

BURMA BULLETIN



A month-in-review of events in Burma



ALTERNATIVE ASEAN NETWORK ON BURMA
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- The UN Security Council discusses the crisis in Arakan State. Later, UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon declares the situation in Arakan State “completely unacceptable”.
- UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon urges the regime to “fully investigate and respond to” past and current incidents of human rights violations, including sexual violence. During his report to the UNSC on conflict-related sexual violence, the Sec-Gen noted that sexual violence was associated with “targeted violence” in Arakan State and armed conflict in Kachin and Northern Shan States.
- The humanitarian crisis in Arakan State brings more death and misery amid continuing regime-imposed bans and obstacles on aid agencies.
- UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana warns that the consequences of aid deprivation in Arakan State could result in crimes against humanity.
- The census escalates conflict in Kachin and Northern Shan States and excludes Rohingya.
- The draft of a national ceasefire agreement is undermined by more Tatmadaw attacks and insistence that all armed groups come under Tatmadaw control.
- NLD co-founder and Burma’s longest-serving political prisoner U Win Tin dies at 84.
- The regime jails another journalist, while nine more people are charged or jailed for protesting.
- Daw Suu visits Germany and France, while regime officials strengthen ties with China and North Korea.
- Inflation is expected to hit 6.6% in 2014-15.

KEY STORY

UNSC, UNSG, Special Rapporteur express alarm over Arakan State crisis

On 7 April, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana warned that the absence of aid workers in Arakan State could have dire consequences, and that their removal, the latest

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in a “long history of discrimination and persecution,” “could amount to crimes against humanity.”¹ This was quickly rejected by President Thein Sein’s spokesman Ye Htut.²

On 17 April, UN Sec-Gen’s Special Advisor for Burma Vijay Nambiar briefed the UN Security Council (UNSC) on the crisis.³ During the meeting, US Ambassador to the UN Samantha Power urged the regime to intervene in Arakan State to prevent violence and facilitate the return of “the critically needed humanitarian presence”.⁴

On 25 April, UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon declared that the situation in Arakan State was “alarming” and the events in Akyab [Sittwe] were “completely unacceptable” at the first session of the Partnership Group on Burma in New York.⁵ He reminded the regime that they had a “solemn duty” to ensure the safety and protection of all civilians in Burma, “no matter what their religious or ethnic affiliation.” He urged the regime to provide “wider humanitarian access” and said the return of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to Arakan State would need to be part of that process. He warned the regime that if the regime continued to tolerate impunity for human rights violations against Rohingya, they could face international consequences.⁶ [See below *UN Sec-Gen urges Burma to investigate sexual violence*]

Situation in Arakan State dire

Despite the regime Health Ministry’s claims of being able to fill the healthcare void left by the evacuation of aid workers from Akyab [Sittwe], Arakan State, after anti-Rohingya mob attacks in March, reports emerged throughout April about health services being “severely hampered”.⁷ This dire situation included lack of access to aid for more than 800,000 people in Arakan State, mainly Muslim Rohingya, including 140,000 IDPs experiencing water and food shortages in IDP camps.⁸

In early April, three deaths in Thaechaung IDP camp were reported and attributed to lack of medical care that resulted from the expulsion of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in February and the evacuation of INGOs in the March riots. The camp near Akyab is inhabited by many Rohingya.⁹

On 2 April, UNOCHA reported that 300 severely malnourished children in Akyab were unable to receive therapeutic treatment and 1,300 metric tons of food needed to be distributed in Arakan State to replenish diminishing stores.¹⁰ On 8 April, UNOCHA revealed that emergency medical cases were not being referred to hospitals in Arakan State because NGOs could not obtain travel authorizations or hospital spaces for patients.¹¹

US, UK, UN urge return of aid agencies

The US and the UK also weighed in to express alarm and urged the regime to facilitate the return of aid workers. The US State Department including the US Embassy in Rangoon, UNOCHA, UK Department for International Development (DFID) and UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Burma Renata Dessalien all made statements, some repeatedly.¹² In similar notable exchanges:

¹ RFA (08 Apr 14) Myanmar Authorities to Relocate International Aid Groups in Rakhine State; AFP (07 Apr 14) UN envoy raises alarm over west Myanmar ‘persecution’

² RFA (08 Apr 14) Myanmar Authorities to Relocate International Aid Groups in Rakhine State

³ Reuters (17 Apr 14) U.S. envoy Power urges Myanmar action to stop Rakhine violence

⁴ DVB (18 Apr 14) US calls on Burma to intervene in Rohingya crisis

⁵ BCUK (26 Apr 14) UN Secretary General Warns Burma Over Impunity For Human Rights Violations

⁶ UN Secretary General (25 Apr 14) Secretary-General, Addressing Partnership Group on Myanmar, Says Country Engaged in ‘Defining Phase’ of Its History

⁷ Myanmar Times (03 Apr 14) “Hundreds of thousands” hit by Rakhine aid pullouts

⁸ IRIN (01 Apr 14) Aid workers keen to return to tense western Myanmar; AFP (03 Apr 14) UN warns of health crisis in Myanmar; AFP (01 Apr 14) Food shortages loom as aid workers flee west Myanmar; DVB (05 Apr 14) Authorities accused of undermining efforts to resume Arakan aid; Myanmar Times (03 Apr 14) In the shadow of the census, a health crisis unfolds; AP (08 Apr 14) UN envoy raises alarm on abuses against Rohingya; UNOHCHR (07 Apr 14) Myanmar: UN expert raises alarm on Rakhine State; DVB (08 Apr 14) Aid in Arakan at ‘bare minimum’

⁹ Myanmar Times (03 Apr 14) In the shadow of the census, a health crisis unfolds

¹⁰ DVB (05 Apr 14) Authorities accused of undermining efforts to resume Arakan aid

¹¹ DVB (08 Apr 14) Aid in Arakan at ‘bare minimum’

¹² DVB (05 Apr 14) Authorities accused of undermining efforts to resume Arakan aid; UNOCHA (02 Apr 14) Hundreds of thousands of people severely affected by disruption of humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State, Myanmar; VOA (03 Apr 14) US Calls on Burma to Renew Rakhine Access; DVB (08 Apr 14) Aid in Arakan at ‘bare minimum’; UN Resident and Humanitarian

- **7 April:** UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (UK FCO) Minister of State Hugo Swire summoned Burmese Ambassador to the UK Kyaw Zwar Minn to urge the regime to restore humanitarian access to vulnerable communities and ensure the safety of aid workers and communities in Arakan State.¹³
- **10 April:** US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel R. Russel conveyed the US's "strong hope and expectation" for aid organizations to safely resume work in Arakan State during talks with officials, including President Thein Sein, in Naypyidaw.¹⁴

Regime promises cooperation but bars return of MSF and Malteser International

Despite the obvious urgent need for aid [See above *Situation dire, international community urges return of aid agencies*], the regime remained adamant in blocking aid to Arakan State.¹⁵ On 3 April, Arakan State spokesperson Win Myaing said aid groups would be allowed to return to Arakan State if they still had an MoU, but that Malteser International would still be barred "because the local [Buddhist Rakhine] people have protested against them for some time."¹⁶

On 9 April, state-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar released the findings of the regime's commission charged with investigating the violence that occurred on 26-27 March in Akyab [Sittwe], Arakan State [See *March 2014 Burma Bulletin*] and said that:¹⁷

- Malteser International had removed the Buddhist flag from its office building (in Akyab) to avoid a misrepresentation of the organization's values.
- The incident was used as an "excuse" to start the violence.
- The Arakan State authorities' response to the violence had been "sluggish".
- Twelve people were detained and questioned about their role in the mob violence.

