BURMA BULLETIN

A month-in-review of events in Burma

ALTERNATIVE ASEAN NETWORK ON BURMA
campaigns, advocacy & capacity-building for human rights & democracy

Issue 76 **April 2013**

- **More evidence emerges of brutal anti-Muslim attacks in Mandalay Division's Meikhtila in March, including the massacre of students at an Islamic boarding school in full view of police.**
- **Despite the overwhelmingly anti-Muslim nature of attacks perpetrated by Buddhist mobs, the regime is quick to prosecute and jail Muslim individuals.**
- **Over 8,000 Muslim IDPs in Meikhtila remain sheltered in prison-like camps that are off-limits to journalists.**
- **Human Rights Watch accuses the regime of involvement in crimes against humanity and the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya in Arakan State.**
- **Regime-appointed commission's report on Arakan State unrest fails to hold anyone accountable for human rights abuses and calls for increased militarization of the region, temporary segregation of Muslims and Buddhists, and birth control programs for Muslims.**
- **Tatmadaw troops target and displace civilians during their offensive against the Shan State Army-North in Northern Shan State. Tatmadaw troops also continue offensives against the Kachin Independence Army.**
- **Regime uses violence and files criminal charges against villagers who continue to oppose harmful development projects in various parts of Burma.**
- **EU ignores its own benchmarks for reform in Burma and decides to lift remaining sanctions, except for an arms embargo.**
- **President Thein Sein approves large Chinese enterprises and projects during meetings with Chinese political and business leaders in China.**

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KEY STORY

While the regime restored order in areas of Mandalay and Pegu Divisions affected by the religious violence in March, the situation remained volatile and Muslim communities remained wary of possible attacks by extremist Buddhist mobs.[1] According to an 88 Generation Student representative in Meikhtila, Mandalay Division, as of 17 April, there had been at least eight arson attempts by unknown assailants after the regime restored calm in late March.[2] On 30 April, Buddhist mobs ransacked two

[1] AFP (14 Apr 13) Myanmar's Muslims fear toxic fallout of reform; Irrawaddy (23 Apr 13) Seven Muslims Accused of Killing Monk Face Trial in Meikhtila
[2] DVB (22 Apr 13) Meikhtila locals remain in shelters amid security concerns

mosques and set ablaze more than 100 Muslim-owned homes, killing one person and injuring at least nine in Okkan, Taikgyi Township, Rangoon Division.[3]

Over 8,000 Muslim IDPs in Meikhtila remained sheltered in seven prison-like camps that are off-limits to journalists.[4] Police at a camp holding more than 1,600 IDPs said they had orders to stop IDPs from leaving.[5]

Evidence of killings, police inaction emerges

On 3 April, the regime said that 44 people had been killed during riots in Meikhtila, Mandalay Division.[6] More evidence emerged of murderous anti-Muslim attacks carried out by extremist Buddhist mobs.

- **5 April**: US-based Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) urged the regime to launch an independent investigation into reports of a massacre of 32 Muslim students (aged between 14 and 24) and four teachers during a mob attack on an Islamic boarding school in Meikhtila's Mingalar Zayone quarter on 21 March.[7] People's Assembly NLD MP Win Htein, who witnessed the killing of eight people during the attack, said that "police stood and watched" as violence unfolded.[8]
- **22 April**: The BBC released a video clip that showed police officers standing by while Buddhist rioters destroyed Muslim property and attacked and killed Muslim residents in Meikhtila in late March.[9]

Muslims prosecuted, jailed

On 3 April, the regime said that authorities had arrested 142 people in connection with the late March violence in Central Burma.[10] Despite the overwhelmingly anti-Muslim nature of attacks perpetrated by Buddhist mobs, the regime was quick to prosecute and jail Muslim individuals.

- **11 April**: A court in Meikhtila Township, Mandalay Division, sentenced three Muslims (the owner of a gold shop, his wife, and an employee) to 14 years in prison each for their involvement in a brawl with Buddhist customers on 20 March in Meikhtila - the incident which allegedly sparked the deadly riots in the town.[11]
- **22 April**: A closed-door trial of seven Muslims accused of the 20 March killing of 45-year-old Buddhist monk U Thawbita in Meikhtila, Mandalay Division, began at a Meikhtila District Court.[12]
- **23 April**: A court in Kyaukkyi Township, Pegu Division, sentenced a 42-year-old Muslim man to two years in prison on charges of "insulting" religion, after he removed a '969' sticker from a local shop.[13]

Rangoon remains tense after Muslim school fire

On 2 April, tensions rose in Rangoon after an early morning fire at a Muslim boarding school in Rangoon's Botataung Township killed 13 children.[14] The regime deployed riot police after around 150

[3] AP (01 May 13) Several Myanmar villages burned as new anti-Muslim violence kills 1, injures at least 9
[4] Reuters (30 Apr 13) Muslim victims of Myanmar unrest face uncertain future
[5] Reuters (30 Apr 13) Muslim victims of Myanmar unrest face uncertain future
[6] Ministry of Foreign Affairs (03 Apr 13) Briefing by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin to the diplomatic corps on record incidents
[7] PHR (05 Apr 13) Burma's Leaders Should Take Steps to Investigate and Prevent Anti-Muslim Violence; Irrawaddy (09 Apr 13) 32 Students Allegedly Massacred in Recent Meikhtila Violence
[8] Irrawaddy (09 Apr 13) 32 Students Allegedly Massacred in Recent Meikhtila Violence
[9] BBC (22 Apr 13) Burma riots: Video shows police failing to stop attack
[10] Ministry of Foreign Affairs (03 Apr 13) Briefing by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin to the diplomatic corps on record incidents
[11] Xinhua (12 Apr 13) Myanmar court sentences 3 defendants to prison for Meikhtila riot; Irrawaddy (12 Apr 13) Muslim Gold Shop Owners Imprisoned for Meikhtila Unrest
[12] Myanmar Times (24 Apr 13) Second hearing begins in Meiktila trial; Irrawaddy (23 Apr 13) Seven Muslims Accused of Killing Monk Face Trial in Meikhtila; EMG (26 Apr 13) Seven suspects on trial for killing a Buddhist monk; AP (12 Apr 13) Myanmar sentences 3 Muslims to 14-year prison terms after last month's sectarian violence
[13] DVB (25 Apr 13) Muslim jailed for removing Buddhist logo from shop
[14] Xinhua (02 Apr 13) 13 children confirmed killed in mosque school fire in Myanmar's Yangon

Muslims gathered outside the burned building suspecting that the fire had been deliberately set.[15] On 3 April, the regime formed a seven-member commission tasked with determining the cause of the fire.[16] After a hasty investigation, on 10 April, Rangoon Division Chief Minister Myint Swe announced the commission's findings.[17] He said that the commission concluded that the fire was caused by an "overheated voltage regulator" and that regime authorities would charge two of the school's administrators with negligence.[18]

Activists and prominent Buddhist monks promote tolerance

In stark contrast to the regime's failure to tackle anti-Muslim propaganda spread by the '969' movement, grassroots activists actively campaigned to promote peace and tolerance among Buddhist and Muslim communities.[19] In early April, activists with the 'Pray for Myanmar' group began distributing thousands of stickers and t-shirts promoting religious tolerance in Rangoon and Mandalay.[20] In addition, prominent Buddhist monks spoke out against the '969' anti-Muslim campaign and other religious leaders stepped up activities that promoted inter-faith dialogue.[21]

Ongoing int'l concern over anti-Muslim violence

In April, three Muslim-majority countries as well as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) issued statements regarding the March anti-Muslim violence in Central Burma.

