

BURMA BULLETIN



A month-in-review of events in Burma



ALTERNATIVE A S E A N NETWORK ON BURMA
campaigns, advocacy & capacity-building for human rights & democracy

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- **Tatmadaw attacks and human rights violations in Kachin and Northern Shan States continue. Tatmadaw troops kill two civilians and rape a woman in Kachin State.**
- **For the first time since 2011, the regime allows two separate UN aid convoys to deliver supplies to IDPs in Laiza, Momauk Township, Kachin State.**
- **United Nationalities Federal Council rejects the regime's proposal for a nationwide ceasefire signing ceremony in October because Naypyidaw has not met the group's key demands, including an end to military offensives and the beginning of meaningful political dialogue with all ethnic armed groups.**
- **Regime authorities in Arakan State continue to commit serious human rights violations against Muslims and Rohingya. More anti-Muslim attacks are reported in Sandoway [Thandwe], Arakan State.**
- **The regime sentences 18 peaceful protestors to prison terms under the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law for demonstrating without obtaining the authorities' prior permission.**
- **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi makes overseas trips to Eastern Europe and Singapore, during which she reiterates the need for constitutional reform and warns against "blind optimism" in assessing Burma's reform process.**
- **Burma's Central Bank admits that the regime deposited US\$7.6 billion of foreign exchange reserves - including national budget funds - in overseas bank accounts.**
- **Burma approves US\$1.8 billion in foreign direct investment in the first five months of the 2013-14 fiscal year, which is more than the whole previous fiscal year.**

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KEY STORY

Tatmadaw offensives in Kachin and Northern Shan States continue

In September, Tatmadaw attacks continued in Kachin and Northern Shan States. Ongoing fighting between the Tatmadaw and three ethnic armed groups – the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the Shan State Army-North (SSA-N), and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) – underlined concerns over the sincerity of the regime's peace overtures [See below, *Ethnic groups reject regime's nationwide ceasefire proposal*]. Reported clashes included:

- **3 September:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 578 clashed with KIA forces in Muse Township, Northern Shan State.¹
- **10 September:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 507 clashed with KIA forces in Mansi Township, Kachin State.²
- **10 September:** Tatmadaw troops attacked SSA-N positions in Namtu Township, Northern Shan State.³
- **11 September:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces near Nam Hpu in Mansi Township, Kachin State.⁴
- **11 September:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces in multiple areas of Mansi Township, Kachin State.⁵
- **14 September:** Tatmadaw troops attacked KIA forces in Mansi Township, Kachin State.⁶
- **17 September:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with SSA-N forces in Mangyin, Namtu Township, Northern Shan State.⁷
- **23 September:** Tatmadaw troops attacked SSA-N positions in Namtu Township, Northern Shan State.⁸
- **24 September:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with TNLA forces in Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State.⁹

Kachin civilians detained, tortured, killed

Tatmadaw troops continued to commit serious human rights violations against civilians as part of their offensives against the Kachin Independence Army (KIA).

- **Early September:** Tatmadaw soldiers in Nhka Ga Village, Machanbaw Township, Kachin State, tortured and killed two civilians who were among a group of 10 local villagers detained on 29 August on suspicion of having ties to the KIA.¹⁰
- **27 September:** It was reported that Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 137 raped a 29-year-old woman in Nhka Ga Village, Machanbaw Township, Kachin State.¹¹

On 2 September, it was reported that at least 70 men from across Kachin and Northern Shan States remained in jail or were awaiting trial on charges of having ties to the KIA.¹²

Regime allows UN aid deliveries to IDPs in Laiza

For the first time since December 2011, the regime allowed two separate UN aid convoys to deliver short-term supplies to IDPs in Laiza, Momauk Township, Kachin State.

- **7 September:** A UN-aid convoy carrying food, medicine, and other items for 4,300 people arrived in Laiza.¹³ UN spokesperson Aye Win said that the aid would only last one month and that the UN was still waiting for the regime's permission to deliver more regular and substantive supplies to the 53,000 registered IDPs in KIA-held areas.¹⁴
- **17 September:** Officials from several UN agencies and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) delivered food and medical supplies for over 4,000 IDPs in Laiza.¹⁵

¹ Kachin News Group (06 Sep 13) Burma army and KIO clash in northern Shan state's Muse Township

² Kachinland News (11 Sep 13) Battles spread to KIA's 3rd Brigade area

³ Irrawaddy (24 Sep 13) SSA-North Says Attacks from Burma Army Frequent

⁴ Kachin News Group (11 Sep 13) Villagers flee as fighting continues in southern Kachin state

⁵ Kachinland News (12 Sep 13) Burmese army launches major offensives against KIA as government offers a nationwide peace accord

⁶ Kachinland News (15 Sep 13) Battles rage in southern Kachin and northern Shan State