Commission chairman Maj Gen Maung Maung Ohn said plans were being made for international aid groups to resume their work in Arakan State.¹⁸ However, on 23 April, the regime's Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) – run by regime and local Arakan State authorities – confirmed that Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Malteser International would not be able to resume services in Arakan State.¹⁹ The ECC also said that it would not allow UN and other INGOs to operate in Arakan State unless they provided detailed information of their planned work.²⁰ On 22 April, it was reported that only 11 out of 23 UN agencies and INGOs were able to resume their operations in Arakan State.²¹

Anti-Muslim violence continues in Burma

Two incidents of sectarian violence broke out in Burma in April. On 4 April, in Rangoon's Hlegu Township, a dispute between two Muslims and a Buddhist incited a Buddhist mob to destroy a home, throw stones at Muslim-owned buildings, and attack and raid a mosque.²² Five people, and policemen, were injured in the violence.²³ The Hlegu Township authorities imposed a 6pm to 6am curfew.²⁴ On 6 April, state-run media reported that 13 people had been arrested in connection with the clash.²⁵

Coordinator for Myanmar (09 Apr 14) UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar Ms. Renata Dessallien: Statement on Investigation Commission on Incidents in Sittwe on 26-27 March 2014

¹³ FCO-DFID (07 Apr 14) Press Release: FCO calls for restoration of Humanitarian Access in Rakhine State

¹⁴ Irrawaddy (11 Apr 14) Senior US Official Raises Arakan Concerns With Thein Sein

¹⁵ DVB (23 Apr 14) Children in Arakan State face malnutrition after aid workers' exodus; Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland (09 Apr 14) Press Release on Further Measures to be Taken Based on the Report of the Investigation Team on the Incidents Happened in Sittwe, Rakhine State

¹⁶ Irrawaddy (03 Apr 14) Aid Group at Center of Sittwe Riots Cannot Return to Arakan: Official

¹⁷ NLM (09 Apr 14) Union Government to fully protect aid groups in Rakhine State; DVB (10 Apr 14) Govt to protect NGOs after 'sluggish' response to Sittwe riots; Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the UN and other international organizations in Geneva, Switzerland (09 Apr 14) Press Release on Further Measures to be Taken Based on the Report of the Investigation Team on the Incidents Happened in Sittwe, Rakhine State; RFA (01 Apr 14) Dozen Questioned Over Anti-Aid Riot in Rakhine

¹⁸ NLM (10 Apr 14) Gov't to take action against riot ringleaders in Sittway

¹⁹ DVB (23 Apr 14) Children in Arakan State face malnutrition after aid workers' exodus; UN Country Team in Myanmar (30 Apr 13) Inter-Agency Preparedness/Contingency Plan - Rakhine State, Myanmar; RFA (23 Apr 14) Aid Groups in Rakhine State Required to Report Activities in Advance

²⁰ DVB (23 Apr 14) Children in Arakan State face malnutrition after aid workers' exodus

²¹ NLM (23 Apr 14) UN agencies, INGOs getting back to work in Rakhine State

²² Irrawaddy (05 Apr 14) Brawl Leads to Anti-Muslim Riot in Rangoon's Outskirts

²³ EMG (05 Apr 14) Riots break out in Hlegu following neighbourhood brawl

²⁴ DVB (06 Apr 14) Buddhists stone Muslim shops, mosque in Hlegu following scissor attack

²⁵ Xinhua (06 Apr 14) At least 13 agitators arrested in connection with riot in Yangon outskirts

On 15 April, a mob in Nattalin Township, Pegu Division, gathered outside the house of a Buddhist woman, demanding her family “turn over” her Muslim partner.²⁶ After police escorted him to safety, an argument between the woman’s family and local monks ensued. The following day, the mob returned and burned four houses, including the house of the woman and her relatives. On 18 April, police reported that they had taken no action against any of the attackers.²⁷

INSIDE BURMA

Census used to justify abuses, exclusion, and escalated conflict

Burma’s first census in three decades, launched in March and funded by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), was used to justify human rights abuses, exclusion, and escalated conflict.

In Kachin and Northern Shan States, the Tatmadaw had deployed additional battalions to the area in March, and launched more attacks in April, resulting in civilian abuses. [See below *Census: A guise for Tatmadaw to escalate attacks in Kachin and Northern Shan States*, and see below *Regime takes census by force in Kachin and Northern Shan States*]

In Arakan State, problems persisted following the regime’s decision not to allow Rohingya to self-identify in late March [See *March 2014 Burma Bulletin*]. Regime officials and Tatmadaw soldiers intimidated and abused Rohingya. [See below *Regime census fails to meet international standards; Rohingya harassment ensues*]

Complaints also came in from other states. Union National Development Party (UNDP) Chairman Abu Tahay, said that Rohingya living in Rangoon were not allowed to register as Rohingya.²⁸ Chin Human Rights Group country program coordinator Salai Bawi Thaing received complaints from ethnic Chin in several townships who said that enumerators had not asked them about their ethnicity or religion.²⁹

The census began on 30 March and concluded on 10 April except in Arakan and Kachin States.³⁰

First draft of national ceasefire agreement is jeopardized by more attacks in Kachin and Northern Shan States

In April, the regime and the ethnic armed groups’ peacemaking teams drafted a tentative nationwide ceasefire to be finalized in May. However, the intense fighting in Kachin and Northern Shan States which began on 10 April undermined the ethnic team’s trust in the regime’s commitment to reach a genuine ceasefire agreement.³¹

From 5-8 April, representatives from 21 ethnic armed groups met with Tatmadaw and regime officials involved in the negotiations to draw up a draft nationwide ceasefire at the Myanmar Peace Center (MPC) in Rangoon.³² On 8 April, at the conclusion of the meeting, representatives from 21 ethnic armed groups and regime officials involved in the negotiations issued a joint statement saying they had agreed “in principle” on a first draft of a single text for the nationwide ceasefire peace agreement.³³

The statement did not acknowledge that negotiations had stalled over disagreements in terminology. MPC special adviser Hla Maung Shwe admitted there were disputes over the use of the terms “civil war,” “ceasefire,” “federal,” and “in accordance with the current law”.³⁴ Ethnic armed groups voiced

²⁶ DVB (18 Apr 14) Interfaith couple targeted by mob in Pegu

²⁷ DVB (18 Apr 14) Interfaith couple targeted by mob in Pegu

²⁸ Time (01 Apr 14) Burma’s Racist Census Degenerates Into Violence

²⁹ Myanmar Times (28 Apr 14) Census collection winds down amid controversy

³⁰ Mizzima News (23 Apr 14) Census extended in Rakhine, Kachin states, says official

³¹ RFA (18 Apr 14) Fighting Flares in Kachin State

³² Xinhua (05 Apr 14) Myanmar gov’t, ethnic armed groups to jointly draft nationwide ceasefire proposal in Yangon; EMG (08 Apr 14) Government and NCCT complete five chapters on nationwide ceasefire deal