- **1 April**: The Egyptian Foreign Ministry expressed concern over the "systematic targeting" of Muslims during the violence and called on the regime to enforce the rule of law, hold perpetrators accountable, and protect the lives and properties of Muslim minorities in Burma.[22]
- **1 April**: The Malaysian Foreign Ministry expressed concern over the violence and called on all parties to refrain from actions that would aggravate the situation.[23]
- **14 April**: The OIC described the violence against Muslims in Burma as "unacceptable" and called on the regime to allow an OIC ministerial delegation to visit the country.[24] The OIC also urged the UN Human Rights Council to dispatch a fact-finding mission to Burma.[25]
- **14 April**: Turkish FM Ahmet Davutoglu said that attacks on Muslims in Central Burma were "highly planned" and that security forces did not stop such incidents.[26]

INSIDE BURMA

Regime accused of ethnic cleansing of Rohingya

In April, the release of two reports concerning the 2012 unrest in Arakan State presented significantly different views of those events.

On 22 April, Human Rights Watch released a report titled, "All you can do is pray."[27] The report documented the regime's involvement in, and responsibility for, crimes against humanity and the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya in Arakan State. Key findings of the report included:[28]

[15] AP (02 Apr 13) Electrical fire kills 13 children at Yangon mosque that sheltered orphans, Myanmar police say
[16] NLM (03 Apr 13) Formation of Investigation Team
[17] NLM (11 Apr 13) Findings of investigation committee over Yekyaw mosque fire briefed
[18] DVB (11 Apr 13) Government to prosecute two administrators following school fire
[19] Reuters (10 Apr 13) Fear stalks Yangon's Muslims after Buddhist-led killings; Irrawaddy (09 Apr 13) Govt Admits Not Doing Anything to Stop Sales of Anti-Muslim Propaganda; Irrawaddy (23 Apr 13) Seven Muslims Accused of Killing Monk Face Trial in Meikhtila; AP (28 Apr 13) PORTRAITS: New numerology of hate grows in Myanmar
[20] CNA (10 Apr 13) Youths in Myanmar start peace campaign in wake of unrest; DVB (05 Apr 13) Activists launch anti-racism campaign in Burma; IRIN (19 Apr 13) Promoting peace amid Myanmar's sectarian violence
[21] Myanmar Times (10 Apr 13) Monks speak out against misuse of '969'; Reuters (10 Apr 13) Fear stalks Yangon's Muslims after Buddhist-led killings; CNA (17 Apr 13) Educating citizens about different religions crucial, say inter-faith groups in Myanmar
[22] Daily News (01 Apr 13) Egypt condemns renewed violence against Muslims in Myanmar
[23] Bernama (02 Apr 13) Only Essential Travel To Myanmar's Mandalay, Bago Divisions - Malaysian Embassy
[24] AFP (15 Apr 13) OIC urges Myanmar to allow delegation
[25] AFP (15 Apr 13) OIC urges Myanmar to allow delegation
[26] Anadolu Angency (14 Apr 13) Turkish foreign minister warns Myanmar violence risks regional escalation
[27] VOA (22 Apr 13) HRW Accuses Burma of Ethnic Cleansing

- Local Rakhine political party members, Buddhist monks, and ordinary Rakhine organized, incited, and committed attacks against Rohingya.
- Rohingya men, women, and children were killed, some were buried in mass graves, and their villages and neighborhoods were razed.
- Regime security forces frequently stood aside during attacks or directly supported the assailants, committing killings and other abuses.
- The regime failed to take any serious steps to determine the individuals responsible for the attacks or to prevent future outbreaks of violence.

On 29 April, the regime-appointed commission tasked with investigating the Arakan State unrest released its long-overdue report.[29] The report, which refused to acknowledge Rohingya identity and only referred to them as 'Bengali', failed to hold anyone accountable for human rights abuses committed during the violence.[30] It said that "rapid population growth" among Muslims in Arakan State had undermined the peaceful coexistence between Buddhists and Muslims.[31] As a result, the report recommended implementing birth control programs for Muslims.[32] The report said that the "temporary separation" of the two communities should continue and recommended doubling the security presence in the region "to control and prevent" further violence.[33] It also made the bizarre recommendation that authorities should use the 1982 Citizenship Law - under which the overwhelming majority of Rohingya would not be considered as citizens - to determine whether they should be granted citizenship.[34]

Regime cracks down on pipeline and copper mine protests

In April, the regime used violence and filed criminal charges against villagers who opposed harmful projects implemented by Chinese companies in cooperation with the regime in various parts of Burma.

Monywa copper mine: Shots fired, protesters beaten and detained

On 3 April, the regime-appointed committee for the implementation of the Monywa copper mine report's recommendations said it had received 177 complaints by local farmers in Salingyi Township, Sagaing Division, who rejected compensation for land confiscation.[35] According to official figures, as of 26 April, 676 farmers had received a total of two billion kyat (US$2.3 million) for 2,018 acres - or 25% - of the confiscated land.[36] However, many farmers adversely affected by the Monywa copper mine continued to refuse compensation and demonstrated against the mine's operations.[37]

- **5 April**: About 500 villagers from the area near the Monywa copper mine in Salingyi Township rallied to demand an end to the mine's operations and accountability for regime authorities responsible for the 29 November crackdown against protesters.[38]
- **23 April**: About 100 farmers in Sete Village, Salingyi Township, began plowing the land that regime authorities had confiscated for the Monywa copper mine's expansion project.[39]

