Radio Free Asia
RI	Refugees International
RI	Rotary International
RM	Malaysian Ringgit
RNA	Rohingya National Alliance
RP	Residential Permit
RPG	Rocket Propelled Grenade
RRF	Rebellion Resistance Force
RRRC	Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commission
RSANFSP	Rakhine State All National Races Solidarity Party
RSD	Refugee Status Determination
RSF	Reporters Sans Frontieres
RTA	Royal Thai Army
RWA	Rakhine Women's Association
RWU	Rakhaing Women's Union
SAS	<i>Swan Arr Shin</i>
SaRaPa	Military Intelligence
SAW	Social Action for Women
SaYaPa	Military Security Force
SB	Special Branch (of Police)
SCUK	Save the Children UK

SDA	Seventh Day Adventist
SDC	Special Detention Centre
SEAPA	Southeast Asian Press Alliance
SEARC	Southeast Asia Research Centre
SEARIN	South East Asia Rivers Network
SEZ	Special Economic Zone
SFM	Stake Fragmentation Mine
SHAN	Shan Herald Agency for News
SHRF	Shan Human Rights Foundation
SID	Special Investigations Department
SLIC	Socio-Legal Information Centre
SLORC	State Law and Order Restoration Council
SLRD	Settlement and Land Records Department
SMNC	Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee
SNGY	Shan New Generation Youth
SNLD	Shan Nationalities League for Democracy
SNPLO	Shan Nationalities People's Liberation Organisation
SOC	Strategic Operations Command
SPDC	State Peace and Development Council
SPIF	Special Police Information Force
SRDC	Shan Relief and Development Committee
SSA	Shan State Army
SSA-C	Shan State Army – Central
SSA-N	Shan State Army – North (a.k.a SSPP)
SSA-S	Shan State Army- South
SSKDP	Shan State Kokang Democratic Party
SSNA	Shan State National Army
SSNPLO	Shan State Nationalities People's Liberation Organization
SSPC	Shan State Peace Council
SSPP	Shan State Progress Party (a.k.a SSA-N)
STD	Sexually Transmitted Disease
SUARAM	Suara Rakyat Malaysia
SWAN	Shan Women's Action Network
SYCB	Student Youth Congress of Burma
SYNG	Shan Youth Network Group
SYUF	Student and Youth Union Front
TACDB	Thai Action Committee for Democracy in Burma
TAI	Technical Assistance Institute
TB	Tuberculosis
TBBC	Thailand Burma Border Consortium
TBC	Tahi-Burma Border Committee
TCBEC	Technology, Culture and Business Education Centre

THPP	Tamanthi Hydroelectric Power Project
TOC	Tactical Operations Command
TPDC	Township Peace and Development Council
TPP	Three Pagoda Pass
TRC	Temporary Residence Card
TWU	Tavoy Women's Union
U.S.	United States
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UK	United Kingdom
UMFCCI	Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry
UN	United Nations
UNA	United Nationalities Alliance
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNESCO	United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund
UNLD	United Nationalities League for Democracy
UNLD-LA	United Nationalities League for Democracy – Liberated Area
UNLF	United National Liberation Front
UNO	Union Nirbahi Officer
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UPE	Universalization of Primary Education
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USCRI	U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
USDA	Union Solidarity and Development Association
USIS	United States Information Service
UWSA	United Wa State Army
UWSP	United Wa State Party
UXO	Unexploded Ordinance
VAO	Village Administrative Office
VBSW	Vigorous Burmese Student Warriors
VCB	Video Censorship Board
vHLT	very High Level Team
VOA	Voice of America
VPDC	Village Peace and Development Council
WAMY	World Assembly of Muslim Youth



