

BURMA BULLETIN



A month-in-review of events in Burma



ALTERNATIVE A SEAN NETWORK ON BURMA
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- **Anti-Muslim attacks continue for the third consecutive month. Violence hits Kachin and Northern Shan States and Pegu Division. Security forces fail to stop the violence and stand idle as the riots unfold.**
- **The latest violence takes place one week after US President Barack Obama welcomes President Thein Sein to Washington and tells him that violence against Muslims in Burma needs to stop.**
- **Parliament approves a 60-day extension of martial law in four townships in Mandalay Division.**
- **The regime fails to formally charge any Buddhists in connection with the recent anti-Muslim attacks but prosecutions of Muslims continue.**
- **Regime authorities in Arakan State pledge to enforce a two-child policy for Rohingya in two townships in Arakan State.**
- **After almost two years of sustained fighting, the regime and the Kachin Independence Army fail to reach a ceasefire during the latest round of talks but pledge to work towards a cessation of hostilities.**
- **The regime releases 19 political prisoners in an amnesty ahead of President Thein Sein's visit to Washington. However, at least 164 dissidents remain behind bars.**
- **UN Sec-Gen's report finds that the Tatmadaw is still recruiting and using child soldiers. Thirty-two cases of underage recruitment were reported in 2012.**
- **Japanese PM Shinzo Abe inks various business deals during his trip to Burma. Tokyo agrees to cancel Burma's remaining debt of US\$1.85 billion.**

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KEY STORY

Anti-Muslim violence spreads to ethnic areas

Anti-Muslim attacks continued for the third straight month. Violence hit Kachin and Northern Shan States and Pegu Division.

- **2 May:** A mob of about 30 people destroyed Muslim-owned shops and houses in Hpakant Township, Kachin State.¹
- **28 May:** A mob, including Buddhist monks, destroyed a mosque, an orphanage, and Muslim-owned shops in Lashio, Northern Shan State.² The attacks occurred after reports that a local Muslim man had

¹ AFP (05 May 13) Police arrest two in new anti-Muslim unrest in Myanmar

doused a Buddhist woman with fuel and set her on fire.³ In a bid to restore order, regime authorities imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in the city.⁴

- **29 May:** Unrest continued for a second day in Lashio. Buddhist mobs armed with sticks and iron rods roamed the streets on motorcycles shouting anti-Muslim slogans and burning Muslim-owned homes and shops.⁵ Assaultants also attacked and beat two freelance reporters covering the unrest in the city.⁶ One Muslim man was killed in the riots.⁷ According to residents, security forces failed to stop the violence and stood idle as the riots unfolded.⁸ About 1,200 Muslims fled their homes and took refuge in a local monastery.⁹
- **30 May:** A Buddhist mob destroyed a mosque and an Islamic school in Kyaukkyi Township, Pegu Division.¹⁰ In Lashio, the regime deployed hundreds of soldiers to restore order.¹¹ A few Buddhist men armed with sticks were still roaming the streets on motorcycles but no new violence was reported.¹²

In other parts of the country Muslim communities remained fearful of attacks. In Rangoon, regime authorities beefed up their presence at mosques around the city.¹³ On 1 May, a mob of about 100 Buddhists armed with sticks threatened to burn Win Kite Village, Taikgyi Township, Rangoon Division, and kill local Muslims.¹⁴ On 2 May, unidentified individuals attempted to instigate riots between Buddhists and Muslims in Mandalay's Mahar Aung Myay and Chan Aye Thazan Townships by shouting anti-Muslim slogans.¹⁵

Martial law extended in Central Burma

On 21 May, at the end of a two-day special session, the National Parliament approved, by a vote of 489 to 43 with 13 abstentions, a 60-day extension of martial law in Mandalay Division's Meikhtila, Wundwin, Mahlaing, and Tharzi Townships.¹⁶ Most NLD MPs, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, voted against the extension.¹⁷ During the parliamentary debate, Daw Suu criticized Naypyidaw's initial decision to impose martial law in March, because the authorities had failed to provide a clear justification for the measure.¹⁸ She also called for a return to normal conditions "as soon as possible."¹⁹

² AP (29 May 13) Northeastern Myanmar hit by new sectarian violence after rumor of Muslim attack; mosque burned; BBC (28 May 13) Burma Muslim-Buddhist clashes erupt in Shan state; Xinhua (29 May 13) Riot-hit township in northern Myanmar calm after overnight curfew: official; AFP (29 May 13) Myanmar urges calm after fresh religious violence; NLM (30 May 13) Criminal case leads to riots in Lashio

³ AFP (28 Apr 13) Riots spread in Myanmar after Buddhist woman set ablaze by Muslim man; BBC (28 May 13) Burma Muslim-Buddhist clashes erupt in Shan state

⁴ RFA (28 May 13) Fresh Communal Clashes Rock Myanmar; Xinhua (29 May 13) Curfew imposed on Myanmar's Shan State township as communal riot erupts

⁵ Reuters (29 May 13) Buddhist mobs attack Muslim homes for 2nd day in Myanmar; one dead; AFP (29 May 13) One dead, four hurt in Myanmar religious unrest: govt; RFA (29 May 13) More Casualties as Violence Spreads in Myanmar's Shan State; AFP (29 May 13) Fresh Religious Unrest Rocks Eastern Myanmar; DVB (29 May 13) Mob targets reporters during Lashio riots; Irrawaddy (29 May 13) Despite Calls for Calm, Religious Clashes Continue in Lashio; AP (29 May 13) 2nd day of Anti-Muslim violence strikes NE Myanmar

⁶ DVB (29 May 13) Mob targets reporters during Lashio riots

⁷ Reuters (30 May 13) Troops patrol Myanmar city after violence, Muslims hide

⁸ RFA (29 May 13) More Casualties as Violence Spreads in Myanmar's Shan State; AP (30 May 13) Buddhist mobs spread fear among Myanmar's Muslims

⁹ AP (30 May 13) Myanmar Muslims shelter in monastery after Buddhist attacks destroy homes, leave 1 dead; Reuters (30 May 13) Troops patrol Myanmar city after violence, Muslims hide

¹⁰ Irrawaddy (30 May 13) Anti-Muslim Violence Spreads to Town in Central Burma

¹¹ Reuters (30 May 13) Troops patrol Myanmar city after violence, Muslims hide

¹² AP (31 May 13) Fearful Muslims shelter in Buddhist monastery guarded by army after Myanmar violence spreads

