

# BURMA BULLETIN



A month-in-review of events in Burma



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

Issue 59

November 2011

- **The US initiates diplomatic moves to deepen engagement with the regime. President Obama, Secretary Clinton, and two senior diplomats outline steps the regime must take in order to improve relations with Washington.**
- **The war in Kachin state escalates, displacing an additional 6,000 people. Tatmadaw attacks against civilians continue.**
- **UN General Assembly Third Committee passes a resolution that condemns the regime's ongoing and systematic violations of human rights.**
- **President Thein Sein and Information Minister Kyaw Hsan deny the existence of political prisoners. The military-backed National Defense and Security Council blocks a planned amnesty.**
- **Arbitrary detentions continue, including the jailing of Muslims for traveling to a neighboring town.**
- **USDP-dominated Parliament concludes its second session. MPs approve a bill that imposes severe restrictions on the right to peacefully demonstrate.**
- **The regime holds peace talks with seven ethnic groups but signs only one "initial peace agreement" with the DKBA.**
- **International Campaign to Ban Landmines says Burma is one of only three state actors worldwide to use antipersonnel mines in the past year.**
- **Despite opposition from regional MPs, ASEAN rewards the regime's recent cosmetic changes with the group's chairmanship for 2014.**

## IN THIS ISSUE

### KEY STORY

- 1 US steps up engagement

### INSIDE BURMA

- 3 Fighting in Northeastern Burma
- 4 More crimes in Kachin State
- 4 Peace talks with ethnic groups
- 5 More regime lies
- 6 Parliament's repressive laws
- 6 NLD re-enters political fray
- 6 Monks protest
- 7 Regime still uses landmines

### HUMAN RIGHTS

- 7 More arrests and imprisonment
- 7 NDSC blocks amnesty
- 8 Detention conditions
- 8 Censorship continues unabated

### DISPLACEMENT

- 8 Rohingya flee Burma

### INTERNATIONAL

- 9 UNGA Burma resolution
- 9 ASEAN gives Chair to Burma
- 10 China strengthens cooperation
- 10 Nambiar visits Burma

### 11 OTHER BURMA NEWS

### 12 REPORTS

*Receive the Burma Bulletin monthly!  
email [publications@altsean.org](mailto:publications@altsean.org)  
Online copies are available for  
download at [www.altsean.org](http://www.altsean.org)*

## KEY STORY

### US steps up engagement

In an effort to counter China's political, economic, and military influence in the Asia-Pacific region, in November the US initiated a series of diplomatic moves to deepen engagement with Burma's regime. At the same time, the US outlined the steps the regime must take in order to improve relations with Washington.

### Obama: "Flickers of progress" but "far more to be done"

- **17 November:** US President Barack Obama said that violations of human rights persisted in Burma and added that the US would "continue to speak clearly" about steps that the regime must take "to have a better relationship with the United States."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> AP (17 Nov 11) Obama says US will speak clearly about support for human rights in Myanmar; Reuters (17 Nov 11) ASEAN set to gamble on Myanmar reform path

- **17 November:** In a phone conversation with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Obama discussed recent developments in Burma.<sup>2</sup> Daw Suu confirmed that she supported Washington's engagement with the regime.<sup>3</sup>
- **18 November:** Obama said that despite recent "flickers of progress" there was "far more to be done" in Burma.<sup>4</sup> He said that the US remained concerned about Burma's closed political system, its treatment of ethnic nationalities, the ongoing detention of political prisoners, and its relationship with North Korea.<sup>5</sup> Obama said that Burma could "forge a new relationship" with the US but warned the regime that if it failed "to move down the path of reform" it would continue to face sanctions and isolation.<sup>6</sup>