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[28] HRW (22 Apr 13) All You Can Do is Pray - Crimes Against Humanity and Ethnic Cleansing of Rohingya Muslims in Burma's Arakan State
[29] AFP (29 Apr 13) Myanmar's strife-torn region needs aid, troops: report; RFA (29 Apr 13) Rakhine Report Recommends Security, Aid Boost
[30] RFA (29 Apr 13) Rakhine Report Recommends Security, Aid Boost
[31] AP (29 Apr 13) Myanmar government panel recommends family planning, security boost to stem sectarian clashes; BBC (29 Apr 13) Burma report backs security boost for Rakhine; RFA (29 Apr 13) Rakhine Report Recommends Security, Aid Boost
[32] AP (29 Apr 13) Myanmar government panel recommends family planning, security boost to stem sectarian clashes; BBC (29 Apr 13) Burma report backs security boost for Rakhine
[33] AP (29 Apr 13) Myanmar government panel recommends family planning, security boost to stem sectarian clashes; AFP (29 Apr 13) Myanmar's strife-torn region needs aid, troops: report; BBC (29 Apr 13) Burma report backs security boost for Rakhine
[34] Reuters (29 Apr 13) Myanmar should deploy more troops in volatile state –commission; Irrawaddy (29 Apr 13) Use Controversial Citizenship Law to Assess Rohingya's Rights: Govt Report
[35] NLM (04 Apr 13) Committee for implementation of report of investigation commission on Letpadaungtaung copper mine project - Press Release No. 1/2013; Irrawaddy (04 Apr 13) Letpadaung Farmers Reject Compensation
[36] NLM (27 Apr 13) Committee meets to proceed with report on Letpadaungtaung copper mine; NLM (04 Apr 13) Committee for implementation of report of investigation commission on Letpadaungtaung copper mine project - Press Release No. 1/2013
[37] Irrawaddy (04 Apr 13) Letpadaung Farmers Reject Compensation
[38] Mizzima News (08 Apr 13) Residents continue to protest over Latpadaung project
[39] AP (25 Apr 13) Myanmar activists: 7 injured in mine crackdown; DVB (25 Apr 13) Police crackdown on 'plough protestors' near Latpadaung; EMG (27 Apr 13) One shot and several injured in freshly Letpadaungtaung clashes

- **25 April**: Police in Sete Village, Salingyi Township, fired shots and used batons to disperse farmers who were plowing land.[40] At least seven villagers were injured in the crackdown.[41] Police also arrested two villagers and activist Aung Soe.[42]
- **26 April**: Several hundred residents of Tone Village, Salingyi Township, rallied to demand an end to the Monywa copper mine's expansion project and the release of the two villagers and the activist detained during the 25 April crackdown.[43]
- **29 April**: About 500 residents of Tone Village, Salingyi Township, rallied to mark the five month anniversary of the 29 November crackdown.[44] Demonstrators urged the regime to take action against those responsible for the crackdown and demanded an end to the Monywa copper mine's operations.[45]
- **29 April**: It was reported that police in Sagaing Division announced they would charge eight activists for inciting the latest protests against the Monywa copper mine.[46]

Kyaukpyu-Kunming pipeline: Criminal charges filed against peaceful protesters

In April, activists in Arakan and Shan States renewed their opposition to the Kyaukpyu-Kunming oil and gas dual pipeline built by China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and highlighted the project's negative impact on local communities, including safety issues.

- **9 April**: At a press conference in Rangoon, the Ta'ang Students and Youth Organization (TSYO) said that the regime had not yet provided compensation to over one-third of Shan State residents displaced by the project.[47] TSYO also expressed concern over the Kyaukpyu-Kunming oil and gas dual pipeline's safety following reports of two explosions along the pipeline in Namkham and Namtu Townships, Northern Shan State, during safety inspections in February and March.[48]
- **18 April**: Several hundred Maday Island residents demonstrated against the Kyaukpyu-Kunming oil and gas dual pipeline in Kyaukpyu Township, Arakan State.[49] Protesters demanded CNPC provide adequate compensation for land confiscation, higher salaries for local workers, and better electricity supply and roads in the area.[50] They also protested the loss of livelihood for local fisherman due to environmental degradation caused by the project.[51]
- **19 April**: Police in Kyaukpyu Township, Arakan State, charged 10 local villagers under the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law for participating in the 18 April protest without obtaining prior official permission.[52] Protest organizers said they went ahead with the demonstration after regime authorities twice refused to grant a protest permit.[53]

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[40] AFP (25 Apr 13) Police crack down on Myanmar mine protest: activists; AP (25 Apr 13) Myanmar activists: 7 injured in mine crackdown; Irrawaddy (25 Apr 13) Letpadaung Farmers Beaten, Shot at for Plowing Fields; DVB (25 Apr 13) Police crackdown on 'plough protestors' near Latpadaung; Mizzima News (26 Apr 13) Latpadaung villager shot as police clash with locals

[41] AP (25 Apr 13) Myanmar activists: 7 injured in mine crackdown

[42] AP (25 Apr 13) Myanmar activists: 7 injured in mine crackdown; RFA (25 Apr 13) Protesting Letpadaung Farmers Injured in New Crackdown; Myanmar Times (29 Apr 13) Monks step in to avert clashes at mine site

[43] RFA (26 Apr 13) Hundreds March to Press for Letpadaung Protesters' Release; Irrawaddy (26 Apr 13) Protesters Demand Release of Detainees at Letpadaung Mine

[44] RFA (29 Apr 13) Hundreds Demand Probe of Burmese Mine Crackdown Five Months On; Irrawaddy (29 Apr 13) Letpadaung Outrage Grows in Northwest Burma and Rangoon

[45] RFA (29 Apr 13) Hundreds Demand Probe of Burmese Mine Crackdown Five Months On; Irrawaddy (29 Apr 13) Letpadaung Outrage Grows in Northwest Burma and Rangoon

[46] AHRC (29 Apr 13) BURMA: Criminalization of rights defenders and impunity for police; RFA (29 Apr 13) Hundreds Demand Probe of Burmese Mine Crackdown Five Months On

[47] Irrawaddy (09 Apr 13) Shwe Pipeline Explosions Highlight Safety Concerns; Irrawaddy (10 Apr 13) Shan Farmers Claim Govt Siphoned Off Shwe Gas Pipeline Compensation

[48] Irrawaddy (09 Apr 13) Shwe Pipeline Explosions Highlight Safety Concerns; EMG (10 Apr 13) Explosions rattle villagers near pipeline route in Shan State

[49] RFA (18 Apr 13) Hundreds Protest Pipeline in Burma's Rakhine State; Mizzima News (19 Apr 13) Maday Islanders protest Chinese pipeline; Narinjara News (20 Apr 13) Demonstration against Chinese CNPC company in Arakan; EMG (20 Apr 13) Locals demonstrate against Myanmar-China pipelines company

[50] RFA (18 Apr 13) Hundreds Protest Pipeline in Burma's Rakhine State; Mizzima News (19 Apr 13) Maday Islanders protest Chinese pipeline; Narinjara News (20 Apr 13) Demonstration against Chinese CNPC company in Arakan; EMG (20 Apr 13) Locals demonstrate against Myanmar-China pipelines company

[51] RFA (18 Apr 13) Hundreds Protest Pipeline in Burma's Rakhine State; Mizzima News (19 Apr 13) Maday Islanders protest Chinese pipeline; Narinjara News (20 Apr 13) Demonstration against Chinese CNPC company in Arakan; EMG (20 Apr 13) Locals demonstrate against Myanmar-China pipelines company

[52] Mizzima News (23 Apr 13) 10 Maday islanders charged following pipeline protest; Narinjara News (23 Apr 13) 10 villagers charged with staging illegal a demonstration against CNPC; Myanmar Times (25 Apr 13) Ten charged over anti-CNPC protest

[53] RFA (18 Apr 13) Hundreds Protest Pipeline in Burma's Rakhine State; Narinjara News (23 Apr 13) 10 villagers charged with staging illegal a demonstration against CNPC; Myanmar Times (25 Apr 13) Ten charged over anti-CNPC protest

Tatmadaw targets civilians, displaces 2,000 in Shan State

In April, the Tatmadaw continued its offensive against the Shan State Army-North (SSA-N), with attacks focused on SSA-N positions in Tangyan Township, Northern Shan State. From 15-16 April, Tatmadaw troops clashed with SSA-N forces in Loi Zay, Naungmo, and Lwejal Villages in Tangyan Township.[54] Tatmadaw troops committed serious human rights abuses against civilians during military operations.