¹³ EMG (05 May 13) Yangon tightens security for mosques: officials

¹⁴ Reuters (03 May 13) Muslims in Myanmar barricade village as attacks spread

¹⁵ Reuters (03 May 13) Muslims in Myanmar barricade village as attacks spread; Irrawaddy (03 May 13) In Mandalay, Security Moves to Stop Religious Rabble-Rousers; EMG (05 May 13) Police arrest four for incitement to riot in central Myanmar

¹⁶ NLM (22 May 13) Ordinance No (1/2013) approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw; Xinhua (22 May 13) Myanmar extends state of emergency; Xinhua (20 May 13) Myanmar's parliament begins special session; Myanmar Times (27 May 13) MPs extend Meiktila curfew order for 60 days

¹⁷ Myanmar Times (27 May 13) MPs extend Meiktila curfew order for 60 days

¹⁸ Irrawaddy (21 May 13) 7 Muslims Sentenced for Killing Monk in Meikhtila

¹⁹ DVB (22 May 13) Parliament extends emergency rule in conflict-torn Mekhtila

One-sided prosecutions continue

Despite President Thein Sein's pledge to bring all perpetrators of "inter-communal violence" to justice,²⁰ the regime has failed to formally charge any Buddhists with serious crimes in connection with the recent violence while prosecutions of Muslims have continued. On 21 May, two courts in Meiktila, Mandalay Division, sentenced seven Muslims to prison terms ranging from two to 28 years in connection with the killing of a Buddhist monk in Meiktila on 20 March.²¹

Regime's discrimination against Rohingya continues

Despite President Thein Sein's pledge that his administration would ensure the basic human rights of Muslims in Arakan State,²² the regime's discriminatory practices against Rohingya continued.

- **17 May:** It was reported that the regime's Election Commission (EC) had ordered the Democracy and Human Rights Party (DHRP) to expel six Rohingya members.²³ The EC ruled that the six members had violated existing laws which barred non-citizens from joining political parties.²⁴
- **26 May:** Regime authorities in Arakan State resurrected a longstanding ban on Rohingya having more than two children.²⁵ The regime said the ban, which was initially put into effect in the early 1990s but had not been systematically enforced in recent years, would be implemented in Maungdaw and Buthidaung Townships.²⁶

While Daw Aung San Suu Kyi slammed the regime's discriminatory practices, President Thein Sein made several statements that risked fueling anti-Rohingya discrimination:

- **6 May:** In a speech on state television, President Thein Sein said that his administration would take "all necessary action" to "accommodate the needs and expectations of the Rakhine people."²⁷ Thein Sein also said that some international aid agencies operating in Arakan State "may have worsened the situation" and should take into account "local sensitivities."²⁸
- **19 May:** In an interview with the Washington Post, President Thein Sein reiterated the regime's position that Rohingya were not a native population of Burma.²⁹ Thein Sein also dismissed as "pure fabrication" the allegation that the Tatmadaw condoned or participated in pogroms against Rohingya.³⁰
- **27 May:** Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that the two-child policy for Rohingya was discriminatory, illegal, and "not in line with human rights."³¹

UN slams the regime over discrimination against Rohingya

- **1 May:** UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana issued a statement concerning the report released by the regime-appointed commission tasked with investigating the

²⁰ AP (20 May 13) Myanmar leader vows to bring perpetrators of communal violence to justice; AFP (21 May 13) Myanmar's president calls for end to communal violence; NLM (22 May 13) With the help of neighbours, the strength of people, with the help of American people, we will succeed

²¹ AFP (21 May 13) Myanmar jails 7 for up to 28 years for riots; NLM (22 May 13) Seven culprits sentenced for killing monk, arson attack in Meiktila conflict; RFA (21 May 13) Seven Meiktila Muslims Jailed Over Buddhist Monk's Death; Myanmar Times (27 May 13) Families to appeal Meiktila sentences; Irrawaddy (21 May 13) 7 Muslims Sentenced for Killing Monk in Meiktila

²² DVB (06 May 13) Myanmar president vows to protect rights of minority Muslims

²³ DVB (17 May 13) Burma expels Rohingya members from political party; EMG (19 May 13) Election Commission refuses Rohingya applicants

²⁴ DVB (17 May 13) Burma expels Rohingya members from political party

²⁵ AFP (26 May 13) Myanmar reaffirms two-child rule for Rohingya; AP (25 May 13) 2-child limit for Muslims in parts of Myanmar;

²⁶ AP (25 May 13) 2-child limit for Muslims in parts of Myanmar; AFP (26 May 13) Myanmar reaffirms two-child rule for Rohingya; RFA (23 May 13) Myanmar's Rakhine State Imposes Two-Child Limit on Rohingyas; Reuters (27 May 13) Suu Kyi denounces two-child limit on Myanmar Rohingya families; BBC (27 May 13) Aung San Suu Kyi condemns Rohingya 'two-child policy'

²⁷ NLM (07 May 13) Whatever our prospects for a bright future may be, we are still at a sensitive stage in the reform process where there is little room for error

²⁸ DVB (06 May 13) Myanmar president vows to protect rights of minority Muslims

²⁹ Washington Post (20 May 13) Burma's Thein Sein says military 'will always have a special place' in government

³⁰ Washington Post (20 May 13) Burma's Thein Sein says military 'will always have a special place' in government

³¹ AFP (27 May 13) Myanmar Rohingya two-child rule 'discrimination': Suu Kyi; AP (27 May 13) Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi blasts revived 2-child limit for Muslim Rohingya; Reuters (27 May 13) Suu Kyi denounces two-child limit on Myanmar Rohingya families; RFA (27 May 13) Suu Kyi Denounces Two-Child Limit for Rohingyas

Arakan State unrest [See *April 2013 Burma Bulletin*].³² Ojea Quintana expressed concern over the report's lack of recommendations to address impunity and ensure an investigation into the authorities' "widespread and systematic human rights violations" targeting the Muslim community.³³ The Special Rapporteur also expressed concern that the current policy of segregation of Muslim and Buddhist communities in Arakan State could become permanent.³⁴ In addition, he reiterated his call for the amendment of the 1982 Citizenship Law to ensure that all persons in Burma had equal access to citizenship.³⁵

- **30 May:** UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon's Deputy Spokesman Eduardo del Buey said that the two-child policy for Rohingya in Arakan State was discriminatory and a violation of human rights.³⁶
- **31 May:** UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana said that the two-child policy for Rohingya in Arakan State was a discriminatory and coercive measure that violated the basic human rights of Rohingya as well as Burma's international human rights obligations and commitments.³⁷