### **"Hopeful" Clinton visits Burma**

- **10 November:** US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that Burma was showing the "first stirrings of change in decades," but added that "many questions" remained over the country's future, such as the ongoing detention of political prisoners and the pursuit of peace and reconciliation in ethnic areas. Clinton said that the regime would find a partner in the US if it pursued "genuine and lasting reform for the benefit of its citizens."<sup>7</sup>
- **11 November:** Clinton said that Burma's regime needed to do "much more" to improve human rights in the country. She said the US would continue to call for the release of all political prisoners, an end to conflict in ethnic areas, and greater transparency regarding the regime's relations with North Korea.<sup>8</sup>
- **30 November:** Clinton arrived in Burma for a three-day visit, the first by a US Secretary of State in over half a century.<sup>9</sup> Shortly before her arrival, Clinton told reporters she was quite hopeful that the "flickers of progress" would be ignited into a movement for change that will benefit the Burmese people.<sup>10</sup>

### **Mitchell, Posner want to see more progress**

On 2 November, US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma Derek Mitchell arrived in Burma for a four-day visit.<sup>11</sup> He was accompanied by US Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Michael Posner.<sup>12</sup>

During their visit, they met with various regime ministers and officials in Naypyidaw and Rangoon.<sup>13</sup> Mitchell met with Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing and discussed armed conflict in

<sup>2</sup> White House (18 Nov 11) Statement by President Obama on Burma; WSJ (17 Nov 11) Clinton to Visit Myanmar in Historic Move; Reuters (18 Nov 11) Clinton to visit Myanmar next month: U.S. official; NYT (18 Nov 11) Clinton to Visit Myanmar Next Month as Dissident Leader Rejoins Politics

<sup>3</sup> White House (18 Nov 11) Statement by President Obama on Burma; WSJ (17 Nov 11) Clinton to Visit Myanmar in Historic Move; NYT (17 Nov 11) Clinton Set to Visit Myanmar as Obama Cites Progress; Reuters (18 Nov 11) Clinton to visit Myanmar next month: U.S. official

<sup>4</sup> White House (18 Nov 11) Statement by President Obama on Burma; AP (18 Nov 11) Obama sending Clinton to repressive Myanmar next month amid 'flickers of progress'; NYT (17 Nov 11) Clinton Set to Visit Myanmar as Obama Cites Progress; Bloomberg (18 Nov 11) Clinton to Visit Myanmar Next Month: Obama; AFP (18 Nov 11) Obama sends Clinton to Myanmar to probe reforms; DPA (18 Nov 11) LEAD: US Secretary of State to visit Myanmar; NYT (18 Nov 11) Clinton to Visit Myanmar Next Month as Dissident Leader Rejoins Politics

<sup>5</sup> White House (18 Nov 11) Statement by President Obama on Burma; AP (18 Nov 11) Obama sending Clinton to repressive Myanmar next month amid 'flickers of progress'; AFP (18 Nov 11) Obama sends Clinton to Myanmar to probe reforms

<sup>6</sup> White House (18 Nov 11) Statement by President Obama on Burma; Reuters (18 Nov 11) Clinton to visit Myanmar next month: U.S. official; AFP (18 Nov 11) Obama sends Clinton to Myanmar to probe reforms; DPA (18 Nov 11) LEAD: US Secretary of State to visit Myanmar

<sup>7</sup> AFP (10 Nov 11) US ready to be Myanmar's 'partner': Clinton; DPA (11 Nov 11) US offers partnership if Myanmar expands reforms; Reuters (12 Nov 11) Clinton sees real Myanmar changes, but wants more; Irrawaddy (11 Nov 11) Burma Will Find a Partner in the US: Clinton

<sup>8</sup> AP (11 Nov 11) Clinton says Myanmar changing but much more needed; AFP (12 Nov 11) Clinton says Myanmar must do 'much more'; Reuters (12 Nov 11) Clinton sees real Myanmar changes, but wants more; Reuters (19 Nov 11) Myanmar, U.N. discuss strengthening ties