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WCDRB	Working Committee for Demonstration Restoration in Burma
WFP	World Food Program
WGI	Worldwide Governance Indicators
WHO	World Health Organisation
WLB	Women's League of Burma
WLC	Women's League of Chinland
WNA	Wa National Army
WNO	Wa National Organisation
WPDC	Ward Peace and Development Council
XDR	Extensively Drug Resistant
YaMaKha	Northeast Military Command
YaYaKa	Administrative Offices
YCDC	Yangon City Development Council
YCOWA	Yaung Chi Oo Workers' Association
YMA	Young Mizo Association
ZNC	Zomi National Congress

## Glossary of Terms and Units of Measurement

acre	1 acre = 4,840 sq. yards = 0.407 hectare. 640 acres = 1 sq. mile = 2.590 km <sup>2</sup>
baht	Monetary unit of Thailand. 1 baht = 100 satang. 1 baht = US\$0.03
basket	Unit of measurement equivalent to two tins or roughly 25 kg of rice.
<i>Bo</i>	Military officer
<i>crore</i>	Indian term meaning ten million. Equal to one hundred lakh
<i>Daw</i>	An honorific used to address an adult female
FEC	1 FEC = US\$1 = 6.4 kyat (official)
	1 FEC = 1,240 kyat (unofficial)
furlong	1 furlong = 220 yards (1/8) mile = 201 metres
<i>kani</i>	Roughly 3 acres
<i>Kawthoolei</i>	Karen name for the Karen nation
<i>Khun</i>	An honorific used to address a Karenni, Shan or Thai male
<i>Ko</i>	Burmese form of address to a young male
kyat	Monetary unit of Burma. US\$1 = 6 kyat (official) US\$1 = 1,240 kyat (unofficial).
<i>kyin</i>	Unit of measurement equivalent to 2.7m <sup>3</sup>
<i>lakh</i>	Indian term meaning 100,000
<i>loh ah pay</i>	'volunteer labourer'; often synonymous for forced labour
<i>longyi</i>	Burmese sarong
<i>Ma</i>	Burmese form of address to a young female
<i>Mahn</i>	Burmese form of address to a Karen male
<i>Maung</i>	Burmese form of address to a young male
<i>Mehm/Min</i>	Form of address to a young Mon male
<i>Mi</i>	Form of address to a Mon female
Milk tin	Base unit of volume measurement in Burma. One (condensed) milk tin holds around 585 grams of rice
<i>Nai</i>	Burmese form of address to an adult Mon male
<i>Naw</i>	Form of address for a Sgaw Karen female
<i>plah</i>	Karen measurement of distance, from elbow to fingertip (cubit)
<i>pya</i>	100 <i>pya</i> = 1 kyat
<i>pyi</i>	Burmese unit of volume measurement commonly used for rice and paddy as well as other crops. One <i>pyi</i> is equal to eight milk tins, or about 2 kg of rice.
<i>Pyithu Hluttaw</i>	People's Assembly. The Legislative branch of government which was never actually allowed to convene following elections in 1990.
(rice) sack	Unit of Measurement. One sack is equivalent to 2 baskets or 50 kg of rice within Burma.
<i>Sai</i>	Burmese form of address to a young Shan male
Sangha	Buddhist order of monks
<i>Sao</i>	Male of Shan royal descent
<i>Saw</i>	Form of address to a Sgaw Karen male
<i>Sayadaw</i>	Presiding monk of a Buddhist monastery
<i>Tatmadaw</i>	Burmese Armed Forces
<i>taun</i>	Unit of weight equivalent to 13 kg
<i>Thakin</i>	Master; lord (used to address the British colonial rulers; later politicized by the Burmese independence movement in the 1930s)
(big) tin	One tin is equivalent to 8 <i>pyi</i> or roughly 12.5 kg of rice
<i>U</i>	An honorific used to address an adult male in Burma
<i>viss</i>	1 <i>viss</i> = 3.6 lbs / 1.63 kg

## Abbreviations

a.k.a	also known as
approx.	approximately
Brig.	Brigadier
Capt.	Captain
Comdr.	Commander
Col.	Colonel
Cpl.	Corporal
ft	foot/feet
Gen.	General
Lt.	Lieutenant
kg	kilogram
km	kilometre
Maj.	Major
m	metre
mm	millimetre
n.a.	not available
Sen.	Senior
Sgt.	Sergeant
sq.	square

## Spelling Conventions

The Burma Human Rights Yearbook employs British (UK) English throughout.

