

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

Issue 79

July 2013

- Despite President Thein Sein's pledge to release all political prisoners "by the end of the year," the regime continues to arbitrarily arrest and jail farmers, activists, and human rights defenders.
- The regime releases 73 political prisoners in the latest presidential amnesty but about 100 dissidents remain behind bars.
- President Thein Sein's abolition of the notorious border security force Na Sa Ka does little to improve the situation for Rohingya. Police personnel continue the Na Sa Ka's legacy of discriminatory and abusive practices against Rohingya.
- The regime sentences 34 people, including seven Muslims, in connection with the March religious riots in Meikhtila, Mandalay Division.
- Conflict rages in ethnic nationality areas as the Tatmadaw targets the Kachin Independence Army, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, the Shan State Army-North, and the New Mon State Party in the north, east, and south of the country.
- The People's Assembly approves the Printing and Publishing Bill but journalists strongly criticize the legislation because it authorizes the regime's Information Ministry to issue, suspend, and revoke publishing licenses.
- Farmers across Burma continue to campaign for the return of their confiscated land as the regime says that the Tatmadaw will return only 6% of the land it seized across Burma from 1988 to 2010.
- President Thein Sein pushes the regime's business agenda during his overseas trip to London and Paris.

IN THIS ISSUE

KEY STORY

- 1 Arbitrary arrests/imprisonment
- 2 Political prisoners released

INSIDE BURMA

- 3 7th parliamentary session
- 4 Na Sa Ka disbanded
- 4 Regime denies abuses
- 5 Buddhists, Muslims jailed
- 5 More anti-Muslim attacks
- 5 U Wirathu's campaign
- 6 Tatmadaw targets ethnics
- 6 Regime-UWSA agreement
- 7 Land confiscation protests
- 7 Thein Sein reshuffles cabinet
- 7 Monywa copper mine update

HUMAN RIGHTS

- 8 Draft press law criticized

DISPLACEMENT

- 9 Rohingya exodus continues

INTERNATIONAL

- 9 Thein Sein visits UK & France
- 10 US blacklists regime official
- 10 Int'l concern over Rohingya

10 OTHER BURMA NEWS

12 REPORTS

Receive the Burma Bulletin monthly!
email publications@altsean.org
Online copies are available for
download at www.altsean.org

KEY STORY

Arbitrary arrests and imprisonment continues

Despite President Thein Sein's 15 July pledge to release all political prisoners "by the end of the year," the regime continued to arbitrarily arrest and jail farmers, activists, and human rights defenders.¹

- **7 July:** Police in Taungoo, Pegu Division, arrested NLD member Min Swe for joining farmers in Tharzi Township, Mandalay Division, in a protest against land confiscation in April.²
- **8 July:** Police in Tharzi Township, Mandalay Division, arrested Lin, a farmer who went to visit detained NLD member Min Swe.³

¹ Reuters (15 Jul 13) Burma's president vows to releases all political prisoners

² DVB (10 Jul 13) Farmers call on leaders to return land as officials target 'plough protestors'

³ DVB (10 Jul 13) Farmers call on leaders to return land as officials target 'plough protestors'

- **8 July:** A court in Shwebo, Sagaing Division, sentenced activist Aung Soe to an additional 10 years in prison on various charges, including threatening national security, for participating in a peaceful protest against the Monywa copper mine on 25 April.⁴ Aung Soe will now serve a total of 11 years and six months in prison.⁵ The Shwebo court also sentenced two farmers to an additional two years in prison each on charges of “inciting riots” in connection with the 25 April protest.⁶ The two will now serve a total of two years and six months in jail.⁷
- **10 July:** Police in Prome Township, Pegu Division, arrested Generation Wave activist Wai Phyto under the Printers and Publishers Registration Act for organizing a ‘Free Political Prisoners’ poster campaign in 2011.⁸
- **15 July:** Police in Akyab [Sittwe] Township, Arakan State, arrested 74-year-old Rohingya lawyer and activist Kyaw Hla Aung in connection with a protest staged by Rohingya IDPs in Akyab Township in late April.⁹
- **18 July:** The Myitkyina Township Court, Kachin State, sentenced Kachin farmer Brang Shawng to two years in prison under the Unlawful Association Act on charges of having ties with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA).¹⁰ The regime released Brang Shawng in the 23 July presidential amnesty [See below *Political prisoners: 73 released, about 100 still behind bars*].¹¹
- **18 July:** Police in Myitkyina, Kachin State, detained Kachin land rights activist and National Democratic Force (NDF) member Bawk Ja on charges of negligent homicide.¹² The NDF said the charges were politically motivated and had already been dropped in 2010.¹³

In addition, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reported that in June alone, the regime leveled criminal charges against 149 farmers and activists, with around 70 already on trial.¹⁴

On 29 July, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana said he was “very concerned” about ongoing “politically motivated” arrests and imprisonment in the country.¹⁵ Ojea Quintana also said that the regime-appointed political prisoner review committee should have the mandate to investigate new cases of arbitrary imprisonment.¹⁶

Political prisoners: 73 released, about 100 still behind bars

On 23 July, the regime released 73 political prisoners from jails across the country in the latest presidential amnesty.¹⁷ Most of those released had been imprisoned for their alleged ties with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Shan State Army-South (SSA-S).¹⁸ According to the Former Political Prisoners (FPP) group, about 100 political prisoners remained behind bars.¹⁹

| Their Sein's releases of prisoners | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Date | Total prisoners | Political prisoners |
| 16 May 11 | 14,578 | 58 |
| 12 Oct 11 | 6,359 | 240 |
| 4 Jan 12 | 6,656 | 36 |
| 13 Jan 12 | 651 | 302 |
| 3 Jul 12 | 80 | 25 |
| 17 Sep 12 | 514 | 88 |
| 15 Nov 12 | 452 | 0 |
| 16 Nov 12 | 66 | 51 |
| 23 Apr 13 | 93 | 59 |
| 17 May 13 | 23 | 19 |
| 23 Jul 13 | 73 | 73 |
| Total | 29,545 | 951 |
| <i>Sources: NLM; AAPP</i> | | |

⁴ RFA (09 Jul 13) Myanmar Activist Jailed 10 years For Anti-Mine Protest; Irrawaddy (08 Jul 13) Complaints Abound Over Letpadaung Implementation Committee

⁵ Irrawaddy (08 Jul 13) Complaints Abound Over Letpadaung Implementation Committee

⁶ RFA (09 Jul 13) Myanmar Activist Jailed 10 years For Anti-Mine Protest

⁷ Irrawaddy (08 Jul 13) Complaints Abound Over Letpadaung Implementation Committee