<sup>9</sup> Reuters (30 Nov 11) Clinton in Myanmar to urge reform, end to illicit N.Korea contact; NYT (30 Nov 11) Clinton Arrives in Myanmar to Assess Reforms; Xinhua (30 Nov 11) Clinton arrives in Myanmar for first official visit amid reforms

<sup>10</sup> Reuters (30 Nov 11) Clinton says "quite hopeful" on Myanmar change; Washington Post (30 Nov 11) Clinton arrives in Burma to assess progress on reforms; AP (30 Nov 11) Clinton tests reforms on historic visit to Myanmar

<sup>11</sup> WSJ (02 Nov 11) Thaw between Myanmar and its critics continues; Mizzima News (01 Nov 11) Two top U.S. officials visit Burma for meetings

<sup>12</sup> WSJ (02 Nov 11) Thaw between Myanmar and its critics continues; Irrawaddy (01 Nov 11) US-Burma Detente Efforts Quietly Gather Speed

ethnic areas.<sup>14</sup> In Rangoon, Mitchell and Posner met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and representatives of civil society groups.<sup>15</sup>

On 4 November, Mitchell and Posner said that the US must see more progress from the regime before Washington could lift sanctions. The two cited the release of all dissidents and the implementation of promised reforms as key steps that the regime had to implement.<sup>16</sup>

## **INSIDE BURMA**

---

### **Fighting, displacement, attacks against civilians continue in NE Burma**

In November, fighting escalated between the Tatmadaw and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in Kachin State and Northern Shan State. Reports continued to surface that the Tatmadaw used chemical weapons during fighting.<sup>17</sup>

- **1 November:** KIA Brigade 3 forces killed 10 Tatmadaw soldiers during a clash in Momauk Township, Kachin State.<sup>18</sup>
- **2 November:**
  - KIA Battalion 38 and 36 forces clashed with Tatmadaw soldiers in two locations in Muse Township, Northern Shan State.<sup>19</sup>
  - KIA Brigade 3 forces killed at least three Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 321 during an ambush in Momauk Township, Kachin State.<sup>20</sup>
  - KIA forces killed 16 Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 390 and IB 56 in two clashes in Ga Ra Yang Village, Waingmaw Township, Kachin State.<sup>21</sup>
- **8 November:**
  - Tatmadaw and KIA forces exchanged heavy fire in Du Ra Kawng Village, Momauk Township, Kachin State.<sup>22</sup>
  - KIA forces from Battalions 2 and 27 clashed with Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 505 in Mansi Township, Kachin State.<sup>23</sup>
  - Tatmadaw soldiers captured a KIA outpost in Awng Ja Village, Waingmaw Township, Kachin State.<sup>24</sup>
- **10 November:** KIA forces killed over 50 Tatmadaw soldiers during an attack in Momauk Township, Kachin State.<sup>25</sup>
- **13 November:** KIA forces killed five Tatmadaw soldiers during an attack on a Tatmadaw outpost in Namkham Township, Northern Shan State.<sup>26</sup>
- **15 November:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 88 attacked a KIA outpost in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State.<sup>27</sup>

---

<sup>13</sup> NLM (03 Nov 11) Union FM receives US Special Representative; DVB (03 Nov 11) US officials scrutinising Burma détente; NLM (04 Nov 11) C-in-C General Min Aung Hlaing receives US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Myanmar; NLM (05 Nov 11) Myanmar Human Rights Commission Chairman meets US Assistant Secretary of State; Myanmar Times (07 Nov 11) US expands dialogue to Tatmadaw

<sup>14</sup> Reuters (04 Nov 11) U.S. sees "beginning of transition" in Myanmar; Myanmar Times (07 Nov 11) US expands dialogue to Tatmadaw

<sup>15</sup> VOA (05 Nov 11) US Envoys See 'Encouraging Steps, Signs' in Burma; Myanmar Times (07 Nov 11) US expands dialogue to Tatmadaw

