



SPECIAL NEWS PICTORIAL OF

ARAKAN

**NEWS AND ANALYSIS OF ARAKAN ROHINGYA NATIONAL ORGANISATION (ARNO), ARAKAN, BURMA
CREATED AND EDITED BY M. A. ALAM, EXECUTIVE EDITOR OF ARAKAN MONTHLY**

US PRESIDENT BARACK HUSSAIN OBAMA'S HISTORIC VISIT TO BURMA

**"THE ROHINGYAS HOLD WITHIN THEMSELVES THE
SAME DIGNITY AS YOU DO, AND I DO. BUT THERE'S NO
EXCUSE FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST INNOCENT PEOPLE."**

**US PRESIDENT BARACK H. OBAMA
NOVEMBER 19, 2012
THE UNIVERSITY OF YANGON SPEECH
RANGOON, BURMA**



RELEASED ON

12-12-2012



US AIR FORCE ONE landing Yangon International Airport on November 19, 2012.



US President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hilary Clinton arrive at Yangon International airport during his historical first visit to the country on November 19, 2012 in Yangon, Myanmar. Obama is the first US President to visit Myanmar while on a four-day tour of Southeast Asia that also includes Thailand and Cambodia.



US President Barack Obama receives a bunch of flowers on arrival in Burma Picture: JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/Getty Images



US President Barack Obama is presented with flowers as he and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton arrive at Yangon International Airport in Yangon, Myanmar, on Air Force One, Nov. 19, 2012. Carolyn Kaster/AP



Red-Carpet Wel-come to US President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on arrival at Yangon International airport on Nov.19, 2012.



U.S. President Obama waves after stepping off his flight.



U.S. President Barack Obama's motorcade drives through the street Rangoon city on 19 November 2012.



Students wave flags as they wait to welcome the arrival of U.S. President Barack Obama at Rangoon International Airport in Burma Picture: AP Photo/Khin Maung Win



Students wave Myanmar and U.S. flags as they wait to welcome the arrival of U.S. President Barack Obama at Yangon International Airport today in Yangon, Myanmar. Photo - Associated Press



General Burmese people welcoming the U.S. President Barack Obama at Yangon International Airport Road on Nov.19, 2012 in Yangon, Myanmar.



JEWEL SAMRAT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Local residents wait in anticipation as Obama's motorcade drives to the Parliament House in Yangon.



Burmese citizens line the streets as U.S. President Barack Obama's motorcade drives through Rangoon Picture: REUTERS/Jason Reed



US President Barack Obama shakes hands with Burmese President U Thein Sein (R) at Yangon Regional Parliament during his historical visit to the country on November 19, 2012 in Yangon, Myanmar.



US President Barack Obama meets with Burmese President U Thein Sein at the Yangon Regional Parliament on 19 November 2012. Getty Images



US President Barack Obama meets with Burmese President U Thein Sein (R) at Yangon Regional Parliament during his historical visit to the country on November 19, 2012 in Yangon, Myanmar.



***US President Barack Obama meets with Burmese President U Thein Sein at the Yangon Regional Parliament.
Getty Images***



JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Local residents line up along the street with cameras as Obama's motorcade drives to the Parliament House in Yangon.



PAULA BRONSTEIN/GETTY IMAGES

A girl holds American flags that she just purchased at a flag shop as Yangon, Myanmar, prepares for Obama's visit. Obama will be the first U.S. president to visit Myanmar, also known as Burma, during his four-day tour of Southeast Asia, which will also include visits to Thailand and Cambodia.



A man waves as people line the street to see U.S. President Barack Obama traveling in his motorcade to meet with Myanmar's President Thein Sein at Yangon Parliament Building in Yangon, Myanmar, Monday, Nov. 19, 2012. This is the first visit to Myanmar by a sitting U.S. president. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)



Associated Press : A man holds a sign reading: "Help to bring peace" as people line the street to see U.S. President Barack Obama traveling in his motorcade to meet with Myanmar's President Thein Sein at Yangon Parliament Building in Yangon, Myanmar, Monday, Nov. 19, 2012. This is the first visit to Myanmar by a sitting U.S. president. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)



***U.S. President Barack Obama tours the Shwedagon Pagoda with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton in Rangoon
Picture: AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster***



U.S. President Obama performs a Buddhist ritual ringing the bell for well-being on a visit to the Shwedagon pagoda in Yangon on Monday 19 November 2012.



JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. President Obama performs a ritual as U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton looks on at a visit to the Shwedagon pagoda in Yangon on Monday.