⁷ EMG (24 Sep 13) Skirmishes break out in Shan state amid peace talks

⁸ Irrawaddy (24 Sep 13) SSA-North Says Attacks from Burma Army Frequent

⁹ EMG (26 Sep 13) Skirmish reported between govt troops and TNLA in Shan State

¹⁰ Kachinland News (19 Sep 13) Two Kachin civilians tortured and killed by government soldiers

¹¹ Kachinland News (27 Sep 13) Burmese government soldiers kill a civilian and rape a 29-year-old mother

¹² Irrawaddy (02 Sep 13) Torture Persists in Kachin State

¹³ DVB (09 Sep 13) UN aid reaches Laiza for first time in almost two years

¹⁴ DVB (09 Sep 13) UN aid reaches Laiza for first time in almost two years

¹⁵ Mizzima News (23 Sep 13) UN delivers second round of aid to Kachin refugees

Ethnic groups reject regime's nationwide ceasefire proposal

Despite the fact that Naypyidaw has yet to sign ceasefire deals with the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), on 8 September, President's Office Minister Aung Min announced that the regime planned to hold a nationwide ceasefire signing ceremony in October.¹⁶ The United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) rejected Aung Min's proposal during talks between a regime delegation and UNFC representatives on 8 September in Chiang Mai, Thailand.¹⁷ The UNFC rejected the regime's offer because they said Naypyidaw had not met the group's key demands, including an end to military offensives and the beginning of meaningful political dialogue with all ethnic armed groups.¹⁸

INSIDE BURMA

More abuses and militarization in Arakan State

Regime authorities in Arakan State continued to commit serious human rights violations against Muslims, including Rohingya.

- **1 September:** Police in Mrauk U, Arakan State, detained seven Muslims for travelling to Rangoon without the authorities' permission.¹⁹
- **3 September:** Police in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, arrested two Rohingya men for failing to report overnight guests.²⁰
- **12 September:** A Rohingya man died as a result of torture in police custody in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State.²¹
- **19 September:** It was reported that Tatmadaw soldiers in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, detained four Rohingya, including a child, who were returning to their village after collecting wood in a nearby forest.²²
- **20 September:** A 64-year-old Rohingya prisoner died in Buthidaung jail, Arakan State, as a result of torture and poor prison conditions.²³
- **21 September:** Police in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, arrested a 40-year-old Rohingya for his alleged involvement in the June 2012 riots in the township.²⁴

The deployment of additional military and police personnel to Northern Arakan State raised concerns over the risks of further abuses against Rohingya. In September, it was reported that the regime had already deployed three Tatmadaw battalions to Northern Arakan State near the border with Bangladesh.²⁵ In addition, regime authorities in Arakan State were preparing for the deployment of two additional police battalions to the area.²⁶

More anti-Muslim attacks in Arakan State

In September, anti-Muslim violence flared up again. On 29 September, a Buddhist mob in Sandoway [Thandwe], Arakan State, set fire to at least two Muslim houses after a Buddhist man told police that a Muslim shop owner had verbally abused him.²⁷

¹⁶ Irrawaddy (09 Sep 13) Ethnic Leaders Say Nationwide Ceasefire Accord Unlikely in October

¹⁷ IMNA (09 Sep 13) UNFC meeting with govt brings no change

¹⁸ EMG (09 Sep 13) Government and UNFC fail to reach nationwide ceasefire deal; Karen News (20 Sep 13) UNFC – Government's Offer Of A Nationwide Ceasefire Not Acceptable Now

¹⁹ Narinjara News (05 Sep 13) Seven Muslim travelers detained in Mrauk U

²⁰ Kaladan News (05 Sep 13) Local militia unit, police and Hluntin hassle Rohingyas in Maungdaw

²¹ Kaladan News (29 Sep 13) Killed one amount five brothers in police custody

²² Kaladan News (19 Sep 13) Army arrests four men in southern Maungdaw

²³ Kaladan News (25 Sep 13) Rohingya prisoner dies for torture and various kinds of diseases

²⁴ Kaladan News (22 Sep 13) Harassment increase in Maungdaw

²⁵ Mizzima News (20 Sep 13) Maungdaw Chief demands more security; EMG (20 Sep 13) Army increases security measures on Bangladeshi border; Kaladan News (22 Sep 13) Burmese government deploys army in Burma-Bangladesh Border

²⁶ Mizzima News (20 Sep 13) Maungdaw Chief demands more security; EMG (20 Sep 13) Army increases security measures on Bangladeshi border; Kaladan News (22 Sep 13) Burmese government deploys army in Burma-Bangladesh Border

²⁷ AP (29 Sep 13) Sectarian tensions flare in Myanmar town; Reuters (30 Sep 13) Muslims in hiding in Myanmar after sectarian strife flares

Meanwhile, the regime sentenced more people to prison terms in connection with religious riots.