³³ RFA (08 Apr 14) Myanmar Government, Ethnic Rebels Agree on First Draft of Nationwide Cease-Fire; Irrawaddy (09 Apr 14) Armed Groups, Govt Still Disagree on Burma Ceasefire Wording

³⁴ Irrawaddy (09 Apr 14) Armed Groups, Govt Still Disagree on Burma Ceasefire Wording

their support for a “genuine federal union.”³⁵ However, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Sr Gen Min Aung Hlaing, during a meeting on 6 April in Lashio, Shan State, reiterated the Tatmadaw’s desire to insert into the ceasefire draft its own six-point policy, which dictates all ethnic armed groups must come under central military control in accordance with the 2008 constitution.³⁶ On 7 April, ethnic leaders said incorporating the Tatmadaw’s demands into the ceasefire draft had complicated the plan to merge the two draft proposals into a single text document.³⁷

The ongoing fighting in Kachin and Northern Shan States undermined the KIA’s trust in the peace process.³⁸ During a visit to the United States from 13-25 April,³⁹ KIA Deputy Chief-of-Staff Brig Gen Gun Maw said that the spike in violence was designed to weaken the KIA and that it would not sign the ceasefire agreement if the regime tried to force it to by “military means.”⁴⁰ On 23 April, the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), an alliance of ethnic groups, warned that Tatmadaw offensives in Kachin and Northern Shan States could jeopardize the nationwide ceasefire agreement.⁴¹ On 26-27 April, ethnic group leaders met in Chiang Mai, Thailand, to review the ceasefire draft and discuss points they wanted to amend before the draft is finalized, including establishing a framework for political dialogue, and protection for civilians in conflict zones.⁴²

Census: A guise for Tatmadaw to escalate attacks in Kachin and Northern Shan States

During late March and early April, the Tatmadaw heavily increased militarization in Southern Kachin State under the guise of preparing to help conduct the census in Kachin Independence Army (KIA)-controlled areas.⁴³ [See above *Census used to justify abuses, exclusion and escalated conflict*] The increased military presence led to a series of attacks by the Tatmadaw against the KIA and its ally, the Ta’ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), in Kachin and Northern Shan States. Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, on 11 April, President Thein Sein’s spokesman Ye Htut said he had received no details of fighting in Kachin State.⁴⁴ On 21 April, Ye Htut reiterated Naypyidaw’s outrageous claim that the Tatmadaw only fought to defend itself.⁴⁵

- **1 April:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces in Kutkai and Muse Townships, Northern Shan State, forcing the KIA to withdraw from a frontline post near Pang Hkawn Village, Muse Township.⁴⁶
- **4 April:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with TNLA forces in Thar Pan Kon Village, Kutkai Township, Shan State.⁴⁷
- **4 April:** KIA troops killed Tatmadaw Lt Col Myo Nyunt of LIB 567, at the KIA’s Maru Mawn Gate near Nam Hka Village, Mansi Township, Kachin State.⁴⁸
- **4-5 April:** Tatmadaw troops from IB 95 clashed with KIA forces in Muse Township, Northern Shan State.⁴⁹

From 10-18 April, fighting between the two groups intensified as Tatmadaw troops attacked KIA positions in Mansi and Momauk Townships, Kachin State, and Kutkai, Muse, and Namkham Townships, Northern Shan State, capturing base camps and commandeering transportation routes.⁵⁰

³⁵ Mizzima News (07 Apr 14) Disagreements delay talks on national ceasefire agreement; Irrawaddy (07 Apr 14) Army Demands Complicate Ceasefire Talks

³⁶ DVB (08 Apr 14) Min Aung Hlaing meets armed groups in Shan State

³⁷ Irrawaddy (07 Apr 14) Army Demands Complicate Ceasefire Talks

³⁸ Myanmar Times (25 Apr 14) Peace meeting in doubt after clashes

³⁹ Reuters (21 Apr 14) Kachin rebels renew plea for U.S. role to ensure fair Myanmar peace; RFA (14 Apr 14) Kachin Rebel General Makes US Visit Amid Fighting at Home

⁴⁰ AP (22 Apr 14) Burma: Kachin rebel leader urges US role in peace talks; Myanmar Times (25 Apr 14) Peace meeting in doubt after clashes

⁴¹ Mizzima News (25 Apr 14) Tatmadaw offensives threaten peace talks, warns UNFC

⁴² DVB (29 Apr 14) Ethnic leaders discuss ceasefire in Chiang Mai

⁴³ Kachinland News (11 Apr 14) KIA Under Attack On Several Fronts; Irrawaddy (21 Apr 14) 5,000 Displaced by Kachin Clashes Amid KIO Leader’s US Visit

⁴⁴ DVB (11 Apr 14) Hundreds flee as census-related clashes break out in Kachin

⁴⁵ Irrawaddy (22 Apr 14) In North Burma, “Tatmadaw Only Fights to Defend Itself”: Govt

⁴⁶ Kachinland News (03 Apr 14) A Series of Battles Fought Between KIA and Burmese Government Troops

⁴⁷ Irrawaddy (04 Apr 14) TNLA Clashes With Burma Army as Census Continues

⁴⁸ AP (20 Apr 14) Myanmar says 22 dead in Kachin fighting this month; EMG (20 Apr 14) Recent clashes in Kachin killed 8 soldiers and 14 KIA fighters; Kachinland News (11 Apr 14) KIA Under Attack On Several Fronts

⁴⁹ FBR (19 Apr 14) Burma Army Rapes Teenage Girl, Shoots Civilians and Displaces Over 3,600 People in Attacks in Northern Kachin State, Burma

- **10 April:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 68 attacked KIA Battalion 27 forces and captured a KIA administrative office and base camp in Mansi Township, Kachin State.⁵¹
- **10 April:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 601 clashed with Kachin People's Militia forces (a militia force affiliated with the KIA) in Hka Pra Village, Mansi Township, Kachin State.⁵²
- **10-11 April:** Tatmadaw troops accompanying census enumerators launched attacks on KIA positions including those near Mai Ja Yang, in Mansi Township, Kachin State.⁵³
- **11 April:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA Battalion 27 forces in five villages in Mansi Township, Kachin State, firing artillery shells and capturing the KIA Battalion 27 headquarters and a key border route at Pan Hkam into China.⁵⁴
- **11 April:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA Battalion 12 forces in Maw Swi Awng Lawt Village, Momauk Township, Kachin State.⁵⁵
- **12 April:** Tatmadaw troops seized the Pan Hkam border gate and camp in Mansi Township, and took control of the Mansi-Pan Hkam-Man Wein route in Mansi Township, Kachin State.⁵⁶
- **15 April:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA Battalion 9 forces at Hka Hkip Village, Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State.⁵⁷
- **15-16 April:** Tatmadaw troops captured two KIA bases in Momauk Township, Kachin State, from which the KIA had launched a bomb attack on two trucks in a Tatmadaw convoy on 13 April, and gained control of the Bhamo-Loije route spanning Bhamo and Momauk Townships, Kachin State.⁵⁸
- **20 April:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA Battalion 2 forces in Namsa Village, Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State.⁵⁹
- **23 April:** In two incidents, Tatmadaw troops clashed with TNLA Battalion 478 forces on the road between Namkham, Namkham Township, and Nampaka, Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State, and with Battalion 112 in Namkham Township, Northern Shan State.⁶⁰
- **23 April:** Tatmadaw troops from LIBs 68 and 240 clashed with KIA Battalion 27 forces at Bau Noi Village, Mansi Township, Southern Kachin State. Tatmadaw troops fired several 81 mm mortar shells on the village.⁶¹
- **23 April:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with TNLA forces in two incidents in Namkham Township, Northern Shan State.⁶²
- **25 April:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 144 clashed with TNLA forces at Man Bang Village, Namkham Township, Northern Shan State.⁶³
- **29 April:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 239 attacked KIA Battalions 36 and 38 at Ying La Bum, Muse Township, Northern Shan State. Tatmadaw mortar shells fell onto a civilian area in Nam Gut Village, Muse Township, Northern Shan State.⁶⁴