INSIDE BURMA

Still no ceasefire in Kachin State

After almost two years of sustained fighting, the regime and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) failed to reach a ceasefire during the latest round of talks. On 28-30 May, a regime delegation led by President's Office Minister Aung Min met with Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) representatives in Myitkyina, Kachin State.³⁸ UN Sec-Gen's Special Advisor on Burma Vijay Nambiar, two Chinese embassy officials, and United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) representatives were present as observers.³⁹ On the final day of talks, the two sides signed a seven-point agreement. According to the agreement, both sides pledged to work towards a cessation of hostilities; hold political dialogue; establish joint-monitoring committees; resettle IDPs; and continue dialogue on troop movement and positions.⁴⁰

In the lead-up to the talks, Tatmadaw troops continued to attack the KIA:

- **2 May:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces in several locations in Muse Township, Northern Shan State.⁴¹
- **3 May:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces near Nam Hkyi Maw, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State.⁴²
- **5 May:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces near Nam Hkyi Maw in Hpakant Township, Kachin State.⁴³
- **6 May:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces near Na Sang Village, Muse Township, Northern Shan State.⁴⁴
- **8 May:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces in Nam Mun Village, Muse Township, Northern Shan State.⁴⁵

³² OHCHR (01 May 13) Myanmar / Rakhine Commission: "Positive starting point but Government must address impunity" – UN expert

³³ OHCHR (01 May 13) Myanmar / Rakhine Commission: "Positive starting point but Government must address impunity" – UN expert

³⁴ OHCHR (01 May 13) Myanmar / Rakhine Commission: "Positive starting point but Government must address impunity" – UN expert

³⁵ OHCHR (01 May 13) Myanmar / Rakhine Commission: "Positive starting point but Government must address impunity" – UN expert

³⁶ AP (30 May 13) UN: 2-child limit on Muslim minority in Myanmar would be human rights violation

³⁷ OHCHR (31 May 13) Myanmar: UN expert urges Government to act on local regulations targeting Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State

³⁸ Xinhua (30 May 13) Myanmar gov't, KIO reach peace talk agreement

³⁹ Irrawaddy (28 May 13) UN Special Envoy, Chinese Observers Attend Kachin Peace Talks; Xinhua (28 May 13) Myanmar gov't, Kachin armed group resume peace talks

⁴⁰ NLM (31 May 13) Union Peace-Making Work Committee, KIO sign agreement after three-day peace talks

⁴¹ Kachinland News (03 May 13) Battles continue in Kachin and northern Shan State

⁴² Kachinland News (03 May 13) Battles continue in Kachin and northern Shan State

⁴³ Kachinland News (09 May 13) Fighting rages for control over ethnic lands in Kachin and Shan State

⁴⁴ Kachinland News (09 May 13) Fighting rages for control over ethnic lands in Kachin and Shan State

⁴⁵ Kachinland News (09 May 13) Fighting rages for control over ethnic lands in Kachin and Shan State

Tatmadaw continues to target SSA-S, SSA-N; another 3,000 civilians displaced

In May, more civilians fled their homes as Tatmadaw troops continued to attack Shan State Army-South (SSA-S) and Shan State Army-North (SSA-N) positions in Shan State.

- **1 May:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with SSA-S forces in Kengtung Township.⁴⁶
- **2 May:** Tatmadaw troops attacked SSA-N forces in Loizay, Tangyan Township.⁴⁷
- **5 May:** Tatmadaw soldiers destroyed an SSA-S outpost in Tengkam, Namkham Township.⁴⁸
- **9 May:** Tatmadaw troops attacked SSA-S forces in Nawngma, Namkham Township.⁴⁹ Around 3,000 local residents fled their homes to escape the fighting, with many crossing into China.⁵⁰

On 11 May, a regime delegation met with SSA-N representatives in Tangyan, Shan State.⁵¹ As a result of the meeting, the two sides agreed to monitor troop movements, avoid unlawful actions against civilians, and meet to negotiate any future disputes.⁵²

Pipeline faces uncertainty amid conflict and growing public opposition

Ongoing armed conflict between the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed groups threatened to disrupt the Kyaukpyu-Kunming oil and gas dual pipeline operations in Northern Shan State.

- **9 May:** Tatmadaw troops in Namkham Township launched an attack on a Shan State Army-South (SSA-S) base located one kilometer from the Kyaukpyu-Kunming oil and gas dual pipeline.⁵³
- **11 May:** A regime Energy Ministry senior official said that clashes between the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed groups in Northern Shan State as well as “fierce fighting” with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in Kachin State would likely delay the first shipments of gas from Burma to China through the Kyaukpyu-Kunming pipeline.⁵⁴ The gas pipeline was originally due to become operational at the end of May.⁵⁵
- **13 May:** An unidentified armed group attacked a Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) compound near the Kyaukpyu-Kunming oil and gas dual pipeline south of Namkham, Northern Shan State, killing two civilians.⁵⁶

Meanwhile, activists continued to express their opposition to the Kyaukpyu deep-sea port in Arakan State and the Kyaukpyu-Kunming oil and gas dual pipeline.

- **2 May:** Grassroots organizations and residents of 17 villages in Kyaukpyu Township, Arakan State, issued a 12-point statement concerning the negative impact of the nearly completed deep-sea port in Kyaukpyu Township.⁵⁷ The statement urged the regime and China’s state-run China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) to suspend the deep-sea port project and to carry out a transparent review of its environmental and social impacts.⁵⁸
- **22 May:** Seven Shan community-based organizations issued a joint statement that called on President Thein Sein to immediately halt the Kyaukpyu-Kunming pipeline following the 9 May Tatmadaw attacks in Northern Shan State.⁵⁹

⁴⁶ DVB (08 May 13) Burmese army torches Shan rebel outpost

⁴⁷ SHAN (03 May 13) Newsflash

⁴⁸ DVB (08 May 13) Burmese army torches Shan rebel outpost

⁴⁹ DVB (10 May 13) Burmese army seizes Shan rebel outpost after latest attack

⁵⁰ SHAN (22 May 13) Thein Sein and China must stop pipeline project to prevent escalation of conflict in northern Shan State

⁵¹ NLM (14 May 13) Union Peace-Making Work Committee meets responsible persons of SSPP/SSA

⁵² NLM (14 May 13) Union Peace-Making Work Committee meets responsible persons of SSPP/SSA

⁵³ HRW (11 May 13) Burma: China-Led Oil, Gas Projects Spark Arrests; Mizzima News (22 May 13) Shan NGOs call for halt to pipeline