- **4 September:** A court in Kantbalu Township, Sagaing Division, sentenced an 18-year-old Muslim man to seven years in prison for the attempted rape of a Buddhist woman.²⁸ The incident triggered anti-Muslim attacks in the township on 24 August [See *August 2013 Burma Bulletin*].²⁹
- **24 September:** A court in Taikgyi Township, Rangoon Division, sentenced two Buddhist men to five years in prison each on charges of arson and destruction of public property during anti-Muslim attacks in the township in April [See *April 2013 Burma Bulletin*].³⁰ About 20 more Buddhists remained on trial in connection with the April attacks.³¹
- **26 September:** The Shwebo District court in Sagaing Division sentenced four Buddhist men to nine years in prison each on charges of arson and vandalism in connection with anti-Muslim attacks in Kantbalu Township.³²

‘969’-inspired organizations banned

On 2 September, the regime-backed Sangha (the body that oversees Burma’s Buddhist clergy) issued a directive that barred Buddhist monks from forming organizations based on the ‘969’ movement’s anti-Muslim ideology.³³ One of the Sangha members said that the ‘969’ movement had gone too far by drafting proposed legislation that would restrict interfaith marriages.³⁴ On 11 September, extremist Buddhist monk U Wirathu rejected the Sangha’s ban, calling the body undemocratic.³⁵

Saffron Revolution anniversary marked

In September, Buddhist monks in Burma’s two main cities held ceremonies to mark the sixth anniversary of the Saffron Revolution.

- **18 September:** About 100 senior monks from across the country gathered at a monastery in Rangoon’s Kyimyindine Township.³⁶ The monks demanded the regime make an official apology for the bloody crackdown on the 2007 peaceful protests.³⁷ They also called for an end to “ethnic and religious violence” in the country and urged the regime to free all remaining political prisoners.³⁸
- **26 September:** Dozens of monks and activists gathered at Rangoon’s Shwedagon pagoda to commemorate the crackdown on the monk-led protests.³⁹ In Mandalay, about 500 monks gathered at a monastery to commemorate the crackdown and urged the regime to support amendments to the 2008 constitution and to address land confiscation issues across the country.⁴⁰

²⁸ AP (05 Sep 13) Myanmar sentences Muslim man to 7 years in prison; AFP (05 Sep 13) Muslim man jailed over Kanbalu rape attempt; VOA (05 Sep 13) Burmese Muslim Given Controversial Jail Term for Rape of Buddhist Woman

²⁹ AP (05 Sep 13) Myanmar sentences Muslim man to 7 years in prison; AFP (05 Sep 13) Muslim man jailed over Kanbalu rape attempt

³⁰ Irrawaddy (25 Sep 13) Two Men Sentenced to Prison Terms for Okkan Violence

³¹ Irrawaddy (25 Sep 13) Two Men Sentenced to Prison Terms for Okkan Violence

³² DVB (30 Sep 13) Four anti-Muslim rioters sentenced in Kantbalu

³³ Reuters (11 Sep 13) Myanmar Buddhist committee bans anti-Muslim organizations

³⁴ Reuters (11 Sep 13) Myanmar Buddhist committee bans anti-Muslim organizations

³⁵ AP (11 Sep 13) Senior Myanmar monks clamp down on activist monks; Reuters (11 Sep 13) Myanmar Buddhist committee bans anti-Muslim organizations

³⁶ AFP (19 Sep 13) Myanmar monks urge peace on uprising anniversary; RFA (18 Sep 13) Myanmar Monks Demand Official Apology for Saffron Revolution Crackdown; DVB (19 Sep 13) Brothers in alms

³⁷ AFP (19 Sep 13) Myanmar monks urge peace on uprising anniversary; RFA (18 Sep 13) Myanmar Monks Demand Official Apology for Saffron Revolution Crackdown; Irrawaddy (18 Sep 13) Monks Urge Burmese Govt to Apologize as Saffron Revolution Turns 6; DVB (19 Sep 13) Brothers in alms

³⁸ AFP (19 Sep 13) Myanmar monks urge peace on uprising anniversary; RFA (18 Sep 13) Myanmar Monks Demand Official Apology for Saffron Revolution Crackdown; Irrawaddy (18 Sep 13) Monks Urge Burmese Govt to Apologize as Saffron Revolution Turns 6

³⁹ Irrawaddy (26 Sep 13) ‘Saffron Revolution’ Leaders Say Rangoon Chief Minister Should Face Court

⁴⁰ Irrawaddy (26 Sep 13) ‘Saffron Revolution’ Leaders Say Rangoon Chief Minister Should Face Court

Inspect what? Regime signs IAEA's Additional Protocol

On 17 September, regime FM Wunna Maung Lwin signed the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) Additional Protocol on the sidelines of the IAEA's annual member state meeting in Vienna, Austria.⁴¹ The Additional Protocol, once ratified by Naypyidaw, will allow the IAEA to carry out short-notice inspections of declared nuclear facilities in Burma.⁴² However, analysts pointed out that the ratification of the protocol may not result in closer scrutiny of Naypyidaw's nuclear activities because the regime has consistently denied having any nuclear sites to inspect.⁴³

HUMAN RIGHTS

Eighteen peaceful protestors jailed

In September, the regime sentenced 18 peaceful protestors to prison terms under the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law for demonstrating without obtaining the authorities' prior permission.