⁸ AI (17 Jul 13) Myanmar: Arrests continue amid promise to release all prisoners of conscience

⁹ DVB (15 Jul 13) Burma disbands notorious NaSaKa border guard force; AI (17 Jul 13) Myanmar: Arrests continue amid promise to release all prisoners of conscience; Narinjara News (17 Jul 13) Fugitive Muslim leader arrested in Arakan

¹⁰ Irrawaddy (19 Jul 13) Kachin Farmer Brang Shawng Imprisoned 2 Years

¹¹ Kachinland News (23 Jul 13) Burmese government releases some Kachin political prisoners; Kachin News Group (24 Jul 13) Kachin IDP turned political prisoner Brang Shawng freed in amnesty

¹² Irrawaddy (19 Jul 13) Activist Bawk Ja Arrested for Negligent Homicide

¹³ Myanmar Times (22 Jul 13) Kachin activist Daw Bawk Ja arrested over 2008 death

¹⁴ DVB (10 Jul 13) Farmers call on leaders to return land as officials target ‘plough protestors’

¹⁵ OHCHR (29 Jul 13) Myanmar: UN expert welcomes latest release of prisoners of conscience, but raises alarm over ongoing arrests

¹⁶ OHCHR (29 Jul 13) Myanmar: UN expert welcomes latest release of prisoners of conscience, but raises alarm over ongoing arrests

¹⁷ Reuters (23 Jul 13) Myanmar frees 73 political prisoners - government committee member; RFA (23 Jul 13) Myanmar Releases Scores of Political Prisoners; AAPP (24 Jul 13) 73 prisoners freed in latest Presidential release

¹⁸ BBC (23 Jul 13) Burma frees a further 73 political prisoners; Irrawaddy (23 Jul 13) Burma Govt Releases 73 Political Prisoners; Myanmar Times (26 Jul 13) Amnesty will boost peace efforts: activists

¹⁹ Myanmar Times (26 Jul 13) Amnesty will boost peace efforts: activists

Seventh parliamentary session continues

The Parliament's seventh session, which began on 25 June, continued in Naypyidaw. Important developments included:

- **1 July:** National Parliament Speaker Khin Aung Myint rejected a proposal introduced by regime Election Commission Chairman Tin Aye to discuss changes to Burma's current electoral system because it had not been submitted in accordance with parliamentary procedures.²⁰
- **1 July:** Mya Nyein, chairman of the committee responsible for investigating the online activities of a blogger known under the pseudonym Dr Seik Phwar, told the National Parliament that the committee had failed to determine the blogger's identity.²¹
- **2 July:** The National Assembly approved the Telecommunications Bill.²²
- **4 July:** The People's Assembly approved the Printing and Publishing Bill [See below *Journalists slam draft press law*].²³ The bill will now go to the National Assembly for discussion.²⁴
- **8 July:** The National Parliament approved the Myanmar Central Bank Bill.²⁵ On 11 July, President Thein Sein signed the bill into law.²⁶ The legislation was expected to give the central bank greater autonomy from the regime's Finance Ministry.²⁷
- **9 July:** In response to a question posed by a People's Assembly MP, regime Deputy Home Affairs Minister Maj Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun said that the regime had no plans to repeal or amend the draconian 1950 Emergency Provisions Act or the 1975 State Protection Law.²⁸ Kyaw Kyaw Tun also claimed that the two laws did not contravene the 2008 constitution.²⁹
- **16 July:** The National Parliament discussed the report presented by the commission tasked with investigating reports of land confiscation across Burma.³⁰ During the discussion of the report, regime Defense Minister Lt Gen Wai Lwin said that the Tatmadaw would return only 18,300 (or 6.1%) of the 297,000 acres of land it confiscated across Burma from 1988 to 2010.³¹
- **25 July:** The National Parliament approved the formation of a 109-member committee to review the 2008 constitution.³² The committee, chaired by the National Parliament's Deputy Speaker, reflected the political makeup of Parliament and included 52 Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) MPs, 25 military-appointed MPs, seven NLD MPs, and a total of 18 MPs from ethnic political parties.³³ All 18 political parties represented in Parliament had at least one MP on the committee.³⁴
- **26 July:** The National Parliament approved, by a vote of 291 to 211, the Anti-Corruption Bill.³⁵

²⁰ NLM (02 Jul 13) Lawmakers to fulfill wishes and aspirations more of the people through utilization of knowledge and experiences; EMG (02 Jul 13) Speaker rules against proportional representation debate; Myanmar Times (05 Jul 13) Speaker knocks back PR proposal

²¹ EMG (02 Jul 13) Parliamentary commission fails to expose defamatory blogger; DVB (02 Jul 13) Parliamentary commission fails to identify controversial blogger

²² EMG (05 Jul 13) New telecom bill calls for formation of independent commission

²³ Mizzima News (05 Jul 13) Myanmar publishers hope new bill offers them protection; Myanmar Times (08 Jul 13) Media bill gets freedom of expression clause

²⁴ Myanmar Times (08 Jul 13) Media bill gets freedom of expression clause

²⁵ AFP (10 Jul 13) Myanmar to give central bank more autonomy; Reuters (09 Jul 13) Myanmar law giving its central bank autonomy due "within days"; Mizzima News (09 Jul 13) Parliament adopts Central Bank law; EMG (09 Jul 13) Myanmar's parliament approves central bank bill

²⁶ Reuters (12 Jul 13) Myanmar president approves law on central bank autonomy; AFP (12 Jul 13) Myanmar enacts new central bank law

²⁷ AFP (10 Jul 13) Myanmar to give central bank more autonomy; Reuters (12 Jul 13) Myanmar president approves law on central bank autonomy; Myanmar Times (07 Jul 13) Central bank law awaits green light

²⁸ Irrawaddy (11 Jul 13) No Plan to Repeal Two Repressive Junta-era Laws: Minister

²⁹ Irrawaddy (11 Jul 13) No Plan to Repeal Two Repressive Junta-era Laws: Minister

³⁰ NLM (17 Jul 13) All unused farmlands to be returned to original owners when scrutiny process thorough coordination over

³¹ DPA (17 Jul 13) Myanmar military to return little land; DVB (18 Jul 13) Ministry agrees to return meagre fraction of land confiscated by military

³² AP (25 Jul 13) Myanmar parliament panel considers changing constitution, could allow Suu Kyi to be president; Xinhua (25 Jul 13) Myanmar parliament agrees to form constitution review joint committee; EMG (27 Jul 13) Myanmar's parliament approves committee to re-examine the Constitution

³³ Xinhua (25 Jul 13) Myanmar parliament agrees to form constitution review joint committee; EMG (27 Jul 13) Myanmar's parliament approves committee to re-examine the Constitution