⁵⁴ Reuters (11 May 13) Clashes likely to delay Myanmar-China pipeline start-up - official

⁵⁵ Reuters (28 May 13) China CNPC to complete key Myanmar oil storage facility in 2 mths

⁵⁶ Mizzima News (22 May 13) Shan NGOs call for halt to pipeline; Myanmar Times (24 May 13) SSAS denies link to two deaths in northern Shan

⁵⁷ SCMP (03 May 13) China lobbies for pipeline support in Myanmar, but environmental concerns persist; Mizzima News (03 May 13) Kyaukpyu residents issue new demands to govt, CNPC

⁵⁸ SCMP (03 May 13) China lobbies for pipeline support in Myanmar, but environmental concerns persist; Mizzima News (03 May 13) Kyaukpyu residents issue new demands to govt, CNPC

⁵⁹ Mizzima News (22 May 13) Shan NGOs call for halt to pipeline

Farmers detained, charged

The regime continued to detain and level criminal charges against farmers who protested land confiscation or cultivated land confiscated by the authorities.

- **7 May:** Regime authorities in Rangoon's Thingangyun Township charged two farmers under the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law for holding a series of protests against land confiscation since January without obtaining the authorities' prior permission.⁶⁰
- **16 May:** Police in Thanlyin Township, Rangoon Division, charged five farmers with trespassing for cultivating land confiscated from them by the Navy.⁶¹
- **24 May:** Regime authorities in Sinbaungwe Township, Magwe Division, detained six farmers for cultivating land that had been confiscated from them by the military.⁶²

Cyclone threat recedes; regime's relocation efforts spark Rohingya fears

On 11 May, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) expressed concern as Category 2 cyclone Mahasen threatened coastal communities in Burma's Arakan State.⁶³ OCHA voiced particular concern for the approximately 140,000 IDPs in Arakan State, many of whom were living in shelters in low lying areas.⁶⁴

On 12 May, regime authorities began relocating residents and IDPs to emergency shelters and safer locations in Arakan State.⁶⁵ According to the regime, almost 120,000 residents and IDPs in Arakan State moved or were relocated.⁶⁶ However, many Rohingya IDPs were reluctant to relocate as they were distrustful of regime authorities.⁶⁷ On 15 May, thousands of Rohingya IDPs in camps in Akyab [Sittwe] refused to relocate to a Tatmadaw base outside the town and the regime threatened action against those who failed to move.⁶⁸ In addition, on 13 May, one of seven boats carrying Rohingya IDPs relocating ahead of the cyclone sank off Pauktaw Township, Arakan State, leaving 58 Rohingya missing, presumed drowned.⁶⁹ Forty-two Rohingya IDPs were rescued.⁷⁰

On 16 May, the cyclone made landfall on Bangladesh's Southern coast.⁷¹ Despite strong winds and heavy rains, Arakan State was spared the brunt of the storm.⁷² On 17 May, many of those relocated began returning to their homes or camps.⁷³ However, IDPs remained highly vulnerable as aid agencies warned of "appalling" conditions in the majority of IDP camps and the likelihood of heavy flooding during the May-September rainy season.⁷⁴

⁶⁰ Irrawaddy (08 May 13) Land Rights Activists Sued for Protesting Without Permission

⁶¹ Myanmar Times (27 May 13) Police charge Thanlyin farmers

⁶² RFA (24 May 13) Myanmar Farmers Arrested for Trespassing on Army-Confiscated Land

⁶³ OCHA (11 May 13) Bangladesh & Myanmar OCHA Flash Update, Cyclone - 11 May 2013

⁶⁴ OCHA (11 May 13) Bangladesh & Myanmar OCHA Flash Update, Cyclone - 11 May 2013

⁶⁵ AFP (13 May 13) Rohingya evacuated from cyclone

⁶⁶ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (17 May 13) UN OCHA Flash Update 7, Cyclone Mahasen, Bangladesh and Myanmar

⁶⁷ AP (15 May 13) Cyclone slows on way to Bangladesh, Myanmar, India; distrustful Rohingya resist evacuation

⁶⁸ Irrawaddy (15 May 13) Humanitarian Disaster Looms in Arakan State, As Storm Evacuation Plans Stall; DVB (16 May 13) Thousands of Rohingya stranded by the sea as cyclone looms

⁶⁹ OCHA (14 May 13) Bangladesh and Myanmar prepare for Tropical Cyclone

⁷⁰ Reuters (15 May 13) Myanmar authorities work to evacuate camps as cyclone nears

⁷¹ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (16 May 13) UN OCHA Flash Update 6, Cyclone Mahasen, Bangladesh and Myanmar

⁷² AFP (17 May 13) Deaths, devastation as Cyclone Mahasen weakens

⁷³ EMG (17 May 13) Storm evacuees to be relocated back home today; Irrawaddy (17 May 13) Thousands of Evacuees Return to IDP Camps, After Cyclone Misses Arakan

⁷⁴ IRIN (29 May 13) Flood misery looms for IDPs in Myanmar's Rakhine State

Political prisoners: 19 released, 164 still behind bars

In May, the regime continued its slow and strategically-timed release of political prisoners. On 17 May, the regime released 23 prisoners in an amnesty ahead of President Thein Sein's visit to Washington.⁷⁵ Among those freed were 19 political prisoners, including eight All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) members, a Karen activist, and a Buddhist monk.⁷⁶ According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), at least 164 dissidents remained behind bars.⁷⁷ This figure did not include the dozens of Kachin civilians detained under the Unlawful Association Act as well as the hundreds of Rohingya detained in connection with sectarian violence in Arakan State.⁷⁸

Thein Sein's 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
17 May 13	23	19
Total	29,472	878
Sources: NLM; AAPP		

In addition, President Thein Sein once again released all dissidents only conditionally under section 401(i) of the Criminal Procedure Code.⁷⁹ As a result, the regime could order former political prisoners to serve the remainder of their original prison sentence if they were convicted again of a criminal offense. On 7 May, the regime had revoked a prison amnesty to activist Nay Myo Zin because of his 2 May conviction to three months in prison or a 20,000-kyat (US\$22) fine on charges of defaming local police.⁸⁰ Nay Myo Zin was ordered to serve six years of his previous sentence stemming from a conviction in 2011.⁸¹ However, he was released in the 17 May amnesty.⁸²

Tatmadaw still recruiting child soldiers

On 1 May, UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon submitted a report on children and armed conflict in Burma to the UN Security Council.⁸³ Key findings of the report, which covered the period from 1 April 2009 to 31 January 2013, included:⁸⁴

- Thirty-two cases of underage recruitment by the Tatmadaw were reported in 2012. At least 12 cases were reported after the regime and the UN signed an action plan to prevent the recruitment of children by the Tatmadaw in June 2012.
- The Tatmadaw continued to use underage recruits for frontline duties.
- The Tatmadaw continued to undermine the June 2012 action plan by maintaining an exception that allows the recruitment of children who are 16 years old and have passed the tenth grade. The regime said that in 2012, the Tatmadaw enlisted 167 such recruits.