- **4 September:** A court in Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State, sentenced local community leaders Hla May, Maung Win, Tin Tin Aye, and Maung Thein Hlaing to three months in prison for leading a protest against the construction of permanent shelters for Rohingya IDPs in Kyauktaw on 7 March.⁴⁴
- **9 September:** A court in Sandoway Township, Arakan State, sentenced activist Soe Wai to nine months in prison for demonstrating against land confiscation on 2 September.⁴⁵
- **13 September:** A court in Taunggoat Township, Arakan State, sentenced local community leaders Soe Win, Min Tun, and Than Lwin Tun to three months in prison for demonstrating against the resettlement of Rohingya to permanent shelters in Taunggoat Township in March.⁴⁶
- **26 September:** A court in Kyaukpyu Township, Arakan State, sentenced 10 activists to three months in prison for demonstrating against the Kyaukpyu-Kunming oil and gas dual pipeline on 18 April [See *April 2013 Burma Bulletin*].⁴⁷

DISPLACEMENT

Rohingya boat people reach Thailand, Malaysia

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

- **11 September:** More than 200 Rohingya boat people bound for Malaysia swam ashore in Satun Province, Thailand, after a storm hit their boat.⁴⁸ The boat people said that two men had died during the journey, which began on 26 August.⁴⁹
- **18 September:** Malaysian authorities detained 90 Rohingya boat people who reached landfall on the coast of Perlis State, Malaysia.⁵⁰

⁴¹ Reuters (17 Sep 13) U.N. nuclear watchdog to gain wider access in Myanmar; NLM (19 Sep 13) Union FM signs agreement with IAEA; Xinhua (19 Sep 13) Myanmar vows to continue cooperation with IAEA to implement additional protocol

⁴² DVB (22 Sep 13) Nuclear Burma – a chance to cut the red tape

⁴³ DVB (16 Sep 13) Burma agrees to let in UN nuclear weapons inspectors

⁴⁴ Narinjara News (06 Sep 13) Four Arakanese community leaders convicted; Irrawaddy (05 Sep 13) Anti-Rohingya Demonstrators in Arakan Are Assembly Law's Latest Victims

⁴⁵ Narinjara News (14 Sep 13) Solo protester sent to prison

⁴⁶ Narinjara News (14 Sep 13) Social network leaders sent to jail in Arakan; Narinjara News (06 Sep 13) Four Arakanese community leaders convicted

⁴⁷ RFA (26 Sep 13) Myanmar Jails Activists Over Protest Against China-Led Petroleum Project; TRF (27 Sep 13) Myanmar activists jailed for protesting against Chinese-led oil and gas project

⁴⁸ AP (12 Sep 13) More than 200 Rohingya boat people detained after running aground in southern Thailand; Nation (12 Sep 13) 250 Rohingya men swim ashore in Satun

⁴⁹ Nation (12 Sep 13) 250 Rohingya men swim ashore in Satun

⁵⁰ Bernama (18 Sep 13) PGA Detains 90 Illegal Myanmarese In Bukit Batu Puteh

‘Group of Friends’, UN Sec-Gen urge Rohingya protection

On 26 September, the Group of Friends on Myanmar held a meeting on the sidelines of the 68th Session of the General Assembly in New York.⁵¹ During the meeting, UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon said that ethnic and religious violence threatened to undermine the reform process in Burma and called on the regime to address the underlying causes of conflict, protect the rights of minorities including Rohingya, and address the right to citizenship for Rohingya.⁵² The Group of Friends on Myanmar released a statement calling on Naypyidaw to address the political and economic grievances of Rohingya, including their right to citizenship.⁵³

Thai, regime officials discuss economic and security issues

In September, several high-level regime officials paid separate visits to Thailand to discuss bilateral cooperation in several areas.

National Assembly Speaker Khin Aung Myint, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Sr Gen Min Aung Hlaing, and National Parliament Speaker Shwe Mann all traveled to Bangkok to meet with Thai PM Yingluck Shinawatra on 4, 17, and 23 September respectively.⁵⁴ Min Aung Hlaing and Shwe Mann discussed strengthening cooperation on the development of the Tavoy project in Tenasserim Division during their meetings with the Thai PM.⁵⁵ On the issue of Rohingya asylum seekers detained in Thailand, Khin Aung Myint told Yingluck that the regime did not recognize Rohingya as Burmese citizens.⁵⁶ On 18 September, Min Aung Hlaing met with Thai Army Supreme Commander Gen Tanasak Patimapragorn in Bangkok to discuss border demarcation, human trafficking, and drug smuggling.⁵⁷

Daw Suu travels to Europe, Singapore

In September, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made two overseas trips - a seven-day visit to Eastern Europe and a four-day visit to Singapore [See table *Daw Suu's travels*]. During the numerous events and meetings she attended, Daw Suu reiterated her position on several key political and economic issues related to Burma.