⁵⁰ EMG (17 Apr 14) Fighting rages in Kachin State during Thingyan; Irrawaddy (10 Apr 14) Hundred Displaced as Burma Army Shells Kachin Rebel Post; RFA (14 Apr 14) Kachin Rebel General Makes US Visit Amid Fighting at Home; EMG (19 Apr 14) Clashes and tensions with KIA persist; Xinhua (18 Apr 14) Renewed fightings between Myanmar gov't forces, KIA occur: report; EMG (21 Apr 14) Why conflict continues in Kachin State; Myanmar Times (25 Apr 14) Peace meeting in doubt after clashes; EMG (18 Apr 14) Thousands of refugees flee from Kachin fighting

⁵¹ Kachinland News (11 Apr 14) KIA Under Attack On Several Fronts; EMG (17 Apr 14) Fighting rages in Kachin State during Thingyan; Kachin News Group (12 Apr 14) Heavy fighting on last day of census in Burma's northern Kachin state

⁵² Kachinland News (11 Apr 14) KIA Under Attack On Several Fronts

⁵³ DVB (11 Apr 14) Hundreds flee as census-related clashes break out in Kachin; FBR (11 Apr 14) Burma Army attacks Kachin and Shan villagers and a Kachin IDP camp; over 1,800 people displaced; FBR (19 Apr 14) Burma Army Rapes Teenage Girl, Shoots Civilians and Displaces Over 3,600 People in Attacks in Northern Kachin State, Burma; JST for Humanitarian Response in Kachin & Northern Shan States (12 Apr 14) Press release: Humanitarian crisis update for Kachin State and Northern Shan State; Kachin News Group (12 Apr 14) Heavy fighting on last day of census in Burma's northern Kachin state; Irrawaddy (10 Apr 14) Hundred Displaced as Burma Army Shells Kachin Rebel Post

⁵⁴ EMG (17 Apr 14) Fighting rages in Kachin State during Thingyan

⁵⁵ FBR (19 Apr 14) Burma Army Rapes Teenage Girl, Shoots Civilians and Displaces Over 3,600 People in Attacks in Northern Kachin State, Burma

⁵⁶ EMG (21 Apr 14) Why conflict continues in Kachin State; EMG (19 Apr 14) Clashes and tensions with KIA persist

⁵⁷ Kachinland News (17 Apr 14) Humanitarian Crisis Looms as Fighting Intensifies in Kachin and Northern Shan State

⁵⁸ EMG (21 Apr 14) Why conflict continues in Kachin State; Kachinland News (17 Apr 14) Humanitarian Crisis Looms as Fighting Intensifies in Kachin and Northern Shan State; Kachinland News (15 Apr 14) KIA Ambush Burmese Army Convoys as More Troops Deployed

⁵⁹ Kachinland News (25 Apr 14) Skirmishes Continue in Kachin and Northern Shan State

⁶⁰ Kachinland News (25 Apr 14) Skirmishes Continue in Kachin and Northern Shan State

⁶¹ Kachinland News (25 Apr 14) Skirmishes Continue in Kachin and Northern Shan State

⁶² Irrawaddy (23 Apr 14) 10 Soldiers Killed in Shan State Clashes: TNLA

⁶³ Kachinland News (25 Apr 14) Skirmishes Continue in Kachin and Northern Shan State

⁶⁴ Kachinland News (29 Apr 14) Battles Rage in Northern Shan State Amid Peace Talks

Regime takes census by force in Kachin and Northern Shan States

In Kachin and Shan States, increased fighting resulted in the displacement of civilians and a lack of access to aid and healthcare. Despite the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) rejecting the regime's request to collect census data in KIA-controlled areas in March, the regime refused to take 'no' for an answer.⁶⁵ On 2 April, Tatmadaw troops arrived in Man Wein Village, Mansi Township, Kachin State, and threatened to take the census by force.⁶⁶ Throughout the first half of April, Tatmadaw soldiers and police accompanied census enumerators to parts of Kachin and Northern Shan States.⁶⁷ While 'assisting' census enumerators, Tatmadaw troops launched a series of massive attacks on KIA positions in Kachin and Northern Shan States.⁶⁸ [See above *Census: A guise for Tatmadaw to escalate attacks in Kachin and Northern Shan States*] Despite the violence, on 22 April, it was reported that the KIO had agreed to allow the regime Immigration and Population Ministry to continue the national census in 90 villages near KIO headquarters in Laiza, Momauk Township, Kachin State.⁶⁹

Civilians suffer during Tatmadaw offensives in Kachin and Northern Shan States

The Tatmadaw's increased offensives against the KIA resulted in widespread displacement of civilians and human rights abuses in Kachin and Northern Shan States.

- **10 April:** Two Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 320 raped a 17-year old girl in Ka Gam Village, Momauk Township, Kachin State.⁷⁰
- **10 April:** Three hundred residents of U Yang and Nam Hka Pa Villages were displaced when Tatmadaw troops attacked KIA positions close to Mai Ja Yang, Mansi Township, Kachin State.⁷¹
- **10-11 April:** Tatmadaw troops shelled Lagat Yang IDP camp, Mansi Township, Kachin State, injuring a 40-year-old Shan villager,⁷² forcing 800 IDPs to leave, and causing over 2,000 Shan, Kachin, and Palaung villagers to flee to Namkham Township, Shan State and across the China-Burma border.⁷³ Once across the border, Tatmadaw troops continued to target the villagers with small arms fire and artillery shells, wounding two civilians.⁷⁴
- **11 April:** Tatmadaw troops shot and injured two civilians and fired mortar rounds in Maw Swi Awng Lawt Village, Momauk Township, Kachin State.⁷⁵
- **12 April:** Tatmadaw troops arrested 30 Kachin civilians and transported them to a base in Hpakant Township, Kachin State.⁷⁶
- **16 April:** One thousand Shan villagers near Mai Ja Yang, Mansi Township, Kachin State, fled to China as a result of the ongoing fighting.⁷⁷
- **16 April:** Tatmadaw forces shot and injured a Kachin civilian at a checkpoint near Chyari Dagaw Village, Momauk Township, Kachin State.⁷⁸

⁶⁵ Mizzima News (19 Mar 14) KIO refuses to allow census on its territory

⁶⁶ DVB (07 Apr 14) Burmese army threatens force to complete census in KIO area

⁶⁷ Myawady (06 Apr 14) Census enumerators collect data in regions with assistance of Armed Forces; EMG (05 Apr 14) KIA blocks census collecting in Kachin State