U.S. President Obama and U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton leaving the Shwedagon pagoda after performing a ritual in Yangon on Monday.

AP



Cups printed with pictures of US President Barack Obama and Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi are displayed at a shop in downtown Yangon on Saturday.



Local residents gather outside Aung San Suu Kyi's house as U.S. President Obama met with her on Monday.



Local residents gather outside Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's and wait for the arrival of US President Barack Obama Picture: JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/Getty Images



On 19 November, US president Barack Obama made a historic first trip to Myanmar. According to International press, tens of thousands Burma's citizens lined in streets waving US flags.



Crowds line a street outside the home of Burma's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi as US President Barack Obama arrives to meet her in Rangoon on Nov. 19, 2012. (Photo: Jason Reed / Reuters)



Crowds line a street outside the home of Burma's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi as Obama arrives to meet her in Rangoon on Nov. 19, 2012. (Photo: Jason Reed / Reuters)



President Barack Obama (L) is greeted by Burmese pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi (R) at her residence in Rangoon Picture: NICOLAS ASFOURI/AFP/Getty Images





Daw Aung San Suu Kyi with distinguish guest at her court yard on Nov. 19, 2012.



President Barack Obama speaks as Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi listens following their meeting at her residence in Rangoon Picture: JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/Getty Images



President Barack Obama's historic visit to Burma is meant to show America's support for the country's transition to democracy. The White House has cautioned that Obama's trip to the former pariah state should not be viewed as a "victory celebration" but as an opportunity to press for urgent action still needed in Burma. Notably, freeing political prisoners and ending ethnic tension in remote areas. Above, Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi with President Obama. Picture: EPA/KHIN MAUNG WIN



***President Barack Obama (R) hugs Aung San Suu Kyi at the end of their remarks to the media at her residence in Rangoon
Picture: REUTERS/Jason Reed***



Obama's historic visit to Myanmar : U.S. President Barack Obama hugs Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi after making a speech at her residence in Yangon on Monday, November 19. Obama met the democracy icon during a historic visit to Yangon aimed at encouraging political reforms in the former pariah state.



US president Barack Obama kisses Aung San Suu Kyi at her residence in Rangoon on Monday. He is the first serving US president to visit Burma. Photograph: Reuters



Smiles better ... beaming pair



Burmese were enthralled when Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hosted President Barack Obama at her lakeside villa on Monday, gathering outside the opposition leader's home to cheer them on. Suu Kyi may be Myanmar's president one day but there are some big hurdles she must still get over before the country has its 'Mandela Moment.' One of them is whether she will even be allowed to seek the presidency. Photograph by: Matthew Fisher/Postmedia News, Postmedia News



Myanmar children walk by a graffiti to welcome U.S. President Barack Obama on a street in Yangon Photo: AP







Muslim student is attending to hear US President Barack Obama's historic speech at Rangoon University wait for him to arrive on Nov. 19, 2012. Photo: Popular Myanmar News Journal



Burmese opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and members of the Burmese audience at US President Barack Obama's speech at Rangoon University wait for him to arrive on Nov. 19, 2012. (Photo: Reuters)



Members of the Burmese audience at US President Barack Obama's speech at Rangoon University wait for him to arrive on Nov. 19, 2012. (Photo: Reuters)



U.S. President Barack Obama waves as he is introduced before speaking at Yangon University's Convocation Hall in Yangon, Myanmar, Monday, Nov. 19, 2012. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



Members of the audience take pictures as US President Barack Obama gives a speech at the University of Rangoon on 19 November 2012. (Reuters)



U.S. President Barack Obama waves as he is introduced before speaking at Yangon University's Convocation Hall in Yangon, Myanmar, Monday, Nov. 19, 2012. (AP Photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais)



U.S. President Barack Obama waves after giving a speech at the University of Yangon November 19, 2012. REUTERS/Minzayar



US President Barack Obama delivering his historic speech at Yangon University's Convocation Hall in Yangon, Myanmar, on Monday, Nov. 19, 2012. Pablo Martinez Monsivais/AP



President Obama delivers remarks at the University of Rangoon on Nov. 19, 2012. Reuter



US President Barack Obama delivering his historic speech Yangon University's Convocation Hall in Yangon on Monday 19 November 2012.



Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Burma opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi sit together before President Barack Obama speaks at University of Rangoon, on Nov. 19, 2012. Carolyn Kaster / AP



US President Barack Obama gives a speech at historic Rangoon University on Monday. (Photo: The Irrawaddy)



US President Barack Obama delivering his historic speech at Yangon University's Convocation Hall in Yangon, Myanmar, on Monday, Nov. 19, 2012. Pablo Martinez Monsivais/AP



US President Barack Obama gives a historic speech at Yangon University (Reuters)



Burmese audiences at Rangoon University 's Convocation Hall during US President historic lecture on 19 November 2012.



US President Barack Obama delivering his historic speech at Yangon University's Convocation Hall in Yangon, Myanmar, on Monday, Nov. 19, 2012.



US President Barack Obama delivering his historic speech at Yangon University's Convocation Hall on Nov. 19, 2012.



US President Barack Obama delivering his historic speech at Yangon University's Convocation Hall in Yangon, Myanmar, on Monday, Nov. 19, 2012.



Burmese audiences before President Barack Obama speaks at University of Rangoon, on Nov. 19, 2012.



US President Barack Obama speaks at the University of Yangon during his historical first visit to the country on November 19, 2012 in Yangon, Myanmar. Obama is the first US President to visit Myanmar while on a four-day tour of Southeast Asia that also includes Thailand and Cambodia



U.S. President Barak Obama speaks at convocation hall of Myanmar's Yangon University in Yangon, Myanmar, Nov. 19, 2012.



U.S. President Barack Obama speaks at convocation hall of Myanmar's Yangon University in Yangon, Myanmar, Nov. 19, 2012. Newly re-elected U.S. President Barack Obama arrived here Monday morning to kick off his hours' working visit to Myanmar, becoming the first sitting U.S. president to visit the Southeast Asian nation in the history of Myanmar-U.S. relations. (Xinhua/U Aung)



U.S. President Barack Obama speaks at Rangoon University's Convocation Hall in Rangoon, Burma, Monday, Nov. 19, 2012.



U.S. President Barack Obama speaks at convocation hall of Myanmar's Yangon University in Yangon, Myanmar, Nov. 19, 2012. Newly re-elected U.S. President Barack Obama arrived here Monday morning to kick off his hours' working visit to Myanmar, becoming the first sitting U.S. president to visit the Southeast Asian nation in the history of Myanmar-U.S. relations. (Xinhua/U Aung)





US President Barack Obama delivering his historic speech at Rangoon University on Monday 19 November 2012.



"Barack who?" AP Photo / Carolyn Kaster - Burmese don't know what to think about Obama



US President Barack Obama speaks at the University of Yangon during his historical first visit to the country on November 19, 2012 in Yangon, Myanmar.



Members of the audience listen as U.S. President Barack Obama delivers remarks at the University of Yangon, November 19, 2012. REUTERS/Jason Reed



U.S. President Barak Obama speaks at convocation hall of Myanmar's Yangon University in Yangon, Myanmar, Nov. 19, 2012. Newly re-elected U.S. President Barack Obama arrived here Monday morning to kick off his hours' working visit to Myanmar, becoming the first sitting U.S. president to visit the Southeast Asian nation in the history of Myanmar-U.S. relations. (Xinhua/U Aung)



U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (2nd L) and Myanmar's Opposition Leader Aung San Suu Kyi listen to President Barack Obama deliver remarks at the University of Yangon, November 19, 2012. REUTERS/Jason Reed



US President Barack Obama concluded his 30 minutes speech at the University of Yangon during his historical first visit to the country on November 19, 2012 in Yangon, Myanmar.



YANGON, MYANMAR - NOVEMBER 19: US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (L) listens alongside Aung San Suu Kyi as US President Barack Obama speaks at the University of Yangon during his historical first visit to the country on November 19, 2012 in Yangon, Myanmar.

“ခင်ဗျားတို့၊ ကျနော်တို့မှာရှိတဲ့ ဂုဏ်သိက္ခာမျိုး
ရိုဟင်ဂျာလူမျိုးတွေမှာလည်း ရှိကြပါတယ်။”