<sup>16</sup> Reuters (04 Nov 11) U.S. sees "beginning of transition" in Myanmar

<sup>17</sup> Kachin News Group (10 Nov 11) Three KIA soldiers unconscious after poison gas attack; Kachin News Group (11 Nov 11) KIA soldiers wear cloth masks for protection against poison gas; Kachin News Group (21 Nov 11) Yellow rain in KIO's Mai Ja Yang in Northern Burma; DVB (21 Nov 11) Troops take frontline Kachin base; Kachin News Group (24 Nov 11) Burmese Army uses twin explosive devices with chemical gas; DVB (25 Nov 11) 'Yellow rain' fuels chemical weapons fears

<sup>18</sup> Kachin News Group (01 Nov 11) KIA kills 10 Burmese soldiers in North Burma; Kachin News Group (02 Nov 11) KIA kills 10 Burmese soldiers in North Burma

<sup>19</sup> Kachin News Group (02 Nov 11) Burmese Army-KIA clash twice in N. Shan State

<sup>20</sup> Kachin News Group (02 Nov 11) KIA ambush kills three Burmese soldiers in Sinlum

<sup>21</sup> Kachin News Group (03 Nov 11) KIA kills 16 Burmese Army soldiers in Ga Ra Yang

<sup>22</sup> Kachin News Group (09 Nov 11) Burmese Army moves 120mm mortars closer to key KIA positions

<sup>23</sup> Kachin News Group (08 Nov 11) Burmese Army-KIA clash for seven hours near Man Win

<sup>24</sup> Kachin News Group (09 Nov 11) KIO leader's orange orchard burnt down by Burmese

<sup>25</sup> Kachin News Group (10 Nov 11) Three KIA soldiers unconscious after poison gas attack

<sup>26</sup> SHAN (14 Nov 11) Newsflash

<sup>27</sup> Kachin News Group (16 Nov 11) KIA withdraws from Kambaiti Road stronghold

- **17 November:** Tatmadaw soldiers set fire to a KIA base during an attack near Hpakun Village, in Momauk Township, Kachin State.<sup>28</sup>
- **24 November:** KIA Battalions 1 and 27 forces killed over 30 Tatmadaw soldiers from LID 99 and 77 during three separate clashes in Kachin State.<sup>29</sup>

The ongoing fighting forced at least 6,000 more civilians to flee their homes. IDPs sought shelter in the already crowded makeshift camps along the Sino-Burma border.<sup>30</sup> The latest wave of civilians fleeing the conflict zones brought the total number of IDPs along the Sino-Burma border to about 40,000.<sup>31</sup>

In addition, Tatmadaw troops continued to commit human rights abuses against civilians in conflict-affected areas.

- **6 November:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LID 88 attacked a church in Muk Chyik Village, Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, and detained five people, including a local pastor.<sup>32</sup> Tatmadaw soldiers also forced at least 50 villagers to carry military supplies.<sup>33</sup>
- **17 November:** Tatmadaw soldiers in Namkham Township, Northern Shan State, detained a Kachin pastor and seven local villagers suspected of supporting the KIA.<sup>34</sup>
- **30 November:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LIBs 384 and 385 killed a local villager during an attack in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State.<sup>35</sup>

### More reports on serious crimes in Kachin state

On 28 November, aid group Partners Relief and Development released a report titled “Crimes in Northern Burma.”<sup>36</sup> The report documented serious international crimes committed by Tatmadaw soldiers in October in Nam Lim Pa Village, Mansi Township, Kachin State.<sup>37</sup> Crimes included extrajudicial killings, torture, attacks against civilians, arbitrary arrest, forced labor, and forced displacement.<sup>38</sup>

These abuses were consistent with the findings included in “Under Siege in Kachin State,” a report released by Physicians for Human Rights on 30 November.<sup>39</sup> The report documented a pattern of human rights violations committed by Tatmadaw troops in Kachin State between July and September.<sup>40</sup>

### Regime holds peace talks with ethnic groups

In November, the regime continued to pursue individual ceasefire agreements with ethnic groups.<sup>41</sup> Regime officials held talks with representatives from seven ethnic groups.<sup>42</sup> However, only one peace agreement was signed.