Press and religious freedoms still restricted

In May, two reports found that the regime continued to impose severe restrictions on press and religious freedoms.

⁷⁵ NLM (18 May 13) Twenty-three prisoners granted amnesty; Reuters (17 May 13) Myanmar frees political prisoners before president goes to U.S.; Xinhua (17 May 13) Myanmar confirms release of some 23 remaining prisoners

⁷⁶ AAPP (17 May 13) AAPP (B) urges Government of Burma to release all remaining political prisoners

⁷⁷ AAPP (17 May 13) AAPP (B) urges Government of Burma to release all remaining political prisoners

⁷⁸ AAPP (17 May 13) AAPP (B) urges Government of Burma to release all remaining political prisoners

⁷⁹ NLM (18 May 13) Twenty-three prisoners granted amnesty; AAPP (17 May 13) AAPP (B) urges Government of Burma to release all remaining political prisoners; Myanmar Times (20 May 13) Activists criticise amnesty

⁸⁰ AFP (08 May 13) Myanmar revokes dissident's pardon; RFA (08 May 13) Pardoned Burmese Social Activist Back To Prison In Reform 'Setback'; Irrawaddy (02 May 13) Activist Sentenced to 3 Months in Prison for Defaming Police; Myanmar Times (02 May 13) Activist opts for prison over fine; Irrawaddy (08 May 13) Burma Cancels Amnesty for Former Political Prisoner

⁸¹ RFA (08 May 13) Pardoned Burmese Social Activist Back To Prison In Reform 'Setback'; Irrawaddy (08 May 13) Burma Cancels Amnesty for Former Political Prisoner

⁸² AAPP (17 May 13) AAPP (B) urges Government of Burma to release all remaining political prisoners

⁸³ UNSG (01 May 13) Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Myanmar

⁸⁴ UNSG (01 May 13) Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Myanmar

- **1 May:** Freedom House released its annual “Freedom of the Press” report, which rated Burma’s press as “Not Free.”⁸⁵ The report said Burma remained one of the more repressive countries in Asia due to significant state control over the domestic media sector, low penetration rates for electronic media, and a number of restrictive laws still in effect.⁸⁶
- **20 May:** The US State Department released the “2012 Report on International Religious Freedom.”⁸⁷ With regard to Burma, the report said that the regime’s respect for religious freedom did not change significantly in 2012.⁸⁸ The report noted that regime authorities took part in violence targeting Muslim communities in Arakan State.⁸⁹ In addition, it said that the regime maintained restrictions on religious activities and limited religious organizations’ freedom of expression, association, and assembly.⁹⁰

DISPLACEMENT

More Rohingya boat people drown; Bangladesh push-backs continue

Rohingya boat people attempting to flee to Burma’s regional neighbors continued to drown at sea. In addition, Bangladeshi authorities continued to push back Rohingya.

- **16-17 May:** Bangladeshi authorities and local people in Teknaf recovered the bodies of 32 Rohingya who had attempted to reach Malaysia by boat.⁹¹
- **19 May:** Border Guards of Bangladesh (BGB) personnel pushed back 24 Rohingya at the border point at Shapuri Dip, Teknaf.⁹²

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Obama meets Thein Sein, tells him to stop anti-Muslim violence

On 18 May, President Thein Sein arrived in Washington for a four-day visit.⁹³ During his trip, Thein Sein met separately with US President Barack Obama, various Congressional representatives, World Bank President Jim Yong Kim, US Chamber of Commerce members, and former Secretary of State Hilary Clinton.⁹⁴

During their 20 May meeting at the White House, Obama and Thein Sein discussed political prisoners, ongoing ethnic and sectarian conflict, political reforms, the provision of US development aid, and assistance to Burma’s police and military.⁹⁵ Obama told Thein Sein that violence against Muslims in Burma needed to stop and that their rights and dignity must be “recognized over the long term.”⁹⁶

Various agreements and initiatives between the US and Burma were announced during Thein Sein’s trip.

⁸⁵ Freedom House (01 May 13) Freedom of the Press 2013: Middle East Volatility amid Global Decline; Freedom House (01 May 13) Freedom of the Press 2013 - Burma (Myanmar)

⁸⁶ Freedom House (01 May 13) Freedom of the Press 2013 - Burma (Myanmar)

⁸⁷ RFA (20 May 13) Religious Freedom 'Improves' in Vietnam, Declines in China

⁸⁸ US State Department (20 May 13) Burma 2012 International Religious Freedom Report

⁸⁹ US State Department (20 May 13) Burma 2012 International Religious Freedom Report

⁹⁰ US State Department (20 May 13) Burma 2012 International Religious Freedom Report

⁹¹ Kaladan News (17 May 13) 32 bodies recovered at coastline in Teknaf; Narinjara News (17 May 13) 24 bodies recovered from the Bay in Teknaf

⁹² Kaladan News (20 May 13) BGB pushes back 24 Rohingyas to Burma

⁹³ AFP (19 May 13) Myanmar leader starts US visit

⁹⁴ AFP (22 May 13) US looking to end Myanmar sanctions after landmark visit; NLM (22 May 13) President U Thein Sein receives former US Secretary of State, World Bank President; VOA (22 May 13) US Senator Urges End of Key Sanctions Against Burma; NLM (23 May 13) President U Thein Sein meets US Senators; NLM (24 May 13) President U Thein Sein meets Leaders of US Senate, House of Representatives; AFP (21 May 13) Obama praises Myanmar reform but warns on Muslims; EMG (24 May 13) Thein Sein wraps up landmark US visit

⁹⁵ White House (20 May 13) Remarks by President Obama and President Thein Sein of Myanmar After Bilateral Meeting; AFP (21 May 13) Obama praises Myanmar reform but warns on Muslims

⁹⁶ White House (20 May 13) Remarks by President Obama and President Thein Sein of Myanmar After Bilateral Meeting