- **14 April**: A Tatmadaw soldier from IB 17 raped an eight-year-old girl in Namlan, Tangyan Township.[55]
- **14-15 April**: Tatmadaw troops from IBs 33, 41, 136 and LIBs 291, 322, 326, 507, 508, and 523 detained and severely beat 19 villagers suspected of supporting SSA-N forces in nine villages in Tangyan Township.[56]
- **15 April**:
  - Tatmadaw troops used a group of about 50 youths as human shields by forcing them to walk in front and behind a military column from Nam Lao to Mong Kao Villages in Tangyan Township.[57]
  - Tatmadaw artillery fire injured a 16-year-old boy and an 18-month-old toddler in Kiew Hsai and Kiew Kong Lom Villages in Tangyan Township.[58]
  - Tatmadaw troops from LIB 291 and IB 33 fired over 40 mortar shells at Nam Lao and Nam Hu Kheo Villages in Tangyan Township, damaging a school and a house.[59]
  - The Commander of Tatmadaw IB 33 summoned headmen of seven villages in Tangyan Township, and threatened to burn their villages and forcibly relocate the over 3,000 residents if there was any military activity by the SSA-N in the area.[60]

On 22 April, it was reported that almost 2,000 people had fled to Tangyan to escape Tatmadaw attacks and abuses in their villages.[61]

Fighting continues in Kachin State; aid still blocked

Despite regime and Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) delegations pledging to hold further talks before 10 April during the last round of talks in March [See *March 2013 Burma Bulletin*], the two sides failed to meet during the month. Tatmadaw troops continued to attack Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) positions in Kachin and Northern Shan States.

- **1 April**: Tatmadaw troops from IB 45 attacked TNLA forces near Man Pang, Hsipaw Township, Northern Shan State.[62]
- **1 April**: Tatmadaw troops clashed with TNLA forces near Long Gam, Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State.[63]
- **10 April**: Tatmadaw troops from LIB 240 clashed with KIA forces near Mansi, Kachin State.[64]
- **11 April**: Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces in Hpakant Township, Kachin State.[65]

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[54] SHAN (17 Apr 13) Burma army, Shan rebels renew clashes during Myanmar New Year; EMG (22 Apr 13) Ongoing skirmish leaves two injured
[55] SHAN (22 Apr 13) Stop rapes: Shan women demand
[56] SHRF (22 Apr 13) Summary of human rights violations committed by Burma Army troops during military offensive in Tang Yan, Shan State, from 14-15 April 2013
[57] SHRF (22 Apr 13) Summary of human rights violations committed by Burma Army troops during military offensive in Tang Yan, Shan State, from 14-15 April 2013
[58] SHRF (22 Apr 13) Summary of human rights violations committed by Burma Army troops during military offensive in Tang Yan, Shan State, from 14-15 April 2013
[59] SHRF (22 Apr 13) Summary of human rights violations committed by Burma Army troops during military offensive in Tang Yan, Shan State, from 14-15 April 2013
[60] SHRF (22 Apr 13) Summary of human rights violations committed by Burma Army troops during military offensive in Tang Yan, Shan State, from 14-15 April 2013
[61] SHRF (22 Apr 13) Summary of human rights violations from 14-15 April 2013
[62] Free Burma Rangers (13 Apr 13) FBR Report: Attacks Continue as the Burma Army Maneuvers in Kachin State
[63] Kachinland News (02 Apr 13) Burmese army increases troops as the two sides prepare for talk
[64] Kachinland News (13 Apr 13) Burmese government soldiers set forest fires near KIA frontline posts
[65] Free Burma Rangers (13 Apr 13) FBR Report: Attacks Continue as the Burma Army Maneuvers in Kachin State

- **11 April**: Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces in Tang Hpre, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State.[66]
- **25 April**: Tatmadaw troops attacked KIA positions in Loi Kangmong, Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State.[67]
- **25 Apri**l: Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces in the Pangwa area of Chipwi Township, Kachin State.[68]

No UN deliveries of aid to Kachin IDPs were reported in April. On 23 April, a UN spokesperson in Rangoon said that although the regime had agreed "in principle" to allow the UN to deliver humanitarian aid to IDPs in KIA-held areas of Kachin State, official permission had not yet been granted.[69] The regime has only permitted four UN deliveries of aid to KIA-held areas of Kachin State since the conflict began in June 2011.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Political prisoners released, at least 176 still imprisoned

In April, the regime once again freed only a limited number of dissidents in its latest mass release of prisoners - the ninth since the dissolution of the SPDC. On 23 April, President Thein Sein ordered the release of 93 inmates from prisons across the country.[70] Among those freed in the amnesty were 59 political prisoners.[71] They included 40 Shan State National Army (SSNA) members, All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF) member Zaw Moe, Mon activist Min Zaw, and two Rakhine student activists.[72] Several civil-society representatives who sit on the regime-appointed Political Prisoner Review Committee criticized Naypyidaw for failing to release many dissidents identified by the committee as political prisoners.[73] According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), 176 political prisoners remain behind bars.[74]

Thein Sein's mass releases of prisoners

Date	Total prisoners	Political prisoners
16 May 11	14,578	58
12 Oct 11	6,359	240
4 Jan 12	6,656	36
13 Jan 12	651	302
3 Jul 12	80	25
17 Sep 12	514	88
15 Nov 12	452	0
16 Nov 12	66	51
23 Apr 13	93	59
Total	**29,449**	**859**

Sources: NLM; AAPP

DISPLACEMENT

Rohingya boat people continue to flee; UN "seriously concerned" for Rohingya IDPs

In April, Rohingya boat people continued to flee to Burma's regional neighbors.