³⁴ Myanmar Times (29 Jul 13) Constitution review committee approved

³⁵ Irrawaddy (30 Jul 13) Burma's Parliament Approves Anti-Corruption Bill; DVB (29 Jul 13) Parliament passes anti-corruption bill despite president's protests; NLM (27 Jul 13) Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves four bills including Anti-Corruption Bill

Na Sa Ka disbanded, abuses against Rohingya continue

On 12 July, President Thein Sein issued an order that abolished the 1,200-strong border security force, known as Na Sa Ka, notorious for their persecution of Rohingya in Northern Arakan State.³⁶ However, hopes that the situation for Rohingya would improve were short-lived. Police personnel took over Na Sa Ka's functions and it quickly became evident that the police also continued the Na Sa Ka's discriminatory and abusive practices against Rohingya, including arbitrary arrests, extortion, and harassment.³⁷

- **13 July:** Police in Maungdaw Township extorted 500-1,000 kyat (US\$0.50-1.00) per person from Rohingya who crossed the Shwezarr Bridge.³⁸
- **18 July:** Police in Maungdaw Township detained four Rohingya on false charges of possession of Bangladeshi mobile phones. The four were released on the same day after paying a 400,000 kyat (US\$409) bribe.³⁹
- **23 July:** Police in Maungdaw Township detained a 33-year-old Rohingya man for failing to obtain official permission before getting married. He was released on the same day after paying a 50,000-kyat (US\$51) bribe.⁴⁰

On 16 July, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana welcomed the abolition of Na Sa Ka.⁴¹ However, he urged the regime to investigate and hold accountable Na Sa Ka personnel responsible for the “widespread and systematic human rights violations” against Rohingya communities.⁴²

Regime denies abuses against Rohingya

In July, President Thein Sein and other regime officials reiterated their refusal to acknowledge Rohingya identity and denied discrimination and persecution of Rohingya communities.

- **12 July:** President Thein Sein's spokesperson Ye Htut said that Naypyidaw would only consider providing citizenship to Rohingya who meet certain “legal requirements” in accordance with the 1982 Citizenship Law.⁴³ Ye Htut also reiterated the regime's claim that Burma “never had a Rohingya ethnicity.”⁴⁴
- **15 July:** President Thein Sein said that there wasn't any plan to amend the 1982 Citizenship Law and, once again, denied the existence of Rohingya as one of Burma's ethnic groups.⁴⁵
- **19 July:** President Thein Sein denied accusations of ethnic cleansing against Rohingya and said that the claims were part of a “smear campaign” against his administration.⁴⁶
- **26 July:** The regime issued a press release that denied that there was religious and racial discrimination in Burma and accused “certain organizations both at home and abroad” of fabrications.⁴⁷

In addition, on 9 July, regime officials denied that authorities were restricting the movement of Rohingya IDPs and suggested that the segregation of Buddhist and Muslim communities affected by unrest in Arakan State was self-imposed.⁴⁸

³⁶ President's Office (14 Jul 13) Notification No.59/2013 - Abolishing of Border Area Immigration Control Headquarters; DVB (15 Jul 13) Burma disbands notorious NaSaKa border guard force; Narinjara News (13 Jul 13) Burma abolishes Nasaka force; TRF (15 Jul 13) Myanmar abolishes notorious border guard force

³⁷ DVB (15 Jul 13) Burma disbands notorious NaSaKa border guard force; Irrawaddy (16 Jul 13) With Nasaka Border Force Abolished, National Police Move In to Arakan; Narinjara News (16 Jul 13) Nasaka gone, Burmese home ministry steps in; Myanmar Times (22 Jul 13) US planned to sanction disbanded border security force, say activists; TRF (15 Jul 13) Myanmar abolishes notorious border guard force

³⁸ Kaladan News (13 Jul 13) Police starts harassment and extortion after Nasaka dissolved in Maungdaw

³⁹ Kaladan News (22 Jul 13) Authority uses new tactic in Arakan State

⁴⁰ Kaladan News (26 Jul 13) Hluntin extorts Kyat 50,000 from villager in Maungdaw

⁴¹ OHCHR (16 Jul 13) UN expert greets abolition of notorious border security force in Rakhine State and calls for accountability

⁴² OHCHR (16 Jul 13) UN expert greets abolition of notorious border security force in Rakhine State and calls for accountability

⁴³ Myanmar Times (22 Jul 13) US planned to sanction disbanded border security force, say activists

⁴⁴ Myanmar Times (22 Jul 13) US planned to sanction disbanded border security force, say activists

⁴⁵ Today's Zaman (16 Jul 13) Myanmar president: No plans to amend the 1982 Citizenship Law

⁴⁶ AFP (19 Jul 13) Myanmar leader says ethnic cleansing claims are “smear campaign”

⁴⁷ Press Release Team (26 Jul 13) Press Release No. 10/2013

Buddhists, Muslims jailed over Meikhtila riots

In July, the regime sentenced 34 people, including seven Muslims, in connection with the riots in Meikhtila, Mandalay Division, in late March.

- **5 July:** The Meikhtila District Court sentenced a 21-year-old Buddhist to seven years in prison on charges of murder.⁴⁹
- **9 July:** A court in Meikhtila sentenced four Muslim men to prison terms ranging between seven years and life on charges of murdering a 19-year-old university student.⁵⁰
- **10 July:** The Meikhtila District Court sentenced eight people - seven Buddhists and one Muslim – to prison terms for crimes committed in connection with an attack on an Islamic boarding school on 21 March, which resulted in the death of 32 Muslim students.⁵¹ Four of the eight were found guilty of murder and received between 10 to 15 years in jail.⁵² The court also sentenced 10 Buddhist men to one to nine years in prison for their involvement in the death of a Muslim man.⁵³
- **10 July:** The Meikhtila Township Court sentenced six men and one woman, all Buddhists, to two years in prison each for damaging the gold shop where the argument that triggered deadly riots occurred on 20 March.⁵⁴
- **11 July:** The Meikhtila Township Court sentenced two Muslim men to five years in prison each on charges of arson and destruction of property and a Buddhist man to five years in prison on charges of arson.⁵⁵
- **12 July:** A court in Meikhtila sentenced a Buddhist man to five years in prison on charges of arson and destruction of property.⁵⁶

More anti-Muslim attacks in Arakan State

Despite the imposition of a dusk-to-dawn curfew on 30 June after Buddhist mobs set fire to Muslim-owned houses in Sandoway [Thandwe], Arakan State [See *June 2013 Burma Bulletin*], anti-Muslim attacks in the town continued on 1 July when a mob torched another Muslim-owned house.⁵⁷ Regime authorities failed to make any arrests in connection with the arson attacks.⁵⁸ In addition, like in recent anti-Muslim attacks in other parts of Burma, police failed to intervene to stop the violence.⁵⁹