<sup>28</sup> DVB (21 Nov 11) Troops take frontline Kachin base

<sup>29</sup> Kachin News Group (24 Nov 11) Over 30 Burmese soldiers killed in clashes with KIA

<sup>30</sup> Irrawaddy (16 Nov 11) 1,000 Kachins Flee to IDP Camps; DVB (17 Nov 11) Kachin flare-up sparks civilian exodus; AlertNet (17 Nov 11) Thousands of ethnic Kachins displaced by fighting in Myanmar lack food, shelter; KNG (21 Nov 11) Several thousand more Kachin IDPs flee to China border; Irrawaddy (25 Nov 11) Rising Number of Refugees Strains Relief Efforts; AlertNet (17 Nov 11) Thousands of ethnic Kachins displaced by fighting in Myanmar lack food, shelter; Irrawaddy (25 Nov 11) Rising Number of Refugees Strains Relief Efforts

<sup>31</sup> Irrawaddy (25 Nov 11) Rising Number of Refugees Strains Relief Efforts

<sup>32</sup> Kachin News Group (07 Nov 11) Kachin church razed, pastor detained by Burmese Army; Asia Tribune (09 Nov 11) Burma Army Attacks Church in Kachin State, Shooting and Torturing Worshippers; Chinland Guardian (09 Nov 11) Church Looted, Worshippers Forced as Porters in Kachin State

<sup>33</sup> Asian Tribune (09 Nov 11) Burma Army Attacks Church in Kachin State, Shooting and Torturing Worshippers; Chinland Guardian (09 Nov 11) Church Looted, Worshippers Forced as Porters in Kachin State

<sup>34</sup> Kachin News Group (21 Nov 11) Burmese Army detains Baptist pastor, seven Kachin villagers in Nam Hkam

<sup>35</sup> Kachin News Group (30 Nov 11) Burmese Army mortars kill woman, injure six

<sup>36</sup> Reuters (28 Nov 11) "Serious abuses" in Myanmar despite reforms: group; Irrawaddy (28 Nov 11) Clinton Urged to Prioritize Human Rights and Ethnic Conflict; AP (29 Nov 11) Myanmar military committing human rights abuses despite democratic reforms

<sup>37</sup> Partners Relief and Development (28 Nov 11) Crimes in Northern Burma – Results from a fact-finding mission to Kachin State; AP (29 Nov 11) Myanmar military committing human rights abuses despite democratic reforms

<sup>38</sup> Partners Relief and Development (28 Nov 11) Crimes in Northern Burma – Results from a fact-finding mission to Kachin State

<sup>39</sup> Physicians for Human Rights (30 Nov 11) Under Siege in Kachin State

<sup>40</sup> Physicians for Human Rights (30 Nov 11) Under Siege in Kachin State

<sup>41</sup> Mizzima News (23 Nov 11) Burmese government not talking to UNFC associate members

<sup>42</sup> DVB (04 Nov 11) Karen rebels, govt agree ceasefire; Irrawaddy (04 Nov 11) DKBA Brigade 5 Reaches Ceasefire with Naypyidaw; Mizzima News (04 Nov 11) DKBA battalion signs a cease-fire with the Burmese government; Xinhua (05 Nov 11) More armed group in Myanmar signs peace agreement; NLM (05 Nov 11) Kayin State peace making group, Kaloh Htoo Baw