⁶⁸ Xinhua (18 Apr 14) Renewed fightings between Myanmar gov't forces, KIA occur: report

⁶⁹ EMG (22 Apr 14) Ministry plans to continue census in KIO areas

⁷⁰ FBR (19 Apr 14) Burma Army Rapes Teenage Girl, Shoots Civilians and Displaces Over 3,600 People in Attacks in Northern Kachin State, Burma; KIC (22 Apr 14) Ethnic Groups And Advocates Demand Investigation Into Burma Army's Systematic Use of Rape, Sexual Violence

⁷¹ Irrawaddy (10 Apr 14) Hundred Displaced as Burma Army Shells Kachin Rebel Post

⁷² Irrawaddy (10 Apr 14) Hundred Displaced as Burma Army Shells Kachin Rebel Post

⁷³ DVB (11 Apr 14) Hundreds flee as census-related clashes break out in Kachin; FBR (11 Apr 14) Burma Army attacks Kachin and Shan villagers and a Kachin IDP camp; over 1,800 people displaced; FBR (19 Apr 14) Burma Army Rapes Teenage Girl, Shoots Civilians and Displaces Over 3,600 People in Attacks in Northern Kachin State, Burma; JST Humanitarian Response in Kachin & Northern Shan States (12 Apr 14) Press release: Humanitarian crisis update for Kachin State and Northern Shan State; Kachin News Group (12 Apr 14) Heavy fighting on last day of census in Burma's northern Kachin state

⁷⁴ DVB (11 Apr 14) Hundreds flee as census-related clashes break out in Kachin; FBR (11 Apr 14) Burma Army attacks Kachin and Shan villagers and a Kachin IDP camp; over 1,800 people displaced; FBR (19 Apr 14) Burma Army Rapes Teenage Girl, Shoots Civilians and Displaces Over 3,600 People in Attacks in Northern Kachin State, Burma; JST for Humanitarian Response in Kachin & Northern Shan States (12 Apr 14) Press release: Humanitarian crisis update for Kachin State and Northern Shan State

⁷⁵ FBR (19 Apr 14) Burma Army Rapes Teenage Girl, Shoots Civilians and Displaces Over 3,600 People in Attacks in Northern Kachin State, Burma; Kachinland News (12 Apr 14) One Civilian Hit By Mortar Fire as Battles Rage in Southern Kachin State

⁷⁶ FBR (24 Apr 14) Civilian Killed by Landmine, Teenage Girl Raped and Over 3,600 New IDPs in Kachin State

⁷⁷ EMG (17 Apr 14) Fighting rages in Kachin State during Thingyan

⁷⁸ Irrawaddy (21 Apr 14) 5,000 Displaced by Kachin Clashes Amid KIO Leader's US Visit

- **17 April:** Tatmadaw troops fired 105 mm artillery shells on Chyari Bum Village, Momauk Township, Kachin State.⁷⁹

On 10 April, it was reported that regime authorities had closed a road from Man Wein Village, Mansi Township, Kachin State, to the Chinese town of Nandau, complicating efforts of humanitarian groups trying to reach IDPs.⁸⁰ On 25 April it was reported that the recent fighting in Kachin and Northern Shan States had displaced at least 5,000 people, including 1,000 children.⁸¹

Raw timber ban another excuse for heightened militarization

On 1 April, the regime's ban on raw timber exports came into effect.⁸² Regime authorities used the implementation of the ban as an excuse to increase militarization in Kachin and Northern Shan States. On 19 April, the regime Defense Ministry announced that the Tatmadaw was taking action against raw timber smugglers between Kachin State's China border routes.⁸³ In April, this mandate translated into Tatmadaw attacks against key KIA positions along the illegal timber supply route, including around Mansi Township, Kachin State and Kutkai Township, Shan State [See above *Census: A guise for Tatmadaw to escalate attacks in Kachin and Northern Shan States*].⁸⁴

Regime census fails to meet international standards; Rohingya harassment ensues

Following the 26-27 March attacks on aid workers as a result of heightened ethnic tensions against Rohingya in Arakan State [See *March 2014 Burma Bulletin*], the regime continued to intimidate Rohingya during the census data collection process. Police, Tatmadaw, and immigration officials accompanied census enumerators to Rohingya villages where they took photographs of respondents who said they were Rohingya, verbally abused residents, kicked in doors, and ripped down signs on houses identifying residents.⁸⁵ Census enumerators refused to record 'Rohingya' as an ethnicity and to continue asking census questions if a person said their race was 'Rohingya'.⁸⁶

On 22 April, regime Immigration and Population director general Myint Kyaing said the census would be extended until 10 June because 700,000 'Bengalis' had refused to participate in protest for not being able to self-identify as they wished.⁸⁷ On 25 April, it was reported that the regime proposed that Muslims in Arakan State who were excluded the first time around can complete the census if they self-identify as 'Bengali' or agree to ignore the ethnicity question completely.⁸⁸

On 1 April, the UNFPA said the regime's broken promise to the UN to conduct the census in accordance with international standards and human rights principles could result in increased tensions in Arakan State and would undermine the credibility of the data collected.⁸⁹ On 7 April, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana said that the regime's decision not to allow Rohingya to self-identify in the national census meant the population count was not in line with international standards.⁹⁰ On 25 April, UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon said the attacks against aid organizations in Akyab [Sittwe] in March "appear to have been aimed at disrupting [...] the census".⁹¹ [See above *UNSC, UNSG express concern, alarm over situation in Arakan State*]

⁷⁹ FBR (24 Apr 14) Civilian Killed by Landmine, Teenage Girl Raped and Over 3,600 New IDPs in Kachin State

⁸⁰ Irrawaddy (10 Apr 14) Hundred Displaced as Burma Army Shells Kachin Rebel Post

⁸¹ UN News Centre (22 Apr 14) Myanmar; UNICEF warns children of Kachin face growing threats due to recent fighting; Myanmar Times (25 Apr 14) Census collection winds down amid controversy

⁸² Xinhua (02 Apr 14) Myanmar suspends log export for sustainable utilization for forest reserves

⁸³ EMG (21 Apr 14) Why conflict continues in Kachin State

⁸⁴ EMG (21 Apr 14) Why conflict continues in Kachin State

⁸⁵ DVB (01 Apr 14) Census-takers fail to count Rohingyas; EMG (05 Apr 14) Bengali villages demanding ethnicity recognition in the national census; Kaladan News (02 Apr 14) Census teams kick down doors

⁸⁶ DVB (01 Apr 14) Census-takers fail to count Rohingyas; EMG (05 Apr 14) Bengali villages demanding ethnicity recognition in the national census

⁸⁷ DVB (01 Apr 14) Census-takers fail to count Rohingyas; Mizzima News (23 Apr 14) Census extended in Rakhine, Kachin states, says official

⁸⁸ Myanmar Times (25 Apr 14) Census collection winds down amid controversy

⁸⁹ UNFPA (01 Apr 14) Statement: UNFPA Concerned about Decision Not to Allow Census Respondents to Self-Identify as Rohingya

⁹⁰ AFP (07 Apr 14) UN envoy raises alarm over west Myanmar 'persecution'