- **20 May:** The Myanmar-United States Trade Council announced the establishment of offices in Washington, New York, and Rangoon in order to promote trade and investment relations between Burma and the US.⁹⁷
- **20 May:** In a meeting between regime Energy Minister Than Htay and US Special Envoy and Coordinator for International Energy Affairs Carlos Pascual, the US agreed to provide technical assistance in support of the regime's implementation of international best practices in oil and gas sector management and oversight.⁹⁸
- **21 May:** Regime Commerce Deputy Minister Pwint Hsan and acting US Trade Representative Demetrios Marantis signed a trade and investment agreement aimed at facilitating ongoing dialogue and cooperation on trade and investment issues.⁹⁹

US scraps visa ban but renews targeted sanctions

In early May, the US revised its sanctions on Burma ahead of President Thein Sein's visit to Washington. On 2 May, the US government lifted a ban on granting entry visas to various regime officials, their families, and regime cronies.¹⁰⁰ However, on the same day, US President Barack Obama announced the extension for another year of the National Emergencies Act with respect to Burma.¹⁰¹ The legislation allows the remaining sanctions on Burma, such as the prohibition for US companies to do business with Burma's blacklisted entities and military owned companies, to continue.¹⁰²

Japanese PM pursues investment opportunities

On 24 May, Japanese PM Shinzo Abe arrived in Burma, accompanied by 40 top business leaders from Japan, for a three-day visit that was almost exclusively focused on strengthening economic relations and securing new investment opportunities in the country.¹⁰³ During his trip, Abe met separately with President Thein Sein and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and visited Rangoon Division's Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ).¹⁰⁴ Various agreements were inked during Abe's visit.

- **25 May:** In Rangoon, nine Burmese companies and Japan's Mitsubishi, Marubeni, and Sumitomo signed an MoU on the development of the Thilawa SEZ.¹⁰⁵
- **26 May:** Japan agreed to grant Burma a 51 billion yen (US\$500 million) loan for road construction, electricity production, water supply, and the development of the Thilawa SEZ.¹⁰⁶ Japan also provided a 2.3 billion yen (US\$22.5 million) loan for water management in Rangoon and human resources development.¹⁰⁷ In addition, Japan announced that it would cancel the remaining 188.6 billion yen (US\$1.85 billion) of Burma's debt with Tokyo.¹⁰⁸

⁹⁷ PR Newswire (20 May 13) Myanmar - United States Trade Council Established By Washington, DC/New York Trade & Finance Advisory Firm

⁹⁸ US State Department (20 May 13) Joint Statement on Good Governance and Transparency in the Energy Sector; Irrawaddy (21 May 13) Trade and Investment Key Issues During Thein Sein's US Visit

⁹⁹ Xinhua (21 May 13) U.S., Myanmar sign trade agreement; VOA (21 May 13) Burma President Ends US Trip With Trade Deal

¹⁰⁰ Reuters (02 May 13) U.S. lifts more sanctions on Myanmar to support reforms

¹⁰¹ Reuters (02 May 13) U.S. lifts more sanctions on Myanmar to support reforms; BBC (03 May 13) US announces Burma sanctions move

¹⁰² Reuters (02 May 13) U.S. lifts more sanctions on Myanmar to support reforms; BBC (03 May 13) US announces Burma sanctions move; US Department of the Treasury, Burmese Sanctions Regulations 31 C.F.R. Part 537, General License No. 17, Authorizing New Investment in Burma

¹⁰³ Xinhua (24 May 13) Japanese PM arrives in Myanmar for goodwill visit; AFP (25 May 13) Japan to give 'all possible' help for Myanmar economy: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe vows

¹⁰⁴ Kyodo News (26 May 13) Visiting Abe assures Myanmar of support from 'whole of Japan'; AFP (25 May 13) Japan to give 'all possible' help for Myanmar economy: Prime Minister Shinzo Abe vows; EMG (25 May 13) Japanese Prime Minister attends Myanmar-Japan Economic Forum; NLM (27 May 13) Myanmar, Japan to promote relations in all sectors in future

¹⁰⁵ Xinhua (25 May 13) Myanmar, Japanese firms sign MoU on Thilawa SEZ development

¹⁰⁶ Bloomberg (26 May 13) Japan Agrees to Give Myanmar Development Loans as Abe Visits; AFP (26 May 13) Japan unveils major aid and loan package for Myanmar; NLM (28 May 13) Japan announces its assistance for Myanmar's infrastructural development; AP (26 May 13) Japan gives Myanmar \$504M loan, forgives debt; Reuters (26 May 13) Japan's Abe Ends Burma Visit with Aid, Debt Write-off

¹⁰⁷ NLM (28 May 13) Japan, Myanmar agree grant aid to Myanmar; Xinhua (26 May 13) Japan offers 51 bln yen loan to Myanmar; AFP (26 May 13) Japan unveils major aid and loan package for Myanmar

¹⁰⁸ Bloomberg (26 May 13) Japan Agrees to Give Myanmar Development Loans as Abe Visits; NLM (28 May 13) Japan considers continued assistance important for Myanmar's reform progress; Xinhua (27 May 13) Myanmar, Japan lay new foundation for further bilateral cooperation

In a joint statement released on 26 May, the regime and Japan also pledged to promote bilateral defense cooperation and enhance dialogue on regional security issues.¹⁰⁹

ECONOMY

Burma ranks last for resource governance

On 16 May, the US-based Revenue Watch Institute released its “2013 Resource Governance Index.”¹¹⁰ The index, which measured the quality of governance in the oil, gas, and mining sectors of 58 resource-rich countries, ranked Burma dead last in terms of resource governance.¹¹¹ The following factors contributed to Burma’s poor ranking:¹¹²

- Almost no information is available on the management of the extractive sector.
- Environmental and social impact assessments for projects related to the extractive sector are not required.
- Corruption is rampant in the extractive sector and the regime has diverted much of the resource revenues to the foreign bank accounts of a few officials.
- Licensing authorities have broad discretionary powers and their decisions cannot be appealed.
- Parliament has no clear oversight role in the extractive sector.