U Wirathu presses on with campaign to limit interfaith marriages

On 18 July, extremist Buddhist monk U Wirathu said that about 2.5 million people had signed a petition in support of proposed legislation aimed at restricting marriages between Buddhist women and Muslim men [See *June 2013 Burma Bulletin*].⁶⁰ U Wirathu said that the signatures would be sent to Parliament along with the proposed draft law.⁶¹

⁴⁸ CNA (09 Jul 13) Shelters provided to 100,000 displaced Rohingya: Myanmar govt

⁴⁹ AFP (08 Jul 13) Myanmar jails two Buddhists for riot murders

⁵⁰ AFP (10 Jul 13) Myanmar jails four Muslims for riot murder: Official; AP (11 Jul 13) 25 Buddhists sentenced in deadly Myanmar riot

⁵¹ AP (11 Jul 13) 25 Buddhists sentenced in deadly Myanmar riot; RFA (11 Jul 13) Seven Buddhists Jailed Over Meikhtila Islamic School Massacre

⁵² AP (11 Jul 13) 25 Buddhists sentenced in deadly Myanmar riot

⁵³ AP (11 Jul 13) 25 Buddhists sentenced in deadly Myanmar riot

⁵⁴ AP (11 Jul 13) 25 Buddhists sentenced in deadly Myanmar riot; NLM (11 Jul 13) Rioters who committed crimes, violence in Meikhtila conflict get jail terms with hard labour

⁵⁵ AP (11 Jul 13) 25 Buddhists sentenced in deadly Myanmar riot; Irrawaddy (12 Jul 13) Courts Sentence 4 to Prison Terms For Meikhtila Violence

⁵⁶ Irrawaddy (12 Jul 13) Courts Sentence 4 to Prison Terms For Meikhtila Violence

⁵⁷ DVB (02 Jul 13) Mob ignores curfew, sets fire to Muslim home in Arakan state

⁵⁸ Mizzima News (03 Jul 13) No suspects detained following arson attacks on Thandwe Muslims' homes; Myanmar Times (04 Jul 13) Arrests made over Thandwe rape case

⁵⁹ DVB (01 Jul 13) Officials install curfew in Arakan state after mob targets Muslims; Irrawaddy (01 Jul 13) Thandwe 'Stable' After Anti-Muslim Attack: Official; DVB (02 Jul 13) Mob ignores curfew, sets fire to Muslim home in Arakan state

⁶⁰ Irrawaddy (18 Jul 13) Petition to Restrict Interfaith Marriage Garners 2.5 Million Signatures in Burma

⁶¹ Irrawaddy (18 Jul 13) Petition to Restrict Interfaith Marriage Garners 2.5 Million Signatures in Burma

Tatmadaw targets KIA, TNLA, SSA-N, and NMSP

As President Thein Sein touted the possibility of a nationwide ceasefire “over the coming weeks” during his visit to London [See below *Thein Sein talks business in London and Paris*],⁶² Tatmadaw attacks and abuses in ethnic nationality areas continued.

In Kachin and Shan States, Tatmadaw troops clashed with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the Ta’ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and the Shan State Army-North (SSA-N).

- **10 July:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 502 clashed with SSA-N forces in Nawngkhio Township, Northern Shan State.⁶³
- **10 July:** Tatmadaw troops from IB 149 and IB 150 clashed with SSA-N forces in Monghsu Township, Southern Shan State.⁶⁴
- **12 July:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces in the area of Hka Pra, Mansi Township, Kachin State.⁶⁵
- **18 July:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces in the Nampaka area of Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State.⁶⁶
- **23 July:** Tatmadaw troops attacked TNLA forces in Mantong Township, Northern Shan State.⁶⁷
- **23-24 July:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with joint KIA and TNLA forces in the Pang sai area of Muse Township, Northern Shan State.⁶⁸
- **24 July:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with joint KIA, SSA-N, and TNLA forces in Mantong Township, Northern Shan State.⁶⁹
- **26 July:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces near Mong Paw, Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State.⁷⁰

Tatmadaw troops also attacked New Mon State Party (NMSP) forces and targeted civilians in Tenasserim Division.

- **16 July:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 581 killed two NMSP soldiers during a clash in Thumingalan Village, Bokpyin Township.⁷¹
- **16 July:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 581 abducted an NMSP soldier and his wife in Bokpyin Township.⁷²
- **22 July:** Tatmadaw troops set fire to around 20 homes in Thumingalan Village, Bokpyin Township.⁷³

Regime and UWSA sign agreement to ease tensions

In July, the regime sought to defuse growing tensions with the United Wa State Army (UWSA) following the UWSA’s March call for an autonomous state and subsequent troop deployments by the Tatmadaw and the UWSA in strategic areas of Eastern Shan State.⁷⁴ On 12 July, a regime delegation met with UWSA representatives in Kengtung, Shan State.⁷⁵ The two sides signed a five-point agreement - the third between the regime and UWSA since September 2011.⁷⁶ According to the

⁶² AFP (15 Jul 13) Myanmar to free all political prisoners by year end: president

⁶³ SHAN (12 Jul 13) Three clashes in one day

⁶⁴ SHAN (12 Jul 13) Three clashes in one day

⁶⁵ Kachinland News (15 Jul 13) Kachin people’s militia fought against Burmese army’s 69th LIR

⁶⁶ Kachin News Group (22 July 13) Burma army and KIA clash in Northern Shan state near pipeline rout

⁶⁷ Kachinland News (27 Jul 13) Despite peace rhetoric, battles continue in northern Shan State

⁶⁸ Mizzima News (25 Jul 13) Battles ongoing in northern Shan State

⁶⁹ Kachin News Group (25 Jul 13) KIO officially opens Myitkyina office as fighting continues

⁷⁰ Kachinland News (27 Jul 13) Despite peace rhetoric, battles continue in northern Shan State

⁷¹ DVB (23 Jul 13) Armed Mon group calls on army to return abducted members

⁷² DVB (23 Jul 13) Armed Mon group calls on army to return abducted members

⁷³ IMNA (28 Jul 13) NMSP soldier kidnapped by pro-government militia

⁷⁴ Irrawaddy (28 Mar 13) Wa Army Pledges to Continue Push for Independence; Irrawaddy (04 Jul 13) Tensions Escalate Between UWSA and Govt Troops; EMG (04 Jul 13) Tension mounting between government army and UWSA; SHAN (04 Jul 13) Face-off continues between Wa, Burma Army

⁷⁵ AP (13 Jul 13) Myanmar signs trust-building pact with Wa rebels

⁷⁶ AP (13 Jul 13) Myanmar signs trust-building pact with Wa rebels

agreement, both sides pledged to coordinate to resolve military issues as they arose and cooperate on drug eradication.⁷⁷ The UWSA also pledged not to seek independence from Burma.⁷⁸

Land confiscation protests continue

Despite the regime's refusal to return the overwhelming majority of the land seized by the Tatmadaw [See above *Seventh parliamentary session continues*], farmers across Burma continued to campaign for the return of their confiscated land and to protest land grabs.