Since there are no standardised transliteration from Burmese or many of the other languages spoken in Burma into the Roman alphabet, words are spelt in a variety of ways, according to different spelling conventions or by how they sound. In addition, spellings have further been confused by the ruling junta's official alteration in of well-known English terminology (e.g. Myanmar for Burma). Whilst the SPDC purports that Myanmar is more inclusive of minorities than Burma, opposition parties and human rights groups contend that "Myanmar" is actually disrespectful of the minorities of the country. Minorities, many of whom do not speak Burmese, had become accustomed to the English name "Burma" over the years, and they perceive the new name "Myanmar" as a purely Burman name reflecting the policy of domination of the ethnic Burman majority over the minorities. Criticism also concentrates on the fact that the military regime, not democratically elected, has no legitimacy to change the name of the country. Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has opposed the new name "Myanmar", pointing out at the hypocritical justification of inclusiveness put forward by the military regime. Whilst the name "Myanmar" has been recognised by the United Nations, several countries, including the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada, generally refer to it as Burma, and the U.S. State Department assert that *"Due to consistent, unyielding support for the democratically elected leaders, the U.S. government likewise uses 'Burma.'"*

However, it should be remembered that the military regime did not change the official name of the country in Burmese, but merely changed the name of the country in English. In the Burmese language, *Myanma* is written literary name of the country whilst *Bama* is the oral colloquial alternative. While the opposition parties oppose the English name “Myanmar”, they do not oppose the official Burmese name *Myanma*, and no opposition party is proposing to use the colloquial name *Bama* as the official name of the country.

Aside from the political connotations attached to the name changes, the new names adopted by the junta actually make it more difficult for foreigners to pronounce Burmese place names closer to actual Burmese pronunciation. Even if only for this reason, this report will restrict its use of language to the anglicised spellings. A list of place names used in the Yearbook followed by their alternatives are shown in the table on the following page.

At the village level, there is again the difficulty that there is no standardised format for transliteration from Burmese or any of the ethnic languages used within Burma into English. In addition, many villages have, for example, both a Karen and a Burmese name. This problem is further compounded by the fact that many villages have very similar names to each other but are in fact distinct. In compiling the Burma Human Rights Yearbook, HRDU have made every attempt to standardise the spelling of villages, but, given the dangers associated with making assumptions about similar sounding place names, village names have generally been reported as they were in the original source.

Historical name	SPDC name
Arakan	Rakhine
Bassein	Patheingyi
Burma	Myanmar
Burman	Bamar
Irrawaddy	Ayeyarwady
Karen	Kayin
Karenni	Kayah
Magwe	Magway
Mergui	Myeik
Moei River	Taungtha
Moulmein	Mawlamyine
Pa'an	Hpa-an
Pagan	Bagan
Pegu	Bago
Prome	Pyaw
Rangoon	Yangon
Salween River	Thanlwin
Sandoway	Thandwai
Sittaung	Sittoung
Sittwe	Akyab
Tavoy	Dawei
Tenasserim	Tanintharyi

## **Karen State Disputed Areas of Demarcation**

### **Thaton District**

Thaton District is demarcated by the KNU as part of Karen territory and under the patrol of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the KNLA. Thaton District falls mostly in the SPDC demarcated area of Mon State, while the area to the east of the Donthami River lies within SPDC demarcated Karen State.

### **Toungoo District**

Toungoo District is demarcated by the KNU as Karen territory and is under the patrol of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade of the KNLA. The SPDC, however, does not officially recognise Toungoo District. Toungoo District falls partially in SPDC demarcated Pegu Division and partially in Karen State.