⁹¹ UN Secretary General (25 Apr 14) Secretary-General, Addressing Partnership Group on Myanmar, Says Country Engaged in 'Defining Phase' of Its History

Burma mourns the passing of U Win Tin

On 21 April, U Win Tin, who was a political prisoner for 19 years and one of the National League for Democracy (NLD)'s founding members, died at age 84 in Rangoon General Hospital due to multiple organ failure.⁹² On 23 April, tens of thousands of Win Tin's supporters from all walks of life, including Buddhist monks, activists, civil society leaders, politicians, journalists, and diplomats attended his funeral service in Rangoon.⁹³ Many NLD members including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and NLD patron Tin Oo attended.⁹⁴ 88 Generation Peace and Open Society leader Min Ko Naing also attended.⁹⁵ Many wore blue shirts in honor of U Win Tin who wore his blue prison shirt in protest against the regime's continued detention of political prisoners.⁹⁶

U Win Tin was a renowned journalist and outspoken advocate of freedom of expression.⁹⁷ He was an unwavering critic of the regime, the ongoing detention of political prisoners, human rights violations, and the Tatmadaw's political power.⁹⁸ Ethnic leaders spoke of his constant commitment to a federal union that would ensure minority groups greater representation in government.⁹⁹

HUMAN RIGHTS

UN Sec-Gen urges Burma to investigate sexual violence

On 25 April, UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon presented his report "Conflict-related sexual violence" to the UN Security Council (UNSC) during an open debate session in New York. The report named Burma as one of 21 countries where conflict-related sexual violence is a serious concern.¹⁰⁰ Ban Ki-moon urged the regime to "fully investigate and respond to" past and current incidents of human rights violations, including sexual violence, and to develop a sexual violence protection and response program.¹⁰¹

According to the report, since September 2013, reports of sexual violence had increased in Burma, including reports of the rape of girls as young as seven and reports of Tatmadaw and security forces as perpetrators of sexual violence.¹⁰² Ban Ki-moon said sexual violence was associated with "targeted violence" in Arakan State and with the armed conflict in Kachin and Northern Shan States. He expressed concern for victims of the Rohingya population in IDP camps in Northern Arakan State who have limited access to healthcare facilities familiar with sexual violence case management.¹⁰³

Regime hands down another prison sentence to journalist

In April, the regime continued its efforts to restrict press freedom in Burma by sentencing and imprisoning DVB video journalist Zaw Pe.

On 7 April, a court in Magwe, Magwe Division, sentenced Zaw Pe to one year in prison under charges of trespassing and disturbing a civil servant on duty, after he sought to conduct an interview with a public servant about a scholarship program at the Magwe Division Education Department in August

⁹² Irrawaddy (21 Apr 14) Burmese Democracy Activist Win Tin Dies; RFA (21 Apr 14) Myanmar Opposition Party Co-Founder Win Tin Dies at 85; AFP (21 Apr 14) Myanmar political prisoner Win Tin dies

⁹³ Irrawaddy (23 Apr 14) Tens of Thousands Pay Tribute to Win Tin at Rangoon Funeral

⁹⁴ Irrawaddy (23 Apr 14) Tens of Thousands Pay Tribute to Win Tin at Rangoon Funeral

⁹⁵ DVB (24 Apr 14) Paying tribute to a Burmese legend; Irrawaddy (23 Apr 14) Tens of Thousands Pay Tribute to Win Tin at Rangoon Funeral

⁹⁶ WSJ (21 Apr 14) Myanmar Dissident Journalist Win Tin Dies; BBC (21 Apr 14) Myanmar democracy veteran Win Tin dies at 85

⁹⁷ RFA (21 Apr 14) Myanmar Opposition Party Co-Founder Win Tin Dies at 85

⁹⁸ Irrawaddy (21 Apr 14) Burmese Democracy Activist Win Tin Dies; Irrawaddy (21 Apr 14) Win Tin: Burma's Revolutionary Journalist; Irrawaddy (22 Apr 14) Win Tin's Lessons for Burma; RFA (21 Apr 14) Myanmar Opposition Party Co-Founder Win Tin Dies at 85

⁹⁹ RFA (21 Apr 14) Myanmar Opposition Party Co-Founder Win Tin Dies at 85

¹⁰⁰ UN News Centre (25 Apr 14) Conflict-related sexual violence 'destructive as any bomb or bullet,' Security Council told

¹⁰¹ UN News Centre (25 Apr 14) Conflict-related sexual violence 'destructive as any bomb or bullet,' Security Council told

¹⁰² UNSC (13 Mar 14) Conflict-related sexual violence; KIC (24 Apr 14) UN Secretary General Demands Sexual Violence Investigation; AP (24 Apr 14) UN report names 21 countries where sexual violence has been committed in conflicts

¹⁰³ UNSC (13 Mar 14) Conflict-related sexual violence

2012.¹⁰⁴ The court also sentenced Win Myint Hlaing, a local student's father who had accompanied Zaw Pe to the interview, to one year in prison under the same charges.¹⁰⁵

International media freedom and human rights groups criticized the jailing of Zaw Pe as a serious regression of media freedoms that raised concerns over the credibility of the regime's commitment to supporting freedom of expression and political reform.¹⁰⁶ On 11 April, several private newspapers in Burma printed black front pages to protest the recent arrests and sentencing of journalists.¹⁰⁷

More charged and sentenced for protesting

In April, regime authorities continued to charge and sentence activists for protesting.

- **1 April:** Regime authorities in Mandalay charged four activists under Article 18 of the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law – Thein Aung Myint, Saw Hla Aung, Kyaw Myo Tun, and Khet Khet Tin – after they had staged a candle-lit protest in Mandalay on 27 March against the regime's decision to increase electricity rates. Police brutally detained the activists. They were released on bail on 31 March after four days in detention.¹⁰⁸
- **1 April:** Rangoon District Court sentenced activists Nay Myo Zin and Win Cho from local NGO Myanmar Social Development Network, to three months in prison under Article 18 of the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law for organizing a protest in January, which called for farmers' rights, constitutional reform, and the release of jailed activists.¹⁰⁹
- **10 April:** Authorities in Mandalay arrested two protestors – Zaw Win and Ye Yint Aung – on charges of sedition under Article 505(b) of the Penal Code for a land plowing protest in Maddaya Township, Mandalay Division on 1 March. They had previously been charged for trespassing and vandalism on 2 March. They were taken into custody in Mandalay's Obo Prison.¹¹⁰
- **26 April:** Authorities in Prome, Pegu Division, charged Mizzima News reporter Yae Khe under Article 18 of the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law for organizing a demonstration that called for greater press freedom and the release of journalists currently imprisoned in Burma.¹¹¹

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Daw Suu visits Germany and France

On 9 April, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi embarked on a week-long visit to Germany and France.¹¹² In both countries, Daw Suu said that Burma was not yet a democracy. Daw Suu called for international support, reiterated the need for constitutional amendments, national reconciliation, and a change of mindset among the former military rulers.¹¹³ She also highlighted the challenges regarding ethnic and communal tensions in Burma, saying that people in Burma needed to "cope with [their] fears and prejudices."¹¹⁴

- **10 April:** Daw Suu met with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and German President Joachim Gauck in Berlin.¹¹⁵