Barriers to investment remain

Despite a growing number of foreign investors rushing in to explore the country’s potential, in 2013 only a small number of companies entered Burma’s market.¹¹³ On 13 May, it was reported that from January to April, the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) had granted licenses to only 33 companies - of which 15 were in the garment sector.¹¹⁴ Many potential investors cited Burma’s poor infrastructure as the main obstacle to investment in the country.¹¹⁵ Their concerns were exemplified by the regime authorities’ decision to halt power supplies to industrial zones outside Rangoon and Mandalay starting on 6 May due to insufficient hydropower generation in the dry season.¹¹⁶ As a result, manufacturers faced steep increases in production costs because factories had to use diesel-run generators for electricity supply.¹¹⁷

Strikes in Rangoon

- **11 May:** Eighty workers at the Hote Sein factory in Rangoon’s Hlaing Tharyar Township went on strike over low wages and long working hours.¹¹⁸ They demanded an increase of their monthly salary to 85,000 kyat (US\$94), overtime pay, and an eight-hour workday.¹¹⁹
- **11 May:** More than a thousand workers at the San Kaung Polyethylene factory in Rangoon’s Hlaing Tharyar Township went on strike to seek the reinstatement of 49 co-workers who had been dismissed for demanding a 5,000 kyat (US\$5.5) monthly salary increase.¹²⁰
- **14 May:** Over 400 workers from the Lucky Shoes factory in Rangoon’s Hlaing Tharyar Township went on strike after the company failed to pay overtime as well as housing and transportation allowances.¹²¹

¹⁰⁹ NLM (27 May 13) Myanmar and Japanese leaders welcome comprehensive assistance projects ongoing or under consideration by relevant organizations including Government of Japan and NGOs and confirm to further promote cooperation

¹¹⁰ Mizzima News (16 May 13) Myanmar ranked worst in resource governance

¹¹¹ Revenue Watch Institute (16 May 13) 2013 Resource Governance Index

¹¹² Revenue Watch Institute (16 May 13) 2013 Resource Governance Index

¹¹³ Myanmar Times (13 May 13) Garment sector leads the way for new foreign investment; BBC (28 May 13) But will ordinary Burmese benefit from their country’s investment boom?

¹¹⁴ EMG (19 May 13) Investment commission approves 33 companies in first quarter; Myanmar Times (13 May 13) Garment sector leads the way for new foreign investment

¹¹⁵ Myanmar Times (13 May 13) Garment sector leads the way for new foreign investment

¹¹⁶ Reuters (09 May 13) Electricity supply cut at Myanmar’s manufacturing hubs; Mizzima News (10 May 13) Yangon factories may be forced to shut if power cuts continue

¹¹⁷ Reuters (09 May 13) Electricity supply cut at Myanmar’s manufacturing hubs; Mizzima News (10 May 13) Yangon factories may be forced to shut if power cuts continue

¹¹⁸ EMG (14 May 13) Myanmar workers demand 8 working hours and \$100 monthly salary

¹¹⁹ EMG (14 May 13) Myanmar workers demand 8 working hours and \$100 monthly salary

¹²⁰ EMG (15 May 13) Workers keep on staging protest

SIM card lottery flops - again

In early May, the SIM cards that the regime had sold at 1,500 kyat (approximately US\$2) in April through a lottery system [See *April 2013 Burma Bulletin*] were trading at between 70,000 and 180,000 kyat (US\$200) on the resale market.¹²² Despite the apparent failure of the lottery system to make SIM cards affordable to most Burmese, on 20 May regime authorities proceeded with the sale of a second batch of 350,000 SIM cards at the price of 1,500 kyat through a nationwide lottery.¹²³ Like in April, the process lacked transparency and the supply of SIM cards was insufficient, resulting in many people leaving empty handed after queuing up for hours at local regime offices.¹²⁴

OTHER BURMA NEWS IN MAY

2	Union Daily newspaper reports that People's Assembly Speaker Shwe Mann has replaced President Thein Sein as USDP Chairman.
2	WWF releases "Ecosystems in the Greater Mekong: past trends, current status, possible futures," a report that claims that Burma lost 24% of its forest cover between 1973 and 2009.
2	Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Sr Gen Min Aung Hlaing meets with Singaporean Defense Minister Ng Eng Hen in Naypyidaw to discuss Burma's chair of ASEAN in 2014 and bilateral military cooperation.
2	In a radio address to the nation, President Thein Sein says that Burma's political, economic, and social conflicts are the consequence of international sanctions.
3	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi returns to Burma after a seven-day visit to Mongolia.
3	President Thein Sein removes President's Office Minister Soe Thein from the Myanmar Investment Commission and replaces him with regime Finance and Revenue Minister Win Shein as its chairman.
3	UN Population Fund denies that the registration of Rohingya in IDP camps near Akyab, Arakan State, is related to preparations for the 2014 nationwide census.
3	In a joint statement, 10 Rohingya organizations say that the regime-appointed commission's report on the Arakan State unrest is "biased" and call on the UN to establish a commission to conduct a prompt, full, and impartial investigation into human rights violations against Rohingya.
3	Regime Information Minister Aung Kyi says that Burma's media will not be able to exercise their full freedom because that would not be compatible with the country's current situation.
6	Regime authorities in Kyaukpau Township, Arakan State, grant bail to 10 Madaya Island residents charged on 19 April under the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law.
7	A court in Akyab Township, Arakan State, sentences 10 Buddhist Rakhine to prison terms ranging between nine months and three years in connection with the June 2012 unrest in Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State.
7	His Holiness the Dalai Lama says that killing people in the name of religion is "unthinkable" in reference to recent anti-Muslim violence in Burma.
8	A 12-member NLD delegation leaves Rangoon for a 10 day study visit to China.
8	World Bank announces that the regime has selected Kanpetlet, Chin State, Namhsan, Shan State, and Kyunsu, Tenasserim Division, as the first three townships that will participate in the World Bank's National Community Driven Development Project.
8	Thailand and Burma's regime open a new border crossing at Singkhorn, Prachuap Khiri Khan Province and Mawhtaung in Tenasserim Division.
8	President Thein Sein expands the political prisoner review committee to include three more representatives of political parties.
8	US Ambassador to Burma Derek Mitchell urges Burma's regime to "take action" against the perpetrators of hate speech on social media during a workshop on freedom of expression at the US Embassy in Rangoon.
10	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi says that the 2015 election will not be free and fair without prior amendments to the 2008 constitution.
11	DKBA Brigade 5, BGF, and Myanmar Peace Center representatives meet in Sone Si Myaing Village, Myawaddy Township, Karen State, to discuss clashes between DKBA Brigade 5 and the BGF in late April.