- **5 April**: Indonesian police detained 35 Rohingya in Surabaya, East Java, who had planned to make the sea journey to Australia.[75]
- **6 April**: A boat carrying 20-30 boat people, most of whom were Rohingya attempting to make the journey to Malaysia, capsized off the coast of Teknaf, Bangladesh.[76]

[66] Free Burma Rangers (13 Apr 13) FBR Report: Attacks Continue as the Burma Army Maneuvers in Kachin State
[67] SHAN (26 Apr 13) Burmese military launching two parallel campaigns
[68] Kachinland News (29 Apr 13) Kachin troops continue fight against Burmese army and forest fires
[69] Irrawaddy (24 Apr 13) Kachin Relief Hampered by Concern for Safety of Aid Convoys, Travel Prohibitions
[70] AP (23 Apr 13) Myanmar pardons 93, including political prisoners; NLM (24 Apr 13) Amnesty granted for 93 prisoners; Xinhua (23 Apr 13) Myanmar releases some 93 prisoners
[71] AP (23 Apr 13) Myanmar pardons 93, including political prisoners
[72] RFA (23 Apr 13) Scores of Political Prisoners Freed in Latest Burmese Amnesty; AP (23 Apr 13) Myanmar pardons 93, including political prisoners; Irrawaddy (23 Apr 13) Burma Govt Releases 59 Political Prisoners, Former MMT Shareholder; Mizzima News (25 Apr 13) Amnesty favored some Shan groups, but not others; Narinjara News (25 Apr 13) 2 Arakanese political prisoners released with presidential amnesty; EMG (24 Apr 13) Amnesty granted to 93 prisoners in Myanmar
[73] EMG (22 Apr 13) President Office's committee for political prisoners criticized by its members; EMG (24 Apr 13) Amnesty granted to 93 prisoners in Myanmar; Myanmar Times (25 Apr 13) Prisoner release draws criticism from activists; EMG (27 Apr 13) Govt goes its own way in political prisoners' release: committee members
[74] Mizzima News (29 Apr 13) Ex-political prisoners readapt to freedom
[75] AFP (08 Apr 13) Indonesia detains 80 Rohingya near remote islands
[76] Kaladan News (07 Apr 13) Boat capsizes, one dies and two missing

- **7 April**: Indonesian police detained 80 Rohingya boat people off the coast of Sumatra who became lost while attempting to make the journey to Malaysia.[77]
- **7 April**: Bangladeshi authorities near Saint Martin's Island in the Bay of Bengal detained 24 boat people, mostly Rohingya, who were attempting to make the journey to Malaysia.[78]
- **15 April**: Indonesian authorities detained 16 asylum seekers from Burma, including Rohingya, who were hiding on an offshore fishing trap after originally leaving Burma on a boat headed for Australia.[79]

In Arakan State, Rohingya IDPs remained highly vulnerable ahead of the May-September rainy season. On 19 April, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said it was "seriously concerned" over the more than 60,000 Rohingya IDPs living in makeshift shelters in flood-prone areas of Arakan State.[80] UNHCR called for "urgent action" to improve conditions for IDPs and urged Burma's regime to immediately address shelter, water, and sanitation needs to avert a potential "humanitarian catastrophe."[81]

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Daw Suu goes to Japan, calls for review of Burma's Citizenship laws

On 12 April, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi left Burma for a seven-day trip to Japan.[89] During her visit, Daw Suu met with several top Japanese officials, including PM Shinzo Abe, FM Fumio Kishida, and Justice Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki. [See table *Daw Suu's Japan visit*].

Daw Suu's Japan visit

13 April: Arrived in Tokyo, where she met with members of the Burmese community.[82]
14 April: Traveled to Kyoto.[83]
15 April: Gave a speech at Kyoto's Ryukoku University, where she received an honorary doctorate.[84]
16 April: In Tokyo, she held separate meetings with Japanese FM Fumio Kishida, House of Councilors President Kenji Hirata, and Crown Prince Naruhito.[85]
17 April: In Tokyo, she gave a speech at Tokyo University and held a press conference at the Japan National Press Club.[86]
18 April: In Tokyo, she held separate meetings with Japanese PM Shinzo Abe, Justice Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki, and House of Representatives Speaker Bunmei Ibuki.[87]
19 April: Returned to Burma.[88]

On 17 April, during a press conference in Tokyo, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi touched upon some of Burma's current hot political issues. Regarding the issue of citizenship for Rohingya, Daw Suu called on President Thein Sein's administration to review Burma's citizenship laws to ensure their compliance with international standards.[90] Daw Suu added that the condition of Muslims in Burma was "a very sad state of affairs" due to their lack of security.[91] Daw

[77] AFP (08 Apr 13) Indonesia detains 80 Rohingya near remote islands
[78] Kaladan News (08 Apr 13) Bangladesh Navy arrests 24 boat-people in Bay of Bengal
[79] Jakarta Post (16 Apr 13) Mauk Police net 16 migrants from Myanmar
[80] UNHCR (19 Apr 13) As the monsoon approaches, fears rise for displaced in Myanmar's Rakhine state
[81] UNHCR (19 Apr 13) As the monsoon approaches, fears rise for displaced in Myanmar's Rakhine state
[82] Xinhua (13 Apr 13) Myanmar's Suu Kyi starts 1st visit to Japan in 27 years; AP (13 Apr 13) Suu Kyi meets with people from Myanmar in Japan; EMG (15 Apr 13) Constitution needs to have transparency, says Suu Kyi
[83] Kyodo News (15 Apr 13) Suu Kyi travels to Kyoto on second day of Japan visit
[84] Xinhua (15 Apr 13) Suu Kyi stresses loving-kindness to change society in Japan's Kyoto
[85] EMG (18 Apr 13) Suu Kyi calls for Japanese support for Myanmar's democratization; Kyodo News (16 Apr 13) Suu Kyi visits Japanese parliament
[86] Reuters (17 Apr 13) Myanmar's Suu Kyi says no easy answer to sectarian violence; Japan Times (18 Apr 13) Suu Kyi hopes to surmount obstacles to presidency
[87] Kyodo News (19 Apr 13) Suu Kyi takes in Japan's top technologies; Japan Times (19 Apr 13) Suu Kyi pays visit to Abe; EMG (20 Apr 13) Suu Kyi returns from Japan
[88] EMG (20 Apr 13) Suu Kyi returns from Japan
[89] Xinhua (12 Apr 13) Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi leaves for Japan; AP (12 Apr 13) Suu Kyi visit highlights Japan's push to raise profile, tap business opportunities in Myanmar
[90] Reuters (17 Apr 13) Suu Kyi says Myanmar's Muslims must be made to feel secure; RFA (17 Apr 13) Suu Kyi 'Very Sad' Over Muslim Plight in Burma; DVB (17 Apr 13) Suu Kyi calls on citizenship law to be revised; AFP (17 Apr 13) Suu Kyi defends her conciliatory style
[91] Reuters (17 Apr 13) Suu Kyi says Myanmar's Muslims must be made to feel secure; RFA (17 Apr 13) Suu Kyi 'Very Sad' Over Muslim Plight in Burma; AFP (17 Apr 13) Suu Kyi defends her conciliatory style; AP (17 Apr 13) Suu Kyi says resolving Myanmar communal violence depends on security, rule of law