အမေရိကန် သမ္မတကြီး

ဘာရတ်က်ဟူဇ်ဒ်နိုဘီဘားမား

ရန်ကုန်တက္ကသိုလ်

၂၀၁၂ ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလ (၁၉) ရက်၊

တနင်္လာနေ့

“ဒါပေမဲ့ အပြစ်မဲ့ ပြည်သူတွေကို အကြမ်းဖက်မှုတွေအဖို့ ဘာဆင်ခြေမှ ပေးနေလို့ ရမှာ မဟုတ်ဘူး။
ခင်ဗျားတို့၊ ကျနော်တို့မှာ ရှိတဲ့ ဂုဏ်သိက္ခာမျိုး ရိုဟင်ဂျာလူမျိုးတွေမှာလည်း ရှိကြပါတယ်။
အမျိုးသားပြန်လည်သင့်မြတ်ရေးအတွက် အချိန်ယူရမယ်။ ဒါဟာ ကျနော်တို့အားလုံးရဲ့တူညီတဲ့
လူသားဖြစ်တည်မှုနဲ့ ဒီနိုင်ငံရဲ့အနာဂတ်အတွက်ပါဘဲ။ ဒါကြောင့် သွေးထိုးလှုံ့ဆော်မှုတွေနဲ့
အကြမ်းဖက်မှုတွေကို ရပ်တန့်တ ရပ်ကြရမယ်။”