- **Constitutional amendments:** Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that Burma could not be a democracy as long as the 2008 constitution was in effect.⁵⁸ She stressed that the charter was “against all democratic values” and did not meet the aspirations of ethnic nationalities.⁵⁹ Daw Suu warned that Burma would face “more problems” if the constitution wasn’t amended before the 2015 elections.⁶⁰
- **Reform process:** Daw Aung San Suu Kyi warned against “blind optimism” in assessing Burma’s reform process.⁶¹ She urged the international community to look at Burma’s situation “very objectively” without painting an “over-optimistic picture” of the country.⁶²

⁵¹ UN News Center (26 Sep 13) Myanmar must continue making gains in democratic transition – UN chief

⁵² UN News Center (26 Sep 13) Myanmar must continue making gains in democratic transition – UN chief

⁵³ AP (26 Sep 13) Myanmar told communal violence threatens reforms

⁵⁴ Bernama (06 Sep 13) Myanmar Calls For Demarcation Of Myanmar-Thai Border; Bangkok Post (18 Sep 13) General hails 'best ever' relations; Bangkok Post (24 Sep 13) Deal struck to speed Dawei development

⁵⁵ Bangkok Post (24 Sep 13) Deal struck to speed Dawei development; Irrawaddy (19 Sep 13) Burma Military Chief Discusses Dawei Project with Thai PM

⁵⁶ Bernama (06 Sep 13) Myanmar Calls For Demarcation Of Myanmar-Thai Border

⁵⁷ DVB (19 Sep 13) Thai, Burmese military chiefs conclude talks in Bangkok

⁵⁸ AFP (14 Sep 13) Suu Kyi says constitution changes 'crucial' for Myanmar transition; Vatican Radio (14 Sep 13) Suu Kyi Warns US, EU Of 'Over-Optimism' About Myanmar; Irrawaddy (23 Sep 13) 'No Real Democracy' for Burma if Constitution Goes Unchanged: Suu Kyi

⁵⁹ AFP (13 Sep 13) Suu Kyi says unable to stop sectarian violence in Myanmar; Reuters (17 Sep 13) Suu Kyi calls for speedy change to Myanmar constitution

⁶⁰ AP (23 Sep 13) Myanmar opposition leader Suu Kyi warns of problems if constitution not amended before 2015; CNA (23 Sep 13) More problems if Myanmar constitution not changed by 2015: Suu Kyi

⁶¹ DVB (16 Sep 13) Suu Kyi wishes Burmese to be 'rich in hope'; Prague Post (16 Sep 13) Burma's Suu Kyi opens Forum 2000 Conference

⁶² Vatican Radio (14 Sep 13) Suu Kyi Warns US, EU Of 'Over-Optimism' About Myanmar; AFP (21 Sep 13) Suu Kyi fears Myanmar unrest could deter investors; Straits Times (22 Sep 13) Myanmar needs reforms, says Suu Kyi

- **Foreign investment:** Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urged businesses to invest in Burma in a transparent and responsible manner.⁶³ Daw Suu warned that lack of peace in ethnic nationality areas, communal violence, and weak rule of law - including a judiciary that was not independent - posed the biggest challenges to Burma's development and could deter foreign investors.⁶⁴

Daw Suu's travels

Poland

10 Sep: Left Rangoon for Eastern Europe.⁶⁵

11 Sep: In Warsaw: Met with Polish Parliament's Lower House Speaker Ewa Kopacz and Senate Speaker Bogdan Borusewicz.⁶⁶

12 Sep: In Warsaw: Met with President Bronislaw Komorowski and PM Donald Tusk;⁶⁷ held talks with former Polish President Lech Walesa;⁶⁸ met with Warsaw Mayor Hanna Gronkiewicz-Waltz, who awarded her the honorary citizenship of Warsaw;⁶⁹ gave a lecture at Warsaw University.⁷⁰

Hungary

13 Sep: In Budapest: Held separate meetings with Hungarian President Janos Ader and Parliamentary State Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Ministry Zsolt Németh.⁷¹

Czech Republic

15 Sep: In Prague: Gave the keynote speech at the opening ceremony of the Forum 2000 Conference;⁷² met with His Holiness the Dalai Lama.⁷³