¹²¹ EMG (20 May 13) Labour disputes on the rise in Myanmar

¹²² Myanmar Times (09 May 13) CDMA SIM card sales lag in Mandalay

¹²³ NLM (14 May 13) Low-priced SIM cards sales plans of MPT for May; NLM (21 May 13) Over 60,000 SIM cards to be sold in Mandalay this month; NLM (23 May 13) Yezagyo Township gets more 900 SIM cards in May; NLM (23 May 13) CDMA 800 MHz SIM cards sold in Myinmu for second batch; NLM (26 May 13) Low-priced SIM cards sold in Yangon

¹²⁴ Myanmar Times (25 May 13) SIM cards cause headaches in Mandalay

13	During a meeting with China's Ambassador to Burma Yang Houlan in Rangoon, 88 Generation Students call for more transparency in infrastructure and development projects implemented by Chinese companies in Burma.
14	Thai authorities seize 1.66 million methamphetamine pills and 43 kilos of crystal methamphetamine which four men had attempted to smuggle from Burma into Mae Sai, Thailand.
16	May 18 Memorial Foundation presents 88 Generation Student leader Min Ko Naing with the Gwanju Human Rights Award in South Korea.
16	USDP People's Assembly MP Aung Thaung says his party will support amendments to the 2008 constitution if they are "for the benefit of the state and the people of Burma."
16	Myanmar Airways plane overshoots runway at Monghsat airport, Shan State, injuring two passengers.
16	A bomb explosion kills a man in Muse, Shan State.
19	In an interview with the Washington Post, President Thein Sein says that the Tatmadaw "will always have a special place" in government.
20	China's Ambassador to Burma Yang Houlan says that the Kyaukpyu-Kunming dual oil and gas pipelines will bring socio-economic benefits to Burma's local communities.
21	ABSDF representatives and regime officials conclude two days of ceasefire talks in Rangoon.
21	Thai Cabinet approves Thailand's investment plan for Burma's Tavoy deep-sea port.
22	Four members of the ABSDF commission tasked with investigating the February 1992 massacre of 15 students in Kachin State meet with nine survivors in Rangoon.
22	In Tokyo, Thai PM Yingluck Shinawatra urges Japanese investors to invest in Burma's Tavoy deep-sea port.
22	IMF estimates that Burma's economy will grow 6.75% in the 2013-14 fiscal year.
22	Kachin National Consultative Assembly releases a statement calling for genuine federalism in Burma and amendments to the 2008 constitution.
22	Regime authorities in Taunggyi, Shan State, demolish the Lawka Marnaung Monastery and detain the monastery's abbot on charges of defaming the Buddhist religion.
22	AIPMC releases a statement urging ASEAN to call for a UNHRC resolution on anti-Muslim violence in Burma.
23	Australian embassy in Rangoon says that in 2013-14 Australia's development assistance to Burma will rise from A\$64.2 million (US\$61.8 million) to A\$82.8 million (US\$79.7 million).
23	US State Department issues the Burma Responsible Investment Reporting Requirements for companies that want to do business in Burma.
26	During an AIDS candlelight memorial vigil organized by community-based organizations in Rangoon, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi calls for an end to discrimination towards people with HIV.
26	State media report that the regime has authorized five more private insurance companies to operate in Burma.
27	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi says that there have been "no tangible changes" in Burma for the last three years with regard to the rule of law and the peace process with ethnic groups.
27	Malaysia's Permanent Representative to the UN Mazlan Muhammad says Malaysia is deeply concerned over anti-Muslim violence in Burma.
28	MSF says that ongoing travel restrictions on and segregation of Rohingya in Arakan State have seen whole villages cut off from basic services and led to unnecessary deaths.
29	Over 400 farmers and residents near the Monywa copper mine in Salingyi Township, Sagaing Division, demonstrate to urge local regime authorities to release the three people detained during a 25 April protest in Sete Village.
30	A report from global consulting firm McKinsey & Co. says three-quarters of Burma's population will likely still earn less than US\$10 a day in 2030.
30	US State Department expresses concern over the Arakan State regime authorities' plan to enforce a ban on Rohingya having more than two children and urges the regime to "eliminate all such policies without delay."
31	China National Petroleum Corporation announces that the Kyaukpyu-Kunming gas pipeline is complete and ready for trial operations.
31	Vodafone and China Mobile pull out of the race for telecom licenses, saying that the conditions set by the regime do not meet the "strict internal investment criteria" to which the two companies adhere.

REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN MAY

"Impunity still reigns In Burma: Rohingya persecuted, Muslims targeted, Kachin attacked", Altsean-Burma <http://bit.ly/12Kq6Xh>

“Massacre in Central Burma: Muslim Students Terrorized and Killed in Meiktila”, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) <http://bit.ly/10Kujvs>

“Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Myanmar”, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon <http://bit.ly/13gCTzO>

“Where are the Women?”, Swedish Burma Committee <http://bit.ly/1028t29>

“Freedom of the Press 2013 - Burma”, Freedom House <http://bit.ly/131XpHK>

“2012 Report on International Religious Freedom - Burma”, US State Department <http://1.usa.gov/117SnnR>

“Annual Report 2013 - Myanmar”, Amnesty International (AI) <http://bit.ly/12XqTWy>

“Gains need consolidation in landmark year for change in Burma”, Southeast Asian Press Alliance (SEAPA) <http://bit.ly/17IZCJ1>

“Reforming Telecommunications in Burma”, Human Rights watch (HRW) <http://bit.ly/12nzGzb>

“Myanmar’s moment: Unique opportunities, major challenges”, McKinsey & Company <http://bit.ly/11qpG5O>

“Access Denied - Land Rights and Ethnic Conflict in Burma”, Transnational Institute (TNI) & Burma Centrum Netherlands (BCN) <http://bit.ly/10xs62t>

“2013 Resource Governance Index”, Revenue Watch Institute <http://bit.ly/18MDj6E>

“Ecosystems in the Greater Mekong: past trends, current status, possible futures,” World Wildlife Fund (WWF) <http://bit.ly/ZDoFLQ>

“Conducting Meaningful Stakeholder Consultation in Myanmar”, SHIFT <http://bit.ly/107Q7Ro>

“Chronology of Burma’s Political Prisoners for March, 2013”, Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) <http://bit.ly/13jBHvI>

“Update of human rights violations by the Burma Army during offensives in Palaung areas (March and April 2013)”, Palaung Women’s Organization (PWO) <http://bit.ly/10G2K7p>

“Burma: Visit Report”, Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) <http://bit.ly/15PIZ2q>

“Sold to the Sea: human trafficking in Thailand's fishing industry”, Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF), <http://bit.ly/18ESwZ2>

“Sending money home to Asia”, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) & World Bank (WB) <http://bit.ly/10Hpa7A>

“Kachin Response Plan (Myanmar) March 2013 - December 2013”, UN Country Team in Myanmar <http://bit.ly/173FAeI>

“Multilevel approaches to human security and conflict management: The Rohingya case”, Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS) <http://bit.ly/Z6CxzG>