- **9 July:** About 200 farmers from various townships in Rangoon, Pegu, and Irrawaddy Divisions demonstrated in front of Rangoon City Hall to urge President Thein Sein and Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Sr Gen Min Aung Hlaing to return land that the regime had confiscated from them.⁷⁹
- **10 July:** Farmers from Weigy Village in Naypyidaw's Pobbathiri Township held a press conference to urge the regime to provide adequate compensation for the confiscation of about 400 acres of farmland by the Information Ministry a decade ago.⁸⁰
- **25 July:** About 400 residents of Rangoon's Thingangyun Township gathered in downtown Rangoon to protest against land confiscation by regime authorities in 1991.⁸¹

Thein Sein reshuffles cabinet

In late July, President Thein Sein carried out a major cabinet reshuffle that involved 16 positions [See table *Thein Sein's cabinet reshuffle*].⁸² On 25 July, Thein Sein reassigned four ministers and five deputy ministers and appointed four new deputy ministers.⁸³ Two deputy ministers resigned.⁸⁴ On 29 July, Thein Sein appointed an additional Sports Deputy Minister.⁸⁵

| Thein Sein's cabinet reshuffle | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ministers | Current Ministry | Previous Ministry |
| Zeyar Aung | Energy | Rail Transportation |
| Maung Myint | Industry | Labor, Employment, & Social Security |
| Aye Myint | Labor, Employment, & Social Security | Industry |
| Than Htay | Rail Transportation | Energy |
| Deputy Ministers | Current Ministry | Previous Ministry |
| Maj Gen Maung Maung Ohn | Border Affairs | - |
| San Lwin | Education | - |
| Than Aung | Health | - |
| Aung Kyaw Myat | Science & Technology | - |
| Zaw Win | Sports | - |
| Win Myint | President's Office | Health |
| Zaw Min Aung | Education | Science & Technology |
| Htin Aung | Labor, Employment, & Social Security | Energy |
| Myint Thein | Rail Transportation | Labor, Employment, & Social Security |
| Ba Shwe | Science & Technology | Education |
| Aye Kyu | Resigned | Education |
| Thaung Lwin | Resigned | Rail Transportation |

Monywa copper mine: Villagers neglected, Naypyidaw sees more profits

In July, villagers near the Monywa copper mine in Salingyi Township, Sagaing Division, complained that the regime-appointed committee tasked with implementing the recommendations made by the investigation commission chaired by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had failed to address the economic, social, and environmental needs of communities adversely affected by the mine's operations.⁸⁶ On 26 July, President's Office Minister Hla Tun acknowledged that the regime had provided compensation for only 2,828 (or 41%) of the 6,784 acres for which the investigation commission recommended compensation.⁸⁷

⁷⁷ NLM (13 Jul 13) Agreement between Union Peace-Making Work Committee and "Wa" Special Region (2) at peace talks in Kengtung on 12 July 2013

⁷⁸ NLM (13 Jul 13) Agreement between Union Peace-Making Work Committee and "Wa" Special Region (2) at peace talks in Kengtung on 12 July 2013

⁷⁹ DVB (10 Jul 13) Farmers call on leaders to return land as officials target 'plough protestors'; EMG (10 Jul 13) Farmers protest against land confiscation in downtown Yangon

⁸⁰ EMG (14 Jul 13) Farmers accuse Information Ministry of unfair compensation

⁸¹ EMG (27 Jul 13) Hundreds gather in protest against seized lands in Yangon

⁸² Xinhua (25 Jul 13) Myanmar makes major reshuffle of cabinet

⁸³ NLM (26 Jul 13) Union Ministers reshuffled; NLM (26 Jul 13) Appointment of deputy minister; NLM (26 Jul 13) Appointment of Deputy Minister; NLM (26 Jul 13) Deputy Ministers Reshuffled

⁸⁴ NLM (26 Jul 13) Resignation of deputy ministers

⁸⁵ NLM (30 Jul 13) Appointment of Deputy Minister

⁸⁶ Irrawaddy (08 Jul 13) Complaints Abound Over Letpadaung Implementation Committee

⁸⁷ Xinhua (26 Jul 13) Work underway to implement probe panel's report on copper mine: Myanmar; EMG (28 Jul 13) Chinese-backed mine yet to compensate over 3600 acres of farmlands

Meanwhile, the regime substantially increased its share of the future profits from the Monywa copper mine. On 10 July, the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) approved the revised production-sharing contract between the regime's Mines Ministry and the two mine operators, China's Wanbao and the military conglomerate Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings (UMEH).⁸⁸ According to the new terms, the regime would receive 51% of the profits from the mine, an increase from the original 4%.⁸⁹ Wanbao and UMEH would receive 30% and 19% respectively.⁹⁰ The new contract also stipulated that 2% of net profits would go towards corporate social responsibility activities.⁹¹ In addition, Wanbao would pay US\$2 million per year throughout the commercial production period of the mine to ensure that the mine's operations meet international standards of environmental protection.⁹²

On 25 July, Hla Tun said that the mine's operations, which had been suspended since the 29 November violent crackdown on peaceful protesters, would resume by the end of September.⁹³ On the same day, villagers living in the area of the Monywa copper mine vowed to keep up their resistance to the mine.⁹⁴

HUMAN RIGHTS

Journalists slam draft press law

On 4 July, the People's Assembly approved the Printing and Publishing Bill.⁹⁵ MPs amended various provisions of the text that the regime had introduced on 7 March [See *March 2013 Burma Bulletin*].⁹⁶ MPs eliminated provisions that stipulated prison terms for journalists who published reports "disturbing the rule of law" and "inciting unrest" - offenses now punishable by a fine.⁹⁷ In addition, according to the amended draft, publishers whose license is suspended or revoked by the Information Ministry could now appeal the decision to a court.⁹⁸