### **Nyaunglebin District**

Nyaunglebin District is demarcated by the KNU as Karen territory and under the patrol of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the KNLA. The SPDC, however, does not officially recognise Nyaunglebin District. Rather the area of Nyaunglebin District falls in SPDC demarcated Pegu Division.

### **Mergui-Tavoy District**

Mergui-Tavoy District is an area demarcated by the KNU as part of Karen territory and is under the patrol of the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the KNLA. The SPDC does not recognize Mergui-Tavoy as an official district. Rather, the area falls into SPDC demarcated Tenasserim Division.

### **Papun District**

Papun District is under the patrol of the KNLA 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade. The SPDC, however, does not officially recognize this district. Papun District corresponds roughly with Papun Township under the SPDC system.

### **Dooplaya District**

Dooplaya District is entirely demarcated by the KNU as Karen territory and patrolled by the 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade of the KNLA. The SPDC, however, designates Dooplaya District as falling mostly in Karen State with some portions in Mon State.

### **Pa'an District**

Pa'an District is patrolled by the KNLA 7<sup>th</sup> Brigade and corresponds roughly with Pa'an Township under the SPDC-demarcated system. The SPDC does not officially recognize Pa'an District

## Burma at a Glance: Facts and Figures

Country name	Union of Burma (1948), Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma (1974), Union of Myanmar (1989) <sup>1</sup>
Land area	678,500 sq km
Coastline	1,930 km
Population	47,758,181 (2008 est.)
Population growth	0.8% (2008 est.)
Birth rate	17.23 births/1,000 population (2008 est.)
Death rate	9.23 deaths/1,000 population (2008 est.)
Infant mortality rate	Total: 49.12 deaths/1,000 live births. Male: 55.53 deaths/1,000 live births. Female: 42.33 deaths/1,000 live births (2008 est.)
Life expectancy at birth	Total population: 62.94 years. Male: 60.73 years. Female: 65.28 years (2008 est.)
Languages	Arakanese, Burmese, Chin, Kachin, Karen, Karenni, Mon, Shan, Wa, English and more than 100 minority dialects
Religions	Buddhist (89%), Christian (4%), (Baptist 3%, Roman Catholic 1%), Muslim (4%), Animist (1%), other (2%) <sup>2</sup>
Last election	27 May 1990. NLD won 392 of the 485 seats contested. The assembly ( <i>Pyithu Hluttaw</i> ) was never allowed to convene.
System of Government	Military Dictatorship
Government	State Peace and Development Council (SPDC)
Head of State	Chairman of SPDC, Senior General Than Shwe
Administrative areas	Seven States (Arakan, Chin, Mon, Kachin, Karen, Karenni, Shan), Seven Divisions (Irrawaddy, Magwe, Mandalay, Pegu, Rangoon, Sagaing, Tenasserim)
LDC status	Since 1987
GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$55.27 billion (2008 est.)
GDP (official exchange rate)	\$26.21 billion (2008 est.)
GDP real growth rate	1.1% (2008 est.)
GDP - per capita	\$1,200 (2008 est.)
Unemployment rate	5% (2008 est.)
Population below poverty line	32.7% (2007 est.)
Inflation rate	26.8% (2008 est.)
Human Development Index	0.586 (2007), ranks Burma 133 <sup>rd</sup> worst out of 177 countries <sup>3</sup>
Natural resources	Timber, tin, antimony, zinc, copper, tungsten, lead, coal, limestone, precious stones, natural gas, hydropower, some petroleum
Agriculture products	Rice, pulses, beans, sesame, groundnuts, sugarcane; hardwood, fish and fish products
Opium production	410 metric tons; remains the worlds second largest producer of illicit opium (2008 est.) <sup>4</sup>
Refugees	Approximately 396,700 in Thailand, 177,500 in Bangladesh, 75,000 refugees in India, 69,700 refugees in Malaysia, and an unknown number of refugees in China. <sup>5</sup>
IDPs	Approximately 1 million persons
Adult HIV prevalence rate (15+ years)	0.7% (2008 est.) <sup>6</sup>