အမေရိကန် သမ္မတကြီး

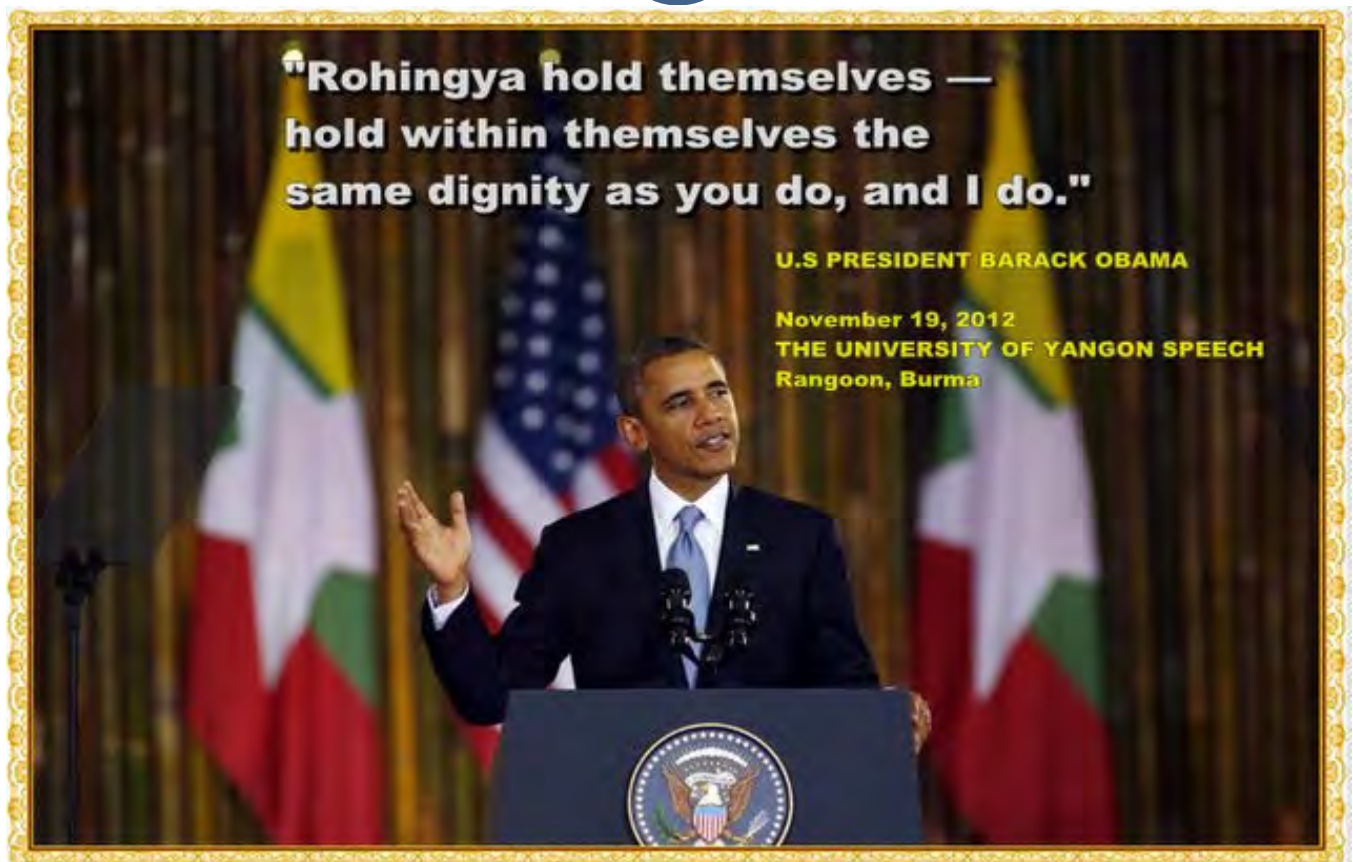
ဘာရတ်က်ဟူဇ်ဒ်နိုဘီဘားမား

ရန်ကုန်တက္ကသိုလ်

ရန်ကုန်မြို့တော်၊ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ။

၂၀၁၂ ခုနှစ်၊ နိုဝင်ဘာလ (၁၉) ရက်

ချစ်မြေ



Obama speaks out for Rohingya Muslims

By: [AFP](#) | Tuesday, November 20, 2012 *The Nation*

YANGON - US President Barack Obama in his historic speech in Myanmar said Monday there was no excuse for violence against innocent Rohingya people and they held the same dignity as the other people were enjoying in Myanmar. Obama urged an end to sectarian unrest in the western state of Rakhine. *"For too long, the people of this state, including ethnic Rakhine, have faced crushing poverty and persecution. But there's no excuse for violence against innocent people, and the Rohingya hold within themselves the same dignity as you do, and I do,"* Obama said in his address at Yangon University. *"National reconciliation will take time, but for the sake of our common humanity, and for the sake of this country's future, it is necessary to stop the incitement and to stop violence,"* he added. Two major outbreaks of violence since June between Muslims and ethnic Rakhine Buddhists in the state have left 180 people dead and more than 110,000 displaced. Most of those who fled their homes were stateless Rohingya Muslims, who have faced decades of discrimination. *"Today, we look at the recent violence in Rakhine state that has caused so much suffering, and we see the danger of continued tensions there,"* Obama said.

Myanmar's reformist government is under pressure to give citizenship to the Rohingya as it comes under international scrutiny, with warnings that the conflict threatens its democratic transition. Obama urged Myanmar to hasten its "remarkable" reforms on a visit during which he was feted by huge crowds and met Aung San Suu Kyi at the home where she was long locked up. The trip, the first to Myanmar by a serving US president, came as the regime freed dozens more political prisoners to burnish its reform credentials and after the United States joined other Western powers in relaxing its sanctions.

After a red-carpet welcome for Air Force One, Obama met Myanmar's reformist President Thein Sein and called on the former general to speed up the country's march out of decades of iron-fisted military rule. "Over the last

year and a half, a dramatic transition has begun, as a dictatorship of five decades has loosened its grip,” Obama said afterwards in a major address at Yangon University during his whirlwind visit. “This remarkable journey has just begun, and has much further to go,” he said. “The flickers of progress that we have seen must not be extinguished. They must be strengthened. ”Over the past few decades, “our two countries became strangers”, added Obama, who is on his foreign trip since winning re-election this month.

“But today, I can tell you that we always remained hopeful about the people of this country. About you. You gave us hope. And we bore witness to your courage.” In once unthinkable scenes, Obama’s motorcade passed tens of thousands of flag-waving supporters – some chanting “America” – lining the streets of Yangon, the backdrop for several bloody crackdowns on pro-democracy uprisings. Obama removed his shoes during a brief visit to Shwedagon Pagoda, a gold-plated spire encrusted with diamonds and rubies that is the spiritual centre of Burmese Buddhism. He later stood side by side with democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi at the lakeside villa where his fellow Nobel laureate languished for years under house arrest, as the presidential limousine sat parked outside. Crowds could be heard chanting “Obama, freedom” in the streets nearby. Suu Kyi for her part sounded a note of caution about the sweeping changes. “The most difficult time in any transition is when we think that success is in sight,” she said. “We have to be very careful that we’re not lured by the mirage of success.”

The White House hopes Obama’s visit to Myanmar will strengthen Thein Sein’s reform drive, which saw Suu Kyi enter parliament after her rivals in the junta made way for a nominally civilian government. The trip is seen as a political coup for Obama after his election victory and a major boost for Thein Sein, who has faced resistance from hardliners within his regime to the rapid political changes. Obama has stressed his visit is not an “endorsement” of the regime but “an acknowledgement” of the reform process.

Some human rights groups said Obama should have waited longer to visit, arguing that he could have dangled the prospect of a trip as leverage to seek more progress such as the release of scores of remaining political prisoners. The setting for the speech was rich in symbolism. The university was the scene of past episodes of pro-democratic student unrest, including mass demonstrations in 1988 that ended in a bloody military crackdown. Obama flew on to Cambodia to attend a regional summit gathering the leaders of 18 countries. During the two-day East Asia Summit, he is scheduled to hold talks with the leaders of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations along with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Japan’s Yoshihiko Noda.

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