Burmese journalists as well as domestic and international press watchdogs strongly criticized the legislation approved by the People's Assembly.⁹⁹ Journalists rejected the bill because it would continue to authorize the regime's Information Ministry to issue, suspend, and revoke publishing licenses.¹⁰⁰ In addition, the Myanmar Press Council (MPC) accused the regime's Information Ministry of failing to include most of the group's proposed amendments in the revised draft submitted to the People's Assembly for discussion.¹⁰¹ On 12 July, state-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar quoted regime Information Minister Aung Kyi as saying that it was not possible "to make a U-turn" on the law.¹⁰²

⁸⁸ EMG (15 Jul 13) China's Wanbao signs new contract for controversial copper-mine

⁸⁹ AFP (25 Jul 13) Myanmar revises controversial Chinese-backed mine deal; Reuters (26 Jul 13) Myanmar to get more profit from controversial Chinese-backed mine; DVB (16 Jul 13) Commission approves contract giving govt larger share of Laptadaung profits

⁹⁰ AFP (25 Jul 13) Myanmar revises controversial Chinese-backed mine deal; EMG (15 Jul 13) China's Wanbao signs new contract for controversial copper-mine; DVB (16 Jul 13) Commission approves contract giving govt larger share of Laptadaung profits; Xinhua (26 Jul 13) Work underway to implement probe panel's report on copper mine: Myanmar

⁹¹ Xinhua (24 Jul 13) Myanmar gov't signs amendment contract with local, foreign investors for copper mine project; RFA (25 Jul 13) Mine Next to Letpadaung Under Fire for Toxic Dust

⁹² Xinhua (24 Jul 13) Myanmar gov't signs amendment contract with local, foreign investors for copper mine project

⁹³ Irrawaddy (26 Jul 13) Letpadaung Copper Mine to Resume Operations; Myanmar Times (29 Jul 13) Copper project to resume in September after new contract signed

⁹⁴ AFP (25 Jul 13) Myanmar revises controversial Chinese-backed mine deal

⁹⁵ Mizzima News (05 Jul 13) Myanmar publishers hope new bill offers them protection; Myanmar Times (08 Jul 13) Media bill gets freedom of expression clause; Irrawaddy (04 Jul 13) Lower House Passes Controversial Publishing Bill

⁹⁶ Myanmar Times (08 Jul 13) Media bill gets freedom of expression clause

⁹⁷ RFA (05 Jul 13) Myanmar's Press Council Opposes New Media Legislation; EMG (05 Jul 13) Myanmar passes controversial press bill amid criticism; Irrawaddy (04 Jul 13) Lower House Passes Controversial Publishing Bill

⁹⁸ DVB (04 Jul 13) Lower House passes controversial press law; DVB (10 Jul 13) Burma publishing bill to reintroduce censorship: activists

⁹⁹ EMG (06 Jul 13) Myanmar journalists decry approved press bill; EMG (07 Jul 13) Ministry to control journalists via complicated laws: MJA; DVB (10 Jul 13) Burma publishing bill to reintroduce censorship: activists; BNI (10 Jul 13) BNI opposed to new media law; Irrawaddy (10 Jul 13) Intl. Press Watchdogs Condemn Burma's Publishing Bill; Mizzima News (10 Jul 13) Press Council members threaten to resign; Myanmar Times (15 Jul 13) Controversy over press law

¹⁰⁰ RFA (05 Jul 13) Myanmar's Press Council Opposes New Media Legislation; Irrawaddy (08 Jul 13) Burma's Press Council Threatens Resignation Over Media Rules; DVB (10 Jul 13) Burma publishing bill to reintroduce censorship: activists; DVB (10 Jul 13) Burma publishing bill to reintroduce censorship: activists; BNI (10 Jul 13) BNI opposed to new media law

¹⁰¹ RFA (05 Jul 13) Myanmar's Press Council Opposes New Media Legislation; EMG (08 Jul 13) Myanmar Press Council demands to meet President over media bill; DVB (10 Jul 13) Burma publishing bill to reintroduce censorship: activists; Irrawaddy (10 Jul 13) Intl. Press Watchdogs Condemn Burma's Publishing Bill; Myanmar Times (15 Jul 13) Controversy over press law

¹⁰² Myanmar Times (15 Jul 13) Controversy over press law

DISPLACEMENT

Rohingya exodus continues

In July, Rohingya continued to flee to Burma's regional neighbors.

- **6 July:** Thai authorities detained 170 migrants, including Rohingya, on Tarutao Island in Satun Province, who were planning to travel by boat to Australia.¹⁰³
- **10 July:** Border Guards of Bangladesh (BGB) personnel at various points along the Burma-Bangladesh border pushed 59 Rohingya back to Burma.¹⁰⁴
- **16 July:** BGB personnel arrested 26 Rohingya at various points along the Burma-Bangladesh border.¹⁰⁵
- **28 July:** Indonesian fishermen rescued 68 Rohingya boat people adrift off the coast of Aceh Province who were en route to Australia.¹⁰⁶

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Thein Sein talks business in London and Paris

From 14-19 July, President Thein Sein visited the UK and France to meet government officials and business representatives.¹⁰⁷ Although human rights issues were raised during Thein Sein's trip, aid, trade, and investment remained the focus of discussions.¹⁰⁸

On 15 July, Thein Sein met separately with UK PM David Cameron, Foreign Secretary William Hague, Defense Secretary Philip Hammond, and Development Secretary Justine Greening in London.¹⁰⁹ During their meeting, Cameron and Thein Sein discussed poverty alleviation, trade, agricultural development, as well as UK investment in energy, telecommunications, and infrastructure projects.¹¹⁰ In addition, Cameron urged Thein Sein to promote human rights in Burma and expressed particular concern over the plight of Rohingya in Arakan State.¹¹¹ On 16 July, President Thein Sein met with UK business representatives and attended the UK-ASEAN Business Council Roundtable in London.¹¹²

On 16 July, Thein Sein arrived in Paris.¹¹³ The following day, he met separately with French President François Hollande and PM Jean-Marc Ayrault in Paris.¹¹⁴ During their meeting, Hollande and Thein Sein discussed potential French investment in Burma's agriculture, water management, transport, energy, and tourism sectors.¹¹⁵ Hollande also pressed Thein Sein to release all political prisoners without conditions and fully investigate recent "intercommunal" violence.¹¹⁶ On 18 July, President Thein Sein held separate talks with Total CEO Christophe De Margerie and Alcatel-Lucent CEO Michel Combes in Paris.¹¹⁷

¹⁰³ Bangkok Post (08 Jul 13) Raid uncovers 170 refugees on island

¹⁰⁴ Kaladan News (11 Jul 13) More Rohingya arrested along the border

¹⁰⁵ Kaladan News (19 Jul 13) Dhaka proposes special document for Rohingya

¹⁰⁶ Jakarta Globe (28 Jul 13) Aceh Fishermen Rescue 68 Rohingya Asylum Seekers From Indian Ocean