Suu also criticized President Thein Sein's "reform process" because it had "no structure, no sequencing or establishment of priorities."[92]

EU lifts sanctions on Burma despite ongoing concerns

On 22 April, the Council of the European Union announced the lifting of remaining sanctions on Burma with the exception of an arms embargo.[93] The EU's decision was blatantly inconsistent with its own benchmarks for reform in Burma outlined in April 2012 when the Council opted to suspend sanctions.[94] The Council then called for the unconditional release of all political prisoners, an end to conflict in Kachin State, improved humanitarian assistance, and enhanced welfare for the Rohingya – all benchmarks which the regime has conspicuously failed to achieve.[95]

Thein Sein talks business in China

As protests in Burma continued during April against harmful projects implemented by Chinese companies [See above *Regime cracks down on pipeline and copper mine protests*], President Thein Sein declared Naypyidaw's support for Chinese investments during his 5 to 7 April visit to China. During his trip, Thein Sein met with high-level Chinese political and business leaders.[96] On 5 April, he met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Sanya, Hainan Province, to discuss Chinese-led mega-projects in Burma, including the Kyaukpyu deep-sea port in Arakan State; border security; agricultural sector cooperation; and the provision of Chinese technical assistance ahead of the SEA games in December.[97] On 6 April, Thein Sein said that Burma welcomed "big Chinese enterprises and projects" and that Chinese investment had not only benefited Chinese investors but also the people of Burma.[98]

Burma and Indonesia strengthen trade and investment ties

On 23 April, President Thein Sein met with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in Naypyidaw during his two-day visit to Burma.[99] The two discussed the political, social, and economic situation in Burma and the promotion of bilateral cooperation in the trade, agricultural, and energy sectors.[100] The two sides signed several bilateral agreements, including a framework agreement on investment and trade; an MoU on cooperation in capacity building; and an MoU on the rice trade.[101] It was reported that the Indonesian President expressed concern over recent anti-Muslim violence in Burma during talks with Thein Sein.[102] However, the Indonesian government turned down several requests from Muslim and Rohingya groups in Burma that asked to meet with the Indonesian President during his visit.[103]

ECONOMY

SIM card lottery flops

During the third week of April, regime authorities began selling 350,000 prepaid SIM cards for the CDMA-800 MHz mobile network at the price of 1,500 kyat (approximately US$2) through a

[92] AP (17 Apr 13) Suu Kyi says resolving Myanmar communal violence depends on security, rule of law; AFP (17 Apr 13) Suu Kyi defends her conciliatory style
[93] AFP (22 Apr 13) EU ends most Myanmar sanctions
[94] Council of the European Union (23 Apr 12) Council conclusions on Myanmar/Burma
[95] FIDH (25 Apr 13) Lifting EU sanctions will unlikely lead to an improved human rights situation in Burma
[96] NLM (08 Apr 13) President U Thein Sein held talks with Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping at Sheraton Hotel in Sanya; NLM (08 Apr 13) President U Thein Sein holds Discussion with Secretary Mr. Luo Bao Ming of Hainan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China; NLM (08 Apr 13) President U Thein Sein holds Discussion with Secretary Mr. Luo Bao Ming of Hainan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China; NLM (08 Apr 13) President U Thein Sein holds Discussion with Secretary Mr. Luo Bao Ming of Hainan Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China; NLM (08 Apr 13) Outcomes of the BFA Annual Conference 2013 will provide with great avenues for effective realization of economic reform process of Asia
[97] NLM (08 Apr 13) President U Thein Sein held talks with Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping at Sheraton Hotel in Sanya
[98] China Daily (07 Apr 13) Myanmar 'welcomes Chinese enterprises and projects'
[99] Xinhua (23 Apr 13) Indonesian president arrives in Myanmar on state visit
[100] NLM (24 Apr 13) Indonesia supports Myanmar's crisis management process
[101] NLM (24 Apr 13) Myanmar, Indonesia vow to increase trade volume; Xinhua (23 Apr 13) Myanmar, Indonesia sign some economic cooperation accords
[102] AP (24 Apr 13) Indonesia's president relays concern to Myanmar counterpart over deadly sectarian violence
[103] Irrawaddy (23 Apr 13) Indonesia President Visits Burma, Fails to Meet Muslim Leaders

nationwide public lottery.[104] Despite the regime's hype over the 'cheap' SIM card plan, the initiative failed to make SIM cards more accessible to the overwhelming majority of Burmese. Observers criticized the process for its lack of transparency, with reports that regime authorities favored relatives and acquaintances in the allocation of the SIM cards.[105] The insufficient supply of SIM cards (one-third of which were reserved for civil servants)[106] resulted in many people leaving empty handed after queuing up for hours at local regime offices.[107] In many cases, lottery winners resold the SIM cards and their price quickly rose to between 20,000 and 40,000 kyat.[108]

Race for telecom licenses heats up

On 11 April, the regime's Communications and Information Technology Ministry announced the names of the 12 international companies and consortia that qualified to enter the final stage of the telecommunications licensing process [See table *Shortlisted bidders for telecom licenses*].[110] The licenses will authorize the holders to operate a nationwide mobile network for a term of 15 years.[111] Qualified applicants will have to submit a final bid by 3 June.[112] The regime will announce the names of the two successful bidders on 27 June.[113]

Shortlisted bidders for telecom licenses[109]
Airtel (India)
Axiata (Malaysia)
Digicel (Jamaica) + Yoma Strategic Holdings (Singapore) + Quantum Strategic Group (US)
KDDI (Japan) + Sumitomo (Japan) + Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Development (Burma) +A1 Construction (Burma)
Millicom International Cellular (Luxembourg)
MTN (South Africa) + Amara Communication (Burma)
Orange (France) + Marubeni (Japan)
Qatar Telecom (Qatar)
SingTel (Singapore) + Kanbawza (Burma) + Myanmar Telephone Company (Burma)
Telenor (Norway)
Viettel Group (Vietnam)
Vodafone (UK) + China Mobile (China)

Well-known junta cronies control four of the five Burmese companies (Amara Communication; Kanbawza, A1 Construction, and Myanmar Information and Communication Technology Development Corporation) that partnered with foreign investors to apply for a license.[114]

Oil and gas investment

In April, the regime continued to prioritize foreign investment in Burma's oil and gas industry.