18 Sep: Arrived back in Rangoon.⁷⁴

Singapore

20 Sep: Arrived in Singapore;⁷⁵ met with Minister in the PM's Office Grace Fu.⁷⁶

21 Sep: Gave the keynote speech at the Singapore Summit.⁷⁷

22 Sep: Gave a speech to more than 5,000 Burmese nationals living in Singapore;⁷⁸ gave a lecture on leadership at the Singapore Management University.⁷⁹

23 Sep: Held separate meetings with PM Lee Hsien Loong, President Tony Tan, Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, and Parliament Speaker Halimah Yacob;⁸⁰ received briefings from the Ministry of Education on Singapore's education system and from the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau on anti-corruption policies.⁸¹

24 Sep: Arrived back in Rangoon.⁸²

⁶³ CNA (21 Sep 13) Constitutional changes key to improving Myanmar's economy: Aung San Suu Kyi; AFP (21 Sep 13) Suu Kyi fears Myanmar unrest could deter investors; Bloomberg (21 Sep 13) Myanmar Needs 'Responsible Investments' to Develop, Suu Kyi Says; Xinhua (21 Sep 13) Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi vows to keep good relations with China

⁶⁴ AFP (21 Sep 13) Suu Kyi fears Myanmar unrest could deter investors; Straits Times (22 Sep 13) Myanmar needs reforms, says Suu Kyi; Bloomberg (21 Sep 13) Myanmar Needs 'Responsible Investments' to Develop, Suu Kyi Says

⁶⁵ Xinhua (11 Sep 13) Myanmar opposition leader leaves on visit to three European nations; EMG (19 Sep 13) Suu Kyi wraps up Eastern European tour

⁶⁶ AP (11 Sep 13) Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi discusses democracy with top Polish lawmakers

⁶⁷ Xinhua (12 Sep 13) Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi visits Poland; AFP (13 Sep 13) Suu Kyi says unable to stop sectarian violence in Myanmar

⁶⁸ Reuters (12 Sep 13) Myanmar's Suu Kyi says Polish path to democracy inspired her; Xinhua (12 Sep 13) Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi visits Poland

⁶⁹ Xinhua (12 Sep 13) Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi visits Poland; AFP (13 Sep 13) Suu Kyi says unable to stop sectarian violence in Myanmar

⁷⁰ EMG (15 Sep 13) Suu Kyi warns US, EU not to be over optimistic about Myanmar

⁷¹ AFP (14 Sep 13) Suu Kyi says constitution changes 'crucial' for Myanmar transition; Xinhua (13 Sep 13) Aung San Suu Kyi in Hungary on two-day visit

⁷² DVB (16 Sep 13) Suu Kyi wishes Burmese to be 'rich in hope'

⁷³ AFP (16 Sep 13) Suu Kyi meets Dalai Lama, risking China's ire

⁷⁴ NLM (19 Sep 13) Daw Aung San Suu Kyi concludes European tour; EMG (19 Sep 13) Suu Kyi wraps up Eastern European tour

⁷⁵ CNA (20 Sep 13) Warm Singapore welcome for Suu Kyi; Xinhua (20 Sep 13) Aung San Suu Kyi in Singapore for visit; CNA (20 Sep 13) PM Lee says Aung San Suu Kyi will be capable leader if elected

⁷⁶ CNA (20 Sep 13) Grace Fu discusses Myanmar's development with Aung San Suu Kyi

⁷⁷ Xinhua (21 Sep 13) Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi vows to keep good relations with China; CNA (21 Sep 13) Constitutional changes key to improving Myanmar's economy: Aung San Suu Kyi

⁷⁸ Reuters (24 Sep 13) Myanmar's Suu Kyi looks to Singapore as model - minus the materialism; Irrawaddy (23 Sep 13) 'No Real Democracy' for Burma if Constitution Goes Unchanged: Suu Kyi

⁷⁹ CNA (22 Sep 13) Leadership is not about being popular all the time: Aung San Suu Kyi

⁸⁰ CNA (23 Sep 13) Aung San Suu Kyi meets Singapore leaders

⁸¹ CNA (23 Sep 13) Aung San Suu Kyi meets Singapore leaders

⁸² EMG (25 Sep 13) Suu Kyi returns from Singapore

Regime admits to offshore funds

In early September, an official with the Washington-based Banking Information Center (BIC) accused the regime of holding up to US\$11 billion worth of foreign reserves in several bank accounts in Singapore.⁸³ The figure was based on information that World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) staff provided during meetings with the BIC official in March and April 2012.⁸⁴

On 12 September, President Thein Sein's spokesperson Ye Htut categorically rejected allegations that Naypyidaw maintained vast amounts of foreign reserves overseas.⁸⁵ However, on 20 September, Burma's Central Bank Governor Kyaw Kyaw Maung admitted that state-owned and private banks had deposited US\$7.6 billion of foreign exchange reserves - including national budget funds - in overseas bank accounts.⁸⁶