¹⁰⁷ NLM (16 Jul 13) President U Thein Sein arrives in London; NLM (22 Jul 13) President U Thein Sein concludes European tour

¹⁰⁸ NLM (17 Jul 13) President U Thein Sein having a conversation with British Prime Minister Rt. Hon David Cameron

¹⁰⁹ NLM (17 Jul 13) President U Thein Sein having a conversation with British Prime Minister Rt. Hon David Cameron: president;

NLM (16 Jul 13) President U Thein Sein holds talks with British businessmen, Secretary of State for Defence; NLM (17 Jul 13) President U Thein Sein receives British entrepreneurs, Secretaries of State for Defence, Foreign Affairs, International Development

¹¹⁰ NLM (17 Jul 13) President U Thein Sein having a conversation with British Prime Minister Rt. Hon David Cameron

¹¹¹ AFP (15 Jul 13) Myanmar to free all political prisoners by year end: president

¹¹² NLM (18 Jul 13) President U Thein Sein delivers a speech in meeting with businessmen in Britain

¹¹³ NLM (18 Jul 13) President U Thein Sein arrives in Paris

¹¹⁴ AP (17 Jul 13) Myanmar president Thein Sein meets French leaders for talks on diplomatic, economic ties; AFP (17 Jul 13) Hollande urges Myanmar leader to push ahead with reforms

¹¹⁵ AFP (17 Jul 13) Hollande urges Myanmar leader to push ahead with reforms

¹¹⁶ Xinhua (18 Jul 13) Hollande meets visiting Myanmar president on bilateral ties

¹¹⁷ NLM (22 Jul 13) President U Thein Sein meets France 24 Channel, Foreign Policy Magazine, Alcatel-Lucent, Total Co

US blacklists regime official

On 2 July, the US Treasury Department added the regime's Directorate of Defense Industries Chief (and former Border Affairs Minister) Lt Gen Thein Htay to its Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) List for his role in procuring military equipment from North Korea.¹¹⁸ The designation of Thein Htay bars US citizens from engaging in business with him and freezes any US assets he may own.¹¹⁹

Int'l community voices ongoing concern for Muslims in Burma

In July, the UN, the US, and several Muslim-majority countries expressed ongoing concern over the plight of Muslims, including Rohingya, in Burma and called on the regime to address the issue of citizenship for Rohingya.

- **2 July:** Iranian MP Ebrahim Aghamohammadi said that the regime's refusal to recognize Rohingya as citizens damaged Burma's image abroad.¹²⁰
- **10 July:** UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon said he remained concerned over the "disturbing humanitarian situation" facing the Rohingya in Arakan State and called on the regime to address the issue of citizenship for Rohingya.¹²¹
- **10 July:** Indonesian FM Marty Natalegawa said that the situation in Arakan State had "regional ramifications" and that the regime should grant Rohingya the same "status and legal rights" as other Burmese citizens.¹²²
- **10 July:** Djibouti's Ambassador to the UN Roble Olhaye said that violence against Muslims in Burma was "intolerable and unacceptable" and that the regime should protect all people regardless of their religion.¹²³
- **10 July:** Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the UN Abdullah al-Mouallemi said that Burma's honeymoon with the world was "being built on the bodies of the Muslim victims in that country."¹²⁴
- **17 July:** US Ambassador to Burma Derek Mitchell expressed ongoing concern over the situation in Arakan State, including restrictions on the movement of Rohingya IDPs and the lack of humanitarian access.¹²⁵

OTHER BURMA NEWS IN JULY

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | People's Assembly Speaker Shwe Mann calls for the direct involvement of Parliament in the peace process. |
| 1 | UN says that any relocation of IDPs in Arakan State should be voluntary and resolved without the use of force. |
| 1 | At the request of People's Assembly Speaker Shwe Mann, the National Defense and Security Council meets in Naypyidaw to discuss funding for the peace process with ethnic armed opposition groups. |
| 2 | USDP Vice-Chairman Htay Oo says that proposed legislation aimed at restricting interfaith marriages is "noble." |
| 2 | Bangladeshi authorities say that Teknaf-based BGB Battalion 42 pushed 3,306 Burmese back to Burma from 1 June 2012 to 30 June 2013. |
| 2 | Regime FM Wunna Maung Lwin meets with Bangladeshi FM Dipu Moni during the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Brunei to discuss the possible voluntary repatriation of Rohingya refugees to Burma from Bangladesh. |
| 2 | State-run TV says that 12 people died in detention while on trial during last year's unrest in Arakan State. |
| 2 | In his monthly radio address to the nation, President Thein Sein accuses Time magazine of creating "misconceptions" about Buddhism. |
| 3 | National Assembly Speaker Khin Aung Myint warns military-appointed MPs to stop collectively abstaining during votes on legislation or face being thrown out of Parliament. |

¹¹⁸ Reuters (02 Jul 13) U.S. sanctions Myanmar general for dealings with North Korea

¹¹⁹ Reuters (02 Jul 13) U.S. sanctions Myanmar general for dealings with North Korea

¹²⁰ FNA (03 Jul 13) Iranian MP Voices Concern about Myanmar's Muslims

¹²¹ Xinhua (10 Jul 13) UN chief concerned over communal violence in Myanmar; AP (10 Jul 13) UN chief tells Myanmar to make Rohingyas citizens

¹²² TRF (10 Jul 13) Myanmar communal strife has regional impact—Indonesia minister

¹²³ UN Department of Public Information (10 Jul 13) Press Conference by Organization of Islamic Cooperation