- **3 April**: Representatives of the state-owned Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) and South Korea's Daewoo International signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) in Naypyidaw on a feasibility study for exploration, drilling, and production at two onshore oil and gas blocks in Central Burma.[115]
- **11 April**: The regime invited bids for exploration rights for 30 offshore oil and gas blocks.[116] Companies could apply for exploration rights for up to three blocks by 14 June.[117] Successful bidders

[104] Reuters (24 Apr 13) In Myanmar, cheap SIM card draw may herald telecoms revolution; Myanmar Times (25 Apr 13) New SIM prices blow out; EMG (22 Apr 13) SIM cards lucky draw program start to life in Myanmar; Myanmar Times (23 Apr 13) Cheap SIM cards come down to luck of the draw
[105] EMG (22 Apr 13) SIM cards lucky draw program start to life in Myanmar; Irrawaddy (24 Apr 13) Delight and Disappointment as Burma Gets First Cheap SIM Cards; Myanmar Times (23 Apr 13) Cheap SIM cards come down to luck of the draw; Myanmar Times (22 Apr 13) Regional govts in the dark on cut-price SIM sale plan; Myanmar Times (25 Apr 13) New SIM prices blow out
[106] Myanmar Times (22 Apr 13) Regional govts in the dark on cut-price SIM sale plan
[107] Myanmar Times (24 Apr 13) Mandalay residents queue for SIMs
[108] EMG (26 Apr 13) Low cost SIM cards marked up 13 times
[109] WSJ (11 Apr 13) Myanmar Shortlists 12 Bidders for Telecom License Tender; EMG (23 Apr 13) World famous mobile companies to compete in second step tender; Mizzima News (11 Apr 13) Myanmar telecoms tender shortlisted to 12; Reuters (11 Apr 13) Bharti named bidder in race for Myanmar mobile licences; Reuters (11 Apr 13) Telenor joins race for Myanmar mobile license
[110] Mizzima News (11 Apr 13) Myanmar telecoms tender shortlisted to 12; EMG (23 Apr 13) "Conflict of interest" in Myanmar telecommunication sector
[111] Reuters (04 Apr 13) Major telcos and investor Soros set sights on Myanmar
[112] Mizzima News (11 Apr 13) Myanmar telecoms tender shortlisted to 12
[113] Guardian (04 Apr 13) Vodafone and China Mobile join Burma telecoms race; AFP (05 Apr 13) Soros in consortium bid for Myanmar telecom licence; AFP (05 Apr 13) Telecom firms battle for a piece of Burma's frontier market
[114] EMG (23 Apr 13) "Conflict of interest" in Myanmar telecommunication sector; Mizzima News (29 Jun 11) Burma lobby group calls for imposing sanctions against 42 people; Irrawaddy (08 Oct 12) Bank Denies Rumors as Depositors Flee
[115] NLM (05 Apr 13) MOA signed for feasibility study on unconventional oil and gas drilling
[116] AFP (10 Apr 13) Myanmar opens keenly awaited oil auction; Reuters (11 Apr 13) UPDATE 2-Myanmar invites bids for 30 offshore oil, gas blocks; Myanmar Times (22 Apr 13) Oil and gas open for tender
[117] AFP (10 Apr 13) Myanmar opens keenly awaited oil auction; Reuters (11 Apr 13) UPDATE 2-Myanmar invites bids for 30 offshore oil, gas blocks

for the 19 deep-water blocks will not have to partner with Burmese companies.[118] For the exploration of 11 shallow water blocks, foreign investors must still cooperate with a local company.[119] However, all successful bidders will be required to enter into a production sharing contract with MOGE.[120]

- **11 April**: The regime announced the names of the 59 companies that pre-qualified for the exploration licenses for 18 onshore oil blocks.[121] The tender, launched in January [See *January 2013 Burma Bulletin*], required foreign investors to partner with local companies.[122]

OTHER BURMA NEWS IN APRIL

1	Burma's regime increases monthly salaries for an estimated two million civil servants by 20,000 kyat (US$24).
1	Union Daily, Golden Fresh Land Daily, Standard Times Daily, and Voice Daily are the first private daily newspapers to be sold after almost 50 years.
1	Indonesian business delegation comprising 60 representatives from 11 leading companies begins a three-day visit to Burma to explore business opportunities in the country.
2	Karen State regime officials visit Mi Kayin Village in Hpa-an Township, Karen State, to discuss plans with local villagers to build a new cement factory in the area.
3	Regime Finance and Revenue Deputy Minister Maung Maung Thein announces that 12 Burmese private insurance companies will be allowed to operate starting on 30 June.
3	President Thein Sein meets with former US President Jimmy Carter in Naypyidaw to discuss plans for the nationwide census, poverty alleviation initiatives, the employment, education, and health sectors, and strengthening bilateral ties.
4	President Thein Sein and Norway's Trade and Industry Minister Trond Giske meet in Naypyidaw to discuss economic cooperation.
4	Singapore's trade promotion agency International Enterprise Singapore opens an office in Rangoon.
5	A brawl between Buddhists from Burma and Rohingya erupts in an immigration detention center in Belawan, North Sumatra, Indonesia, leaving eight Buddhists dead.
5	Australian FM Bob Carr calls for a peaceful end to the conflict in Kachin State and for Burma's regime to address the underlying causes of unrest in Arakan State.
6	Thirteen Kachin civil society organizations release a joint-statement that accuses China of objecting to the involvement of international observers in forthcoming talks between the KIO and the regime.
8	UNDP and Burma's regime sign a three-year country program action plan for 2013-15 under which the UNDP will provide US$150 million in development aid to Burma.
8	Representatives from 56 political parties call for a reduction of the 500,000-kyat (US$562) registration fee for election candidates during a meeting with regime Election Commission Chairman Tin Aye in Naypyidaw.
8	Regime Election Commission Chairman Tin Aye says the Election Commission will submit a proposal to change the election system to proportional representation at the next parliamentary session in June.
9	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with representatives of Burma's leading Muslim organizations to discuss religious violence in Central Burma.
9	ADB says that Burma's economy grew 6.3% per cent in the 2012-103 fiscal year, up 1.3% from the previous year.
9	Around 30 Muslim activists, including Rohingya, deliver letters to the UNHCR and the US and Burmese embassies in Bangkok calling on Burma's regime to end the "genocide" against Muslims in Burma.
9	KHRG releases a report which says that between August 2012 and March 2013 landmines killed at least nine people in Karen State.
10	Thai FM Surapong Tovichakchaikul says that regime FM Wunna Maung Lwin indicated that Burma will take back Rohingya refugees being sheltered in Thailand if it could be established that they originally fled from Burma.
10	Regime and UNFPA conclude a 12-day pilot census exercise in selected villages in 20 townships across Burma to prepare for a nationwide census in 2014.
11	G8 Foreign Ministers release a statement calling on Burma's regime to take further steps to end all violence, respect the rights of ethnic nationality groups and religious minorities, and pursue inclusive