Foreign investment soars

In September, it was reported that Burma had approved foreign direct investment worth more than US\$1.8 billion in the first five months of the 2013-14 fiscal year (which began in April), compared with US\$1.4 billion in the whole previous fiscal year.⁸⁷ Most of the investment came from Asian nations, with Malaysia topping the list, followed by Hong Kong and South Korea.⁸⁸ Half of the new foreign investment was in the manufacturing sector.⁸⁹

OTHER BURMA NEWS IN SEPTEMBER

1	President Thein Sein and members of the Myanmar Press Council discuss media-related legislation during a meeting in Naypyidaw.
1	UN Sec-Gen's Special Advisor on Burma Vijay Nambiar visits communities affected by sectarian violence in Pauktaw, Akyab, Maungdaw, and Sandoway Townships, Arakan State.
1	In his monthly radio message to the nation, President Thein Sein acknowledges that the 1988 pro-democracy uprising was an "important movement" in Burma's political history.
2	At a public meeting in Taunggyi, Shan State, National Parliament Speaker Shwe Mann stresses his support for federalism in Burma.
3	National Parliament Speaker Shwe Mann holds talks with UWSA representatives in Kengtung, Shan State.
4	China Power Investment Director Wang Qiyue says he hopes that Burma's next government will authorize the resumption of the Myitstone dam project in Kachin State.
4	Police in Myitkyina, Kachin State, detain and torture a 16-year-old Kachin high school student.
4	President Thein Sein donates 50 million kyat (US\$51,000) to the Myanmar Press Council.
6	NLD forms a seven-member committee tasked with making recommendations on amendments to the 2008 constitution.
6	National Assembly Speaker Khin Aung Myint says that Burma faces a threat from stateless people who have contacts with terrorist organizations along the Burma-Bangladesh border.
6	NLD spokesperson Nyan Win says that some people "behind the scene[s]" are instigating religious violence across the country.
7	A group of residents of Meikhtila Township, Mandalay Division, begins collecting signatures to demand the regime Election Commission remove Win Htein, the People's Assembly NLD MP who witnessed anti-Muslim violence in Meikhtila in March, from office.

⁸³ Irrawaddy (13 Sep 13) Burma Govt Denies Reports That It Holds \$11B in Singaporean Banks

⁸⁴ Irrawaddy (13 Sep 13) Burma Govt Denies Reports That It Holds \$11B in Singaporean Banks; EMG (15 Sep 13) Myanmar possession of \$11b in foreign bank accounts based on information from WB and ADB

⁸⁵ Irrawaddy (13 Sep 13) Burma Govt Denies Reports That It Holds \$11B in Singaporean Banks; EMG (13 Sep 13) Government demands evidence of US\$11 B stash in foreign bank accounts

⁸⁶ RFA (20 Sep 13) More Than \$7 Billion in Myanmar Funds Held in Overseas Accounts; Irrawaddy (20 Sep 13) Central Bank Confirms \$7.6B in Burmese Funds Held in Overseas Accounts; EMG (21 Sep 13) No record or information about the US\$11 billion in foreign banks

⁸⁷ Reuters (20 Sep 13) Foreign investment in Myanmar surges, office rents sizzle; Myanmar Times (11 Sep 13) Challenges ahead for FDI