¹⁰⁴ AP (08 Apr 14) Myanmar journalist gets jail time for trespassing; DVB (07 Apr 14) DVB reporter sentenced to 1 year for 'disturbing a civil servant'; Irrawaddy (07 Apr 14) DVB Reporter Jailed for 1 Year; Myanmar Times (09 Apr 14) DVB reporter goes to jail for one year

¹⁰⁵ AP (08 Apr 14) Myanmar journalist gets jail time for trespassing; DVB (07 Apr 14) DVB reporter sentenced to 1 year for 'disturbing a civil servant'; Irrawaddy (07 Apr 14) DVB Reporter Jailed for 1 Year; Myanmar Times (09 Apr 14) DVB reporter goes to jail for one year

¹⁰⁶ DVB (11 Apr 14) Free Zaw Pe

¹⁰⁷ AP (11 Apr 14) Myanmar papers protest sentencing of reporters

¹⁰⁸ Irrawaddy (01 Apr 14) Electricity Hike Opponents Face Charges for Illegal Mandalay Protest

¹⁰⁹ DVB (02 Apr 14) Protest leaders sentenced to 3 months in prison

¹¹⁰ DVB (22 Apr 14) Plough protestors charged with sedition

¹¹¹ DVB (28 Apr 14) Mizzima reporter arrested for protesting media suppression

¹¹² NLM (10 Apr 14) Daw Aung San Suu Kyi leaves for Europe; Xinhua (09 Apr 14) Myanmar opposition leader leaves for visits to Germany, France

¹¹³ AFP (12 Apr 14) Suu Kyi cautions Myanmar 'not yet a democracy'; DPA (15 Apr 14) Myanmar's transition at a "difficult" stage, says Suu Kyi

¹¹⁴ AFP (12 Apr 14) Suu Kyi cautions Myanmar 'not yet a democracy'

¹¹⁵ AFP (11 Apr 14) Suu Kyi in Germany hopes Myanmar can overcome strife

- **11 April:** Daw Suu received the Willy Brandt Prize from Germany's Social Democrats Party.¹¹⁶ In her acceptance speech, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that Burma was "at a most sensitive, most dangerous time" in the path of its evolution.¹¹⁷
- **15 April:** In Paris, Daw Suu met with French President François Hollande and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius. She said that the fact that President Thein Sein "shows no intention of supporting amendments to the constitution" was a matter of "great concern", and that if he was genuine about democratic reform, he must support amendments to the 2008 constitution, which currently gives the military "the strongest position – in the political life of [the] nation."¹¹⁸

Regime maintains relations with North Korea

On 3 April, a North Korean delegation led by North Korean Foreign Ministry director general Kim Myong Gil arrived in Burma for a four-day visit.¹¹⁹ On 4 April, the North Korean delegation met regime Deputy FM Thant Kyaw and regime FM Political Department director general San Lwin in Naypyidaw. Details of the meetings remained elusive. State-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar reported that the foreign affairs department officials discussed North Korea-Burma bilateral relations.¹²⁰

Regime officials go to Beijing as Chinese investment in Burma drops

April marked the end of the 2013-14 fiscal year which saw China-Burma trade relations boom. According to the regime Commerce Ministry's Trade Directorate Director Than Aung Kyaw, 83% of Burma's total trade in the 2013-14 fiscal year, amounting to US\$4.46 billion (4.3 trillion kyat), consisted of cross-border trade with China.¹²¹ Despite booming cross-border trade, Chinese investment in Burma plummeted in 2013, totaling only 5% of China's 2012 investment and only 1% of China's 2010 investment into Burma. For the first time in four years, China dropped from the foremost leading investor in Burma to 10th place.¹²²

In April, regime officials Vice-President Nyan Tun and National Parliament Speaker Shwe Mann visited Beijing from 7-9 and 8-12 April respectively.¹²³ On 10 April, Shwe Mann signed an MoU with Chinese National People's Congress Standing Committee chairman Zhang Dejiang to strengthen ties between the two countries' legislatures.¹²⁴ Zhang said that both legislatures should enact policies to "protect the legitimate rights of investors" and "maintain a sound policy and legal environment" for bilateral trade cooperation.¹²⁵

ECONOMY

Asian Development Bank, World Bank: Inflation to hit 6.6% in 2014-15

On 1 April, Parliament's electricity price hikes, approved in March [See *March 2014 Burma Bulletin*], came into effect. The electricity price increase is expected to contribute to rising commodity prices which have continued over the month of April in Burma.¹²⁶ On 28 April, it was reported that according to a local price index, basic food prices had increased by about 20% over the month.¹²⁷

The rise in commodity prices was consistent with two reports, "Asian Development Outlook 2014" and "East Asia Pacific Economic Update April 2014: Preserving Stability and Promoting Growth", released

¹¹⁶ AFP (12 Apr 14) Suu Kyi cautions Myanmar 'not yet a democracy'

¹¹⁷ DVB (16 Apr 14) Suu Kyi leaves Europe armed with international support for constitutional change

¹¹⁸ RFA (16 Apr 14) Suu Kyi Questions Myanmar Government's Commitment to Democracy

¹¹⁹ Myanmar Times (07 Apr 14) In change of tack, govt reveals North Korea meetings

¹²⁰ NLM (07 Apr 14) Deputy FM receives Asia and Pacific Department's Director General

¹²¹ Irrawaddy (09 Apr 14) Burma's Border Trade Booms in 2013-14

¹²² CRI (09 Apr 14) Chinese investment in Myanmar has plummeted: Now people get to choose the Government and the rules have changed

¹²³ Xinhua (10 Apr 14) China, Myanmar to foster stronger parliamentary ties; NLM (10 Apr 14) ASEAN, China relations to enhance social and cultural exchange among youths

¹²⁴ Xinhua (10 Apr 14) China, Myanmar to foster stronger parliamentary ties

¹²⁵ Irrawaddy (11 Apr 14) Shwe Mann Boosts Cooperation With China's Legislative During Visit

¹²⁶ EMG (06 Apr 14) Commodity prices soar after power hike and government pay raise

¹²⁷ Myanmar Times (28 Apr 14) Inflation a growing problem, says World Bank

in April by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank respectively. The reports forecasted that rising inflation in Burma would reach 6.6% in the current 2014-15 fiscal year, due in part to higher electricity prices.¹²⁸ The ADB also attributed the rising inflation to the regime's increase in civil servant wages by about 20,000 kyat (US\$20).¹²⁹

Maplecroft: Vested interests in natural resources will harm business environment

In April, two key reports warned that both the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed groups continued to be involved in the illegal timber trade. Maplecroft's country risk report on Burma titled "Myanmar: First census since 1983 may spur ethnic tensions and violence",¹³⁰ and the International Crisis Group (ICG)'s "Myanmar's Military: Back to the Barracks?",¹³¹ noted that both the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed groups used illegal income generation activities to financially support their operations.¹³² The ICG report warned that maintaining these activities could lead to tensions and clashes over access to resources.¹³³ Maplecroft also said that the two groups' vested interest in illegal trading activities could threaten Burma's business environment.¹³⁴

