



HUMANITARIAN LAW PROJECT
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International Educational Development and our sister organization the Association of Humanitarian lawyers have worked on the situation in Burma/Myanmar for many years, with special attention to ~~the situation of~~ the ethnic nationalities. We invite the Special Rapporteur and the Council to consult our written statement, NGO/37.

There are now conflicting views on how the international community should proceed, with the US, the EU and former High Commissioner Arbour taking an optimistic, "let's revisit sanctions" approach, and our organizations, reporter/author Peter Popham, and others taking a more cautious one.

While the upcoming elections are significant, we must remind the Special Rapporteur and the Council that only 48 out of 600 seats in Parliament are in contention. Thus, even if Aung San Suu Kyi's party prevails, they will constitute a small minority. We fear that the election will inadvertently provide undue legitimacy to the ruling party, the Union Solidarity and Development Party, whose notion of human rights is at serious odds with that of most of the rest of the international community.

Meanwhile, serious violations of humanitarian law occur in the conflict with the Kachin nationality, and the situation with the Karen and Karenni groups, while reportedly better, is still troubling at best. We ask the Special Rapporteur his views on the continuing crises with the ethnic nationalities.

We urge the Council to renew the mandate of Special Rapporteur Ojea Quintana, as it is far too premature to abandon review of Burma/Myanmar.