- **3 November:** Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) representatives and a regime delegation led by Karen State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Lwin signed an “initial five-point peace agreement” during a meeting in Hpa-an, Karen State.<sup>43</sup>
- **13 November:** New Mon State Party (NMSP) representatives met with a regime delegation led by Rail Transportation Minister Aung Min for peace talks at the group’s headquarters in Ye Township, Mon State.<sup>44</sup>
- **19 November:** Regime Rail Transportation Minister Aung Min held preliminary peace talks with representatives from the Shan State Army-South (SSA-S), the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), the Karen National Union (KNU), the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), and the Chin National Front (CNF) on the Thai-Burma border.<sup>45</sup>
- **29 November:** Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) representatives met with a regime delegation led by Rail Transportation Minister Aung Min for peace talks in Ruili, China, opposite Muse, Northern Shan State.<sup>46</sup>

### More regime lies

In November, appalling public statements by President Thein Sein and other high-ranking officials revealed the continuity between the current regime and the dissolved SPDC.

- **15 November:** Regime Information Minister Kyaw Hsan reiterated the regime’s fabrications in a rambling interview with the Wall Street Journal in Naypyidaw.<sup>47</sup>
  - “[...] People who are serving the prison terms in our jails are people who broke the existing laws of the country. Out of those prisoners, there may be people who are politicians.”
  - “[...] Accusations about the [Tatmadaw] human rights violations in the national races areas are not true at all. [...] There are no intentional human rights violations by the Tatmadaw.”
  - “[...] The Kachin Independence Army [...] is violating a lot of human rights of the people.”
  - “[...] Our media [...] are given the freedom as well as the responsibility to write whatever they think is for the interest of the public.”
  - “[The gas pipeline] development projects are being carried out with the participation of the [...] local people. [...] We’ve found that [...] their livelihoods have been enhanced.”
  - “The 2010 election was a free and fair election. Many of the international organizations and NGOs admitted that the 2010 election was free and fair.”
- **19 November:** President Thein Sein reiterated that there were no political prisoners in Burma. “We don’t accept that they [the dissidents] are behind bars because of their beliefs, but because they have broken some laws,” he said.<sup>48</sup>
- **19 November:** Presidential advisor Ko Ko Hlaing said that the regime would release more political prisoners after making sure that those freed in the 12 October amnesty had smoothly returned to society and politics. “Some prisoners committed terrorist acts. We are worried about this, that they may shake the boat,” he said.<sup>49</sup>

---

armed group (former DKBA) sign initial peace agreement; SHAN (23 Nov 11) Mixed responses to SSA truce decision; DVB (22 Nov 11) Shan army ‘to sign ceasefire’ with govt; Mizzima News (21 Nov 11) Burmese gov’t peace team meets with four ethnic armed groups; Irrawaddy (21 Nov 11) KNU and SSA-South Informally Agree Ceasefire with Govt; Khonumthung News (23 Nov 11) CNF and government agree on peace talks; Chinland Guardian (22 Nov 11) Cessation of Hostilities a Must to Kick-start Peace Process: Interview with CNF Foreign Affairs Sec; Chinland Guardian (22 Nov 11) CNF to Meet with Chin State Govt in January in Capital Hakha

<sup>43</sup> DVB (04 Nov 11) Karen rebels, govt agree ceasefire; Irrawaddy (04 Nov 11) DKBA Brigade 5 Reaches Ceasefire with Naypyidaw; Mizzima News (04 Nov 11) DKBA battalion signs a cease-fire with the Burmese government; Xinhua (05 Nov 11) More armed group in Myanmar signs peace agreement; NLM (05 Nov 11) Kayin State peace making group, Kaloh Htoo Baw armed group (former DKBA) sign initial peace agreement; Mizzima News (10 Nov 11) DKBA group to explain cease-fire to village representatives on Friday

<sup>44</sup> Kaowao News (14 Nov 11) NMSP and Government Peace Mission Hold Ceasefire Talks; Irrawaddy (14 Nov 11) Mon Leaders Meet With NMSP; DVB (15 Nov 11) Karen, Mon armies make stab at peace; Kaowao News (15 Nov 11) NMSP members to join MNDF