⁸⁸ Reuters (20 Sep 13) Foreign investment in Myanmar surges, office rents sizzle

⁸⁹ Myanmar Times (11 Sep 13) Challenges ahead for FDI

8	More than 500 branches of the charity Free Funeral Service Society issue a statement that criticizes the draft Association Bill for imposing restrictions on civil society organizations.
8	Regime opens tender for consulting firms to draft the contract for potential investors in the Kyaukpyu SEZ in Kyaukpyu Township, Arakan State.
8	Rangoon Division Chief Minister Myint Swe denies involvement in the crackdown on the Saffron Revolution and says he is willing to face an investigation.
9	State-run radio and TV announce that Parliament will reconvene on 1 October.
9	President Thein Sein appoints People's Assembly SNDP MP Kyaw Ohn as regime Hotels and Tourism Deputy Minister.
9	Residents of Thabyu Chaung Village, Yebyu Township, Tenasserim Division, block the main road to the Tavoy SEZ to protest against the Italian-Thai Development company's failure to pay compensation for lands confiscated to build the road.
9	Regime appoints Than Swe and Thaung Nyunt as Presidential Political Advisor and Presidential Legal Advisor respectively.
10	An official from the President's Office dismisses as "groundless" rumors that President Thein Sein intends to form a new political party.
10	Twenty eight Rohingya asylum seekers escape from an immigration detention center in Songkhla Province, Thailand.
11	Asian Development Bank estimates that Burma's economy will grow 6.8% in the 2013-14 fiscal year.
11	Regime authorities transfer Karen activist Naw Ohn Hla, from Monywa prison, Sagaing Division, to Mandalay's Obo prison.
12	Regime Labor, Employment, and Social Security Minister Aye Myint says that the regime and Malaysia have agreed to allow all undocumented Burmese migrant workers in Malaysia to return to Burma without facing prosecution.
13	State-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar reports that a total of 1,163 farmers have received a total of 3.1 billion kyat (US\$3.2 million) in land compensation for the expansion of the Monywa copper mine in Salingyi Township, Sagaing Division.
14	An 88 Generation Students' delegation led by Min Ko Naing and Ko Ko Gyi holds talks with President Thein Sein in Naypyidaw.
15	USDP Vice-Chairman Htay Oo warns that amendments to the 2008 constitution may harm Burma's sovereignty and rejects the notion that the provision that prevents Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from becoming President was written specifically to target her.
16	CNP Chairman Zam Ciin Paw aka Zo Zam calls for transparency over the Mwe Taung mining project implemented by China's North Mining Investment in Tiddim Township, Chin State.
16	Regime and KIO liaison teams begin two-day talks in Myitkyina, Kachin State, to lay the groundwork for future discussions between the two sides.
17	Anti-Corruption Law comes into effect.
17	Regime Agriculture and Irrigation Minister Myint Hlaing says that businesses have utilized only 24.3% of all land confiscated across Burma.
18	New Zealand FM Murray McCully announces the opening of an embassy in Rangoon.
19	Police clash with local residents in Wegyi Village in Naypyidaw's Pobbathiri Township after a botched night raid to arrest activists who supported farmers protesting land confiscation.
20	Japan's Nissan announces it will start car production in Burma in 2015 with Malaysian partner Tan Chong Motor Holdings.
21	About 300 people from 60 civil society organizations march across eight townships in Rangoon to mark International Day of Peace.
23	About 100 workers from the Ho Shin factory in Rangoon's Dagon Seikkan Township end two days of protests after reaching an agreement with their employer over severance pay.
23	Villagers displaced by the Tamanthi hydro-power project in Homalin Township, Sagaing Division, hold a press conference to demand that regime authorities allow them to return to their former villages because of the Indian government's decision to suspend the project in June.
23	Over 200 residents of Rangoon's Thingangyun Township demonstrate against land confiscation and forced relocation by regime authorities in the early 1990s.
24	World Bank announces that its Board of Executive Directors has approved a US\$140 million interest-free loan to fund the replacement of old gas turbines at a power plant in Thaton, Mon State.
24	Residents of Yinboat Village, Launglon Township, Tenasserim Division, demonstrate against the construction of an oil refinery that is being built jointly by China's Guangdong Zhenrong Energy, Burma's Htoo Group, and the military-backed conglomerate UMEH.
24	Burma's regime fails to sign a declaration initiated by UK Foreign Secretary William Hague during the 68 th Session of the UN General Assembly condemning sexual violence in conflict and prohibiting amnesties for perpetrators.

25	Tatmadaw troops shoot and kill a 62-year-old civilian in Mai Hpag Village, Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State.
25	About 400 villagers demonstrate against the Monywa copper mine project in Salingyi Township, Sagaing Division.
26	The Elders group, including former US President Jimmy Carter, former Finnish President Marti Ahtisaani, and former Norwegian PM Gro Harlem Brundtland, releases a statement after their three-day visit to Burma calling for an end to impunity for the perpetrators of anti-Muslim violence in the country.
27	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi marks the 25 th anniversary of the founding of the NLD with a fresh appeal to amend the 2008 constitution.

REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN SEPTEMBER

“Burma Update: Serious crimes continue”, Altsean-Burma <http://bit.ly/18xzKQ7>

“Whose Guns Are Silent? An Analysis of Burma’s Fractured Peace Process”, Burma Partnership <http://bit.ly/1fLcQtW>

“Drawing the Line”, Shwe Gas Movement <http://bit.ly/1bVmSbL>

“Situation of human rights in Myanmar,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon <http://bit.ly/18mi4qL>

“Migration Information Note 21 - September 2013”, International Organization for Migration (IOM) <http://bit.ly/1763RQe>

“The Hidden Cost: Human Rights Abuses in Thailand’s Shrimp Industry”, Environmental Justice Foundation (EJF) <http://bit.ly/1h4Cmbr>

“Framework of Inclusive Growth Indicators 2013: Key Indicators for Asia and the Pacific”, Asian Development Bank (ADB) <http://bit.ly/1dNq3As>

“Chinese Investment in Myanmar: What Lies Ahead?”, Stimson Center <http://bit.ly/15xtsOo>

“Ceasefires sans peace process in Myanmar: The Shan State Army, 1989–2011”, Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies <http://bit.ly/16uArhh>

“State and Region Governments in Myanmar”, The Asia Foundation <http://bit.ly/1eLqA97>