[118] AFP (10 Apr 13) Myanmar opens keenly awaited oil auction; Reuters (11 Apr 13) UPDATE 2-Myanmar invites bids for 30 offshore oil, gas blocks; Myanmar Times (22 Apr 13) Oil and gas open for tender
[119] AFP (10 Apr 13) Myanmar opens keenly awaited oil auction; Reuters (11 Apr 13) UPDATE 2-Myanmar invites bids for 30 offshore oil, gas blocks; Myanmar Times (22 Apr 13) Oil and gas open for tender
[120] AFP (10 Apr 13) Myanmar opens keenly awaited oil auction; Reuters (11 Apr 13) UPDATE 2-Myanmar invites bids for 30 offshore oil, gas blocks; Myanmar Times (22 Apr 13) Oil and gas open for tender
[121] Reuters (11 Apr 13) UPDATE 2-Myanmar invites bids for 30 offshore oil, gas blocks
[122] Reuters (11 Apr 13) UPDATE 2-Myanmar invites bids for 30 offshore oil, gas blocks

	peace negotiations.
15	In its annual global human rights report, the UK FCO notes outstanding concerns in Burma including religiously motivated violence and destruction of property, political prisoners still detained, and the regime's handling of peaceful protests.
15	Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Sr Gen Min Aung Hlaing meets with former Thai PM Thaksin Shinawatra in Maymyo, Mandalay Division.
19	Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman says the Kyaukpyu-Kunming oil and gas dual pipeline has undergone "scientific study and strict examination" and conforms to Burma's laws and regulations.
19	In its annual global report on human rights, the US State Department says that in 2012 Burma continued to take "significant steps in a historic transition toward democracy" but notes that the country's authoritarian structure from five decades of military rule remained largely intact.
22	US State Department says the US "remains deeply concerned" over violence directed at ethnic and religious minority groups in Burma and calls on Burma's regime to address the root causes of the violence, prevent further outbreaks, and offer justice to affected communities.
22	President's Office Minister Aung Min receives the International Crisis Group's "In Pursuit of Peace" award on behalf of President Thein Sein in New York City.
22	President Thein Sein's spokesperson Ye Htut rejects Human Rights Watch's report "All you can do is pray" as "one-sided" and "unacceptable."
23	Regime releases Myanmar Times co-founder Myat Swe in a presidential amnesty.
23	Japan's Kyodo News Agency opens a branch office in Rangoon.
23	Karen Human Rights Group says that in January and February, BGF battalions 1013 and 1014 based in Papun Township, Karen State, forced residents of several local villages to transport materials to build their military camps.
23	US State Department says it welcomes the release of political prisoners in Burma but stresses the need for the unconditional release of all remaining political prisoners.
23	Navy Commander-in-Chief Vice Admiral Thet Swe meets with US Naval Attaché Captain Sean Cannon, Defense Attaché Colonel William Dickey, and US Ambassador to Burma Derek Mitchell in Naypyidaw to discuss bilateral military relations.
24	About 150 police and military personnel forcibly evict about 70 people from their homes in Rangoon's South Dagon Township in a pre-dawn raid.
25	President Thein Sein meets with Thai PM Yingluck Shinawatra on the sidelines of the 22nd ASEAN Summit in Brunei to discuss the Tavoy project, Burmese refugees in Thailand, and the opening of three new checkpoints along the Thai-Burma border.
25	US Department of Defense spokesperson Cathy Wilkinson says the US is beginning "limited and calibrated" military engagement with Burma in order to "promote the continuation of the reform movement".
25	US Acting Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Joseph Yun says that the US is exploring ways of supporting "nascent military engagement" with Burma.
26	During a meeting with representatives of 21 political parties, regime Election Commission Chairman Tin Aye says the Election Commission will propose amendments to the election laws in order to ensure free and fair polls in 2015.
26	Acting US Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis says that Washington could waive import duties on thousands of goods from Burma by the end of the year.
26	Thailand, USAID, and Burma's regime sign a mutual declaration launching a malaria control project along the Thai-Burma border.
26	About 200 Rohingya IDPs in a camp near Akyab, Arakan State, attack regime officials who attempted to register them as 'Bengali.'
26	Regime Commerce Minister Win Myint meets with Acting US Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis in Naypyidaw to discuss bilateral trade and investment, and the potential reinstatement of GSP for Burma.
28	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, for a visit.
28	BGF troops attack DKBA forces in Myaing Gyi Ngu, Hlaingbwe Township, Karen State.
29	Regime authorities temporarily suspend the registration of Rohingya across Arakan State after their refusal to be registered as 'Bengali.'
29	Addressing a forum of several hundred trade union leaders and labor activists in Rangoon, ILO Deputy Director-General Gregory Vines acknowledges that there have been "some issues" around Burma's newly enacted labor laws and their enforcement.
29	IHS Jane's reports that China delivered several Mi-17 helicopters, armed with TY-90 air-to-air missiles, to UWSA forces in Shan State in late February and early March.
30	US Commission on International Religious Freedom recommends that Burma remain on the list of Countries of Particular Concern because religious freedom conditions in the country have not yet improved.

REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN APRIL

"**Anti-Muslim violence in Central Burma**", Altsean-Burma http://bit.ly/17FVfzn

"**All You Can Do is Pray - Crimes Against Humanity and Ethnic Cleansing of Rohingya Muslims in Burma's Arakan State**", Human Rights Watch (HRW) http://bit.ly/17cQb4p

"**Human rights violations perpetrated against the Chin in Burma March 2011-March 2013**", Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) http://bit.ly/XUsVrj

"**Summary of human rights violations committed by Burma Army troops during military offensive in Tang Yan, Shan State, from 14-15 April 2013**", Shan Human Rights Foundation (SHRF) http://bit.ly/11xjTyJ

"**Shan farmers oppose the Shwe pipelines**", Northern Shan Farmers' Committee http://bit.ly/12zTfX8

"**Annual Report 2012**", Mae Tao Clinic http://bit.ly/12Mo7nz

"**Myanmar Annual Report 2012**", International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) http://bit.ly/1028dRN

"**Myanmar: Meikhtila inter-communal violence Situation Report No. 3 (as of 2 April 2013)**", UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) http://bit.ly/14Ivi3I

"**Myanmar: Meikhtila inter-communal violence Situation Report No. 4 (as of 9 April 2013)**", UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) http://bit.ly/108HmCq

"**Myanmar, Rakhine State: Humanitarian Bulletin, Special Issue: April 2013**", UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) http://bit.ly/ZusT8p

"**Migrant Information Note Issue #19 - March 2013**", International Organization for Migration (IOM) http://bit.ly/12M1Mp2

"**2013 Annual Report - Burma**", US Commission on International Religious Freedoms (USCIRF) http://1.usa.gov/ZyNPLw

"**Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2012 - Burma**", US State Department http://1.usa.gov/ZHnUh4

"**Human Rights and Democracy: The 2012 Foreign & Commonwealth Office Report**", UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) http://bit.ly/108D3XH

"**Global Overview 2012**", International Displacement Monitoring Center (IMDC): http://bit.ly/Zlbb3U

"**Transnational Organized Crime in East Asia and the Pacific A Threat Assessment**", United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) http://bit.ly/11Cu2HR