<sup>45</sup> RFA (21 Nov 11) Burma Inches Toward Ethnic Peace; SHAN (21 Nov 11) Naypyitaw rep meets ethnic delegations

<sup>46</sup> NLM (01 Dec 11) Trio and KIO meet for peace talks; Kachin News Group (29 Nov 11) Burma government-KIO delegates meet for peace talks in China; Irrawaddy (30 Nov 11) KIA Calls for Political Dialogue

<sup>47</sup> WSJ (16 Nov 11) ‘No Intention to Retract’ Reforms, Myanmar Official Interview Transcript

<sup>48</sup> DPA (20 Nov 11) Myanmar president insists no political prisoners in jails; RFA (20 Nov 11) Suu Kyi May Get ‘Suitable’ Post; Myanmar Times (21 Nov 11) President welcomes NLD vote to register; DVB (21 Nov 11) Thein Sein says no political prisoners

<sup>49</sup> Reuters (20 Nov 11) Emboldened by Obama, Myanmar maps out reforms

## Parliament's repressive legislation

On 25 November, the USDP-dominated Parliament concluded its second session.<sup>50</sup> Three days earlier, Parliament approved the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Bill. The bill requires participants to obtain approval for demonstrations from regime authorities five days in advance of the planned event. Participants must also provide details about slogans and speakers. The bill bars any protests at factories, schools, hospitals, embassies, and public offices. Those who are found to have violated the provisions of the law are subject to imprisonment of up to one year.<sup>51</sup>

In addition, the adoption of the much-publicized Labor Organization Law on 11 October did not translate into more freedom for workers to organize. On 22 November, the exiled Federation of Trade Unions-Burma (FTUB) said that the regime had denied registration to the Agriculture and Farmer's Federation of Myanmar despite the enactment of the Labor Organization Law.<sup>52</sup>

## NLD re-enters political fray

In November, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD took major steps towards re-entering Burma's political fray.

- **18 November:** The NLD "unanimously" decided to re-register as a political party following a meeting of over 100 Central Committee members from across the country at the party headquarters in Rangoon.<sup>53</sup> The NLD also agreed to contest the by-elections for 48 vacant parliamentary seats.<sup>54</sup>
- **25 November:** NLD officials filed registration papers at the regime Election Commission in Naypyidaw.<sup>55</sup>
- **30 November:** Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said she would contest the by-elections.<sup>56</sup>

On 25 November, People's Assembly Speaker Shwe Mann indicated that parliamentary by-elections would not take place earlier than February 2012.<sup>57</sup>

## Monks protest

On 15 November, five Buddhist monks demonstrated at the Mahamuni pagoda in Mandalay. The monks displayed banners that urged the regime to release all political prisoners, end military offensives in ethnic areas, and grant freedom of expression. About 300 locals showed up to express support for the

---

<sup>50</sup> NLM (26 Nov 11) Second regular session of first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concludes successfully - Messages of President read, approval sought for remarks of President, one bill approved, member of Joint Committee substituted, tasks of Hluttaw session explained

<sup>51</sup> AP (24 Nov 11) Parliament guarantees right to protest in Myanmar; Reuters (24 Nov 11) Myanmar parliament passes law allowing protests; AFP (24 Nov 11) Protest bill passes Myanmar parliament: MP

<sup>52</sup> FTUB (22 Nov 11) Labour Organization Law not honored, call for Commission of Inquiry at 2012 ILO

<sup>53</sup> AP (18 Nov 11) Suu Kyi's party to register as legal body so it can participate in elections; AFP (18 Nov 11) Suu Kyi party announces official Myanmar comeback; BBC (18 Nov 11) Suu Kyi's NLD democracy party to rejoin Burma politics; DPA (18 Nov 11) Burma opposition party decides to rejoin political fray; Xinhua (18 Nov 11) Myanmar opposition