OTHER BURMA NEWS IN APRIL

1	More than 1,000 local people in Allen Township, Magwe Division, join activists marching to the site of the Myitsone dam project, Kachin State, calling for the termination of the project.
1	Demonstrators reject Rangoon authorities' request to abandon their camps in Rangoon's Tamwe Township, after a meeting with Rangoon Region Border Affairs and Security Minister Col Tin Win, vowing to step up their protest by launching a hunger strike.
1	Five Shan NGOs release a joint statement with the signatures of 3,000 Shan villagers, in which they voice concern over the negative impacts of two large hydropower dams planned for the Salween and another river in Shan State.
1	The 22 nd ASEAN+3 Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting begins in Naypyidaw to discuss ASEAN financial integration.
2	UN Sec-Gen's Special Advisor for Burma Vijay Nambiar meets with KIO leaders to pledge his support until peace is reached, urging them to approach peace talks with the regime with sincerity at KIO headquarters in Laiza, Momauk Township, Kachin State.
2	Regime Religious Affairs Deputy Minister Maung Maung Htay says that the regime Religious Affairs Ministry commission members would finish drafting the religious conversion bill and that the regime Immigration and Population Ministry commission members would finish drafting the population control bill around late May or early June.
3	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi says she will consult with the NLD-sponsored Lawyers' Network to try to help more than 100 protestors who had gathered outside her home in Rangoon to ask for assistance in resolving a land dispute.
3	Tatmadaw Deputy Commander-in-Chief Vice Sr Gen Soe Win meets a Russia-Myanmar Military Cooperation Joint Commission delegation in Naypyidaw to discuss bilateral military relations and technical cooperation.
6	Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Sr Gen Min Aung Hlaing meets with UWSA, SSPP, and local militia officials in Lashio, Shan State, asking them to lay down arms.
7	During a meeting with sub-election commissions and political parties in Bassein, Irrawaddy Division, regime Election Commission Chairman Tin Aye says that the regime's Election Commission would only allow politicians to campaign in their own constituencies in the future.
7	More than 300 people in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division, hold a march calling for constitutional amendments.
8	More than 2,000 people hold a rally in Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Division, in support of amending the constitution and call for a meeting between Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, President Thein Sein, National Parliament Speaker Shwe Mann, and Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Sr Gen Min Aung Hlaing

¹²⁸ World Bank (07 Apr 14) East Asia Pacific Update: Preserving Stability and Promoting Growth; ADB (01 Apr 14) Asian Development Outlook 2014; Irrawaddy (02 Apr 14) Inflation Expected to Rise as Burma's Economy Grows; Myanmar Times (02 April 14) GDP growth prospects strong in the short term

¹²⁹ ADB (01 Apr 14) Asian Development Outlook 2014; Myanmar Times (02 April 14) GDP growth prospects strong in the short term; Irrawaddy (08 Jan 14) Thein Sein Plans \$20 Salary Increase for Civil Servants, Pensioners

¹³⁰ Irrawaddy (05 Apr 14) The Irrawaddy Business Roundup (April 5, 2014)

¹³¹ ICG (22 Apr 14) Myanmar's Military: Back to the Barracks?

¹³² Irrawaddy (05 Apr 14) The Irrawaddy Business Roundup (April 5, 2014)

¹³³ ICG (22 Apr 14) Myanmar's Military: Back to the Barracks?

¹³⁴ Irrawaddy (05 Apr 14) The Irrawaddy Business Roundup (April 5, 2014)

	to be held as soon as possible.
10	Two hundred and twenty-four local trainees from Chinese company Wanbao stage a protest in the area of the Letpadaung (Monywa) copper mine, Sagaing Division, demanding higher wages and better working conditions.
10	JICA signs an MoU with regime Hotels and Tourism Ministry to provide technical assistance for the development of Pagan, Mandalay Division, until 2017.
14	KIA Deputy Chief-of-Staff Brig Gen Gun Maw meets with human rights and political affairs officials at the State Department in Washington, DC.
14	Police arrest, torture, and deny treatment to four Rohingya village administration officers for allegedly burning the Taungbro Letwe police station in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State.
14	EU Foreign Affairs Council extends sanctions on Burma until 30 April 2015, which consists of an embargo on arms and an embargo on “equipment that may be used for internal repression”.
16	Burma Campaign UK releases a briefing titled “Rape and Sexual Violence by the Burmese Army” which highlights the Tatmadaw’s use of rape and sexual violence as a weapon of war and calls for an international investigation into the violence and abuses committed against women.
23	Around 250 staff from Myanmar Wanbao company stage a rally to demand pay raises in front of the company’s office in Monywa Township, Sagaing Division.
23	US Embassy in Rangoon says they will “seriously consider” being an observer in the ethnic peace process if both the regime and ethnic group representatives request it.
25	About 100 demonstrators in Prome, Pegu Division, and dozens in Moulmein, Mon State hold protests for the release of DVB reporter Zaw Pe, who was sentenced to one year in prison 7 April on charges of trespassing and disturbing a civil servant on duty.
27	During a speech in Malaysia, US President Barack Obama says that Burma will not succeed if it oppresses its Muslim population, referencing Burma’s Rohingya population “whose rights are not being fully protected”, and warns against Burma “organizing politically” around its religion or ethnicity.
29	In its publication “Peoples under Threat 2014”, Minority Rights Group International ranks Burma as the 8 th most high-risk country in the world in terms of likelihood for its communities to face genocide, mass killing, or systematic violent repression.

REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN APRIL

“Asian Development Outlook 2014: Fiscal Policy for Inclusive Growth”, Asian Development Bank (ADB)
<http://bit.ly/PTp76M>

“Human Rights and Democracy: The 2012 Foreign & Commonwealth Office Report”, UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) <http://bit.ly/1oRQJji>

“Survey of Burma Public Opinion: December 24, 2013 - February 1, 2014”, International Republican Institute (IRI)
<http://bit.ly/QITtcY>

“Migration Information Note 23 - April 2014”, International Organization for Migration (IOM) <http://bit.ly/1m97bTp>

“Monthly Chronology of Burma’s Political Prisoners for March, 2013”, Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) <http://bit.ly/PieZ6R>

“Annual Report 2013”, Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) <http://bit.ly/1jT3BIg>

“Rape and Sexual Violence by the Burmese Army - Burma Briefing No. 34”, Burma Campaign UK (BCUK)
<http://bit.ly/1jA5GIZ>

“Myanmar’s Military: Back to the Barracks?”, International Crisis Group (ICG) <http://bit.ly/RIwVK4>

“Conflict-related sexual violence”, UN Security Council (UNSC) <http://bit.ly/1hFAM3M>

“East Asia Pacific Economic Update April 2014 - Preserving Stability and Promoting Growth”, World Bank (WB)
<http://bit.ly/1mYAPe9>

“Listening to Voices: Myanmar’s Foot Soldiers Speak”, Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS)
<http://bit.ly/PQ6n7L>

“Deciphering Myanmar’s Peace Process 2014”, Burma News International (BNI) <http://bit.ly/R5XjNp>

“Peoples under Threat 2014”, Minority Rights Group International (MRI) <http://bit.ly/1hJw8Vm>

“Trade, development, and the smokescreen of CSR”, Burma Campaign UK (BCUK) <http://bit.ly/1iknNVc>

“2014 Annual Report - Burma”, United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF)
<http://1.usa.gov/1ft9bnH>