Number of people living with HIV/AIDS	240,000 (2008 est.) <sup>7</sup>
Deaths due to AIDS	24,000 (2008 est.) <sup>8</sup>
Adult literacy rate	89.9% (2008 est.) <sup>9</sup>
Net primary enrolment rate	84% (2007 est.) <sup>10</sup>
Net secondary enrolment rate	46% (2007 est.) <sup>11</sup>
Children completing primary education	72% (2007 est.) <sup>12</sup>
Probability of not surviving past age 40	19.1% (2008 est.) <sup>13</sup>
People without access to improved water source	20% (2007 est.) <sup>14</sup>
People without access to improved sanitation	17% (2006 est.) <sup>15</sup>
Malnourished children (ages 0-5)	32% (2007 est.) <sup>16</sup>
Landmine casualties	47 <sup>17</sup>
Landmine injuries	338 <sup>18</sup>
Prison population	65,063 (2007 est.) <sup>19</sup>
Political prisoners	2,168 <sup>20</sup>

## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Please note that the facts and figures listed here are only estimates and that accurate data is not readily available. Unless otherwise stated, facts and figures are cited from: *Background Note: Burma*, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, September 2006; *CIA World Factbook: Burma*, U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 17 November 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Official SPDC figures.

<sup>3</sup> Source: HDI, UNDP.

<sup>4</sup> Source: UNODC, East Asia Opium Report 2008

<sup>5</sup> Source: *World Refugee Survey 2008*, USCRI.

<sup>6</sup> Source: UNICEF.

<sup>7</sup> Source: Global report on the AIDS epidemic, UNAIDS.

<sup>8</sup> Source: Global report on the AIDS epidemic, UNAIDS.

<sup>9</sup> Source: HDI, UNDP.

<sup>10</sup> Source: HDI, UNDP.

<sup>11</sup> Source: HDI, UNDP.

<sup>12</sup> Source: HDI, UNDP.

<sup>13</sup> Source: HDI, UNDP.

<sup>14</sup> Source: HDI, UNDP.

<sup>15</sup> Source: WHO, Myanmar Country Statistics.

<sup>16</sup> Source: HDI, UNDP.

<sup>17</sup> Source: *Landmine Monitor 2008*, ICBL.

<sup>18</sup> Source: *Landmine Monitor 2008*, ICBL.

<sup>19</sup> Source: World Prison Population List 2008, International Centre for Prison Studies

<sup>20</sup> Source: Assistance Association for Political Prisoners Burma.

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The Human Rights Documentation Unit (HRDU) is the research and documentation division of Burma's government in exile; the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB). The HRDU was formed in 1994 to document the human rights crisis confronting the many and varied peoples of Burma, and to defend and promote those internationally recognised human rights that are inherent and inalienable for all persons irrespective of race, colour, creed, ethnicity or religion. To this end, the HRDU published the first *Burma Human Rights Yearbook* in 1995 to comprehensively document the systematic and egregious nature of the human rights abuses being perpetrated in Burma throughout the previous year. This report, the *Burma Human Rights Yearbook 2008*, represents the 15<sup>th</sup> annual edition of the *Burma Human Rights Yearbook*, which, combined with all previous editions collectively comprise well over 10,000 pages of documentation and provide an unbroken historical record spanning the past one and a half decades.

All editions of the *Burma Human Rights Yearbook* and all other reports published by the HRDU can be viewed online on the NCGUB website at <http://www.ncgub.net> as well as on the Online Burma Library at <http://www.burmalibrary.org>. Any questions, comments or requests for further information can be forwarded to the HRDU via email at [enquiries.hrdu@gmail.com](mailto:enquiries.hrdu@gmail.com).

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