¹²⁴ AFP (11 Jul 13) Muslim nations press UN over Myanmar Rohingyas

¹²⁵ US Embassy Rangoon (17 Jul 13) U.S. Ambassador Derek Mitchell Statement on the Dissolution of the Nasaka Yangon

| | |
|----|---|
| 3 | Regime Home Affairs Deputy Minister Brig Gen Kyaw Zan Myint tells the People's Assembly that the regime will form more riot police battalions and will train them in accordance with international standards. |
| 4 | President Thein Sein meets with New Zealand FM Murray McCully in Naypyidaw to discuss bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector and the provision of humanitarian aid to communities affected by unrest in Arakan State. |
| 5 | About 50 police officers in Hmawby Township, Rangoon Division, seize 100 acres of farmland. |
| 6 | State-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar reports that a total of 7,827 Burmese migrant workers in Malaysia have returned to Burma after violence in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor State in early June. |
| 6 | Former drug lord and business tycoon Lo Hsing Han, 80, dies in Rangoon. |
| 6 | Police in Mandalay detain and torture 12 homosexuals and transgender individuals for several hours. |
| 8 | International Committee of the Red Cross says that it has conducted six prison visits in Burma since the beginning of the year in an effort to monitor conditions for prisoners. |
| 8 | Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Sr Gen Min Aung Hlaing meets with Indian Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai in Naypyidaw to discuss bilateral defense ties, border security, and anti-drug cooperation. |
| 9 | Rangoon University re-opens to undergraduates for the first time since 1996. |
| 9 | Arakan State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Htein Lin says that regime authorities arrested almost 1,200 people in connection with last year's unrest in Arakan State and that courts convicted 507 individuals, with 662 people still on trial. |
| 10 | A regime official in Meikhtila, Mandalay Division, says that three mosques in the town have reopened for the holy month of Ramadan. |
| 10 | President Thein Sein meets with Australian FM Bob Carr in Naypyidaw to discuss investment in Burma, humanitarian and development aid, and the peace process with ethnic armed groups. |
| 10 | Regime Electric Power Minister Khin Maung Soe and Thai Energy Minister Pongsak Ruktapongpisal meet in Naypyidaw to discuss the implementation of the Tasang, Mongton, and Hatgyi dams on the Salween River and the return of excess natural gas from Thailand. |
| 11 | Australian FM Bob Carr announces that Australia will provide A\$3 million (US\$2.7 million) to support Burma's nationwide census in 2014. |
| 11 | EarthRights International says that the first public reports released by US companies doing business in Burma, as required by the State Department, show that "serious gaps" in the reporting rules make it difficult for civil society groups to monitor abuses by corporations. |
| 11 | In the National Parliament, People's Assembly USDP MP Thurein Zaw reads out a report from the Auditor General's Office which says that the state-owned Myanmar Economic Bank has been operating at a loss since 1990. |
| 11 | Na Sa Ka personnel in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, torture five Rohingya, including three women, in Wabeg Village for refusing to register as 'Bengali' during the household registration process. |
| 13 | Regime delegation meets with UNFC representatives in Chiang Mai, Thailand, to discuss the ongoing peace process. |
| 13 | Regime authorities in Rangoon Division deny residents of Rangoon's Insein Township permission to hold a Martyrs' Day vigil on 19 July. |
| 16 | UK and regime officials announce the creation of a Financial Services Taskforce that will support the development of Burma's financial services sector. |
| 16 | In an open letter to President Thein Sein, Reporters Sans Frontières calls on the regime to establish a Commission of Inquiry to investigate "crimes against news providers" committed by successive military juntas since 1962. |
| 17 | Regime authorities in Taunggoat, Arakan State, arrest six people suspected of being involved in the massacre of 10 Muslim pilgrims in Taunggoat Township on 3 June 2012. |
| 19 | Daw Aung San Suu Kyi joins Vice-President Mauk Kham for the official Martyrs' Day ceremony at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Rangoon. |
| 19 | EU's Generalized System of Preferences for Burma comes into force. |
| 20 | President Thein Sein lifts the state of emergency in Meikhtila, Mahlaing, Wundwin, and Tharzi Townships, Mandalay Division. |
| 21 | A bomb explodes near Mandalay's Masoyein Monastery during a sermon delivered by extremist Buddhist monk U Wirathu. |
| 21 | President Thein Sein says that Burma's "communal conflict" has been exaggerated in an attempt to involve the UN. |
| 23 | Officials from China's state-owned China Power Investment distribute leaflets outlining the benefits of the Myitstone dam to villagers relocated by the project in Mali Yang Village, Sumprabum Township, Kachin State. |
| 23 | KIO reopens a liaison office in Myitkyina, Kachin State, in line with the seven-point agreement concluded between the KIO and the regime on 30 May. |

| | |
|----|--|
| 23 | President Thein Sein meets with Chinese Central Military Commission Vice Chairman Fan Changlong in Naypyidaw to discuss the peace process in Burma, stability on the Sino-Burma border, and bilateral military cooperation. |
| 24 | A court in Mandalay sentences five Shan men to prison terms ranging between 10 and 12 and a half years in connection with a series of bomb blasts in Naypyidaw, Mandalay, and Maymyo, Mandalay Division, on 24 June 2011. |
| 24 | Chinese Navy patrol boat MV Haixun 01 arrives at Rangoon Port on a five-day goodwill visit to Burma. |
| 24 | Metta Development Foundation co-founder Lahpai Seng Raw wins the Magsaysay Award for her work in helping conflict-affected communities in Burma. |
| 25 | President Thein Sein appoints Brig Gen Zaw Win as Police chief. |
| 27 | Regime authorities lift a 10pm-3am curfew in Lashio, Northern Shan State. |
| 28 | Kyaukpyu-Kunming gas pipeline starts delivering natural gas to China. |
| 29 | Regime Environmental Conservation and Forestry Minister Win Tun says Burma will stop exporting raw teak and timber from 1 April 2014. |
| 29 | State-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar says that beginning in August foreigners entering Burma through three major border crossings along the Thai border will be able to travel inland freely, except in restricted areas, and leave from their desired point of departure. |
| 29 | Around 150 representatives from ethnic armed groups, NGOs, opposition political parties, and civil society begin a UNFC-organized conference in Chiang Mai, Thailand, to discuss a joint strategy for peace talks with the regime. |
| 29 | Regime Navy Commander-in-Chief Vice-Admiral Thet Swe requests Indian assistance in building patrol ships and supplying military equipment during a meeting with Indian Chief of Naval Staff D. K. Joshi in New Delhi. |
| 31 | People's Assembly Speaker Shwe Mann takes over as National Parliament Speaker. |

REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN JULY

“**Good Governance and the Extractive Industry in Burma: Complications of Burma’s Regulatory Framework**”, Shwe Gas Movement

<http://bit.ly/17zY6sm>

“**The Border Guard Force - The Need to Reassess the Policy**”, Burma Centre for Ethnic Studies

<http://bit.ly/18LQO9G>

“**Thein Sein In His Own Words**”, Burma Campaign UK (BCUK)

<http://bit.ly/1bYssbz>

“**Human Rights Abuses Since Thein Sein Became President**”, Burma Campaign UK (BCUK)

<http://bit.ly/1bHNzQF>

“**Burma: Freedom of expression in transition**”, Index on Censorship

<http://bit.ly/11aQhZk>

“**Migrant Information Note: Issue #20 - June 2013**”, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

<http://bit.ly/13emZqa>

“**DFID's Health Programmes in Burma**”, Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI)

<http://bit.ly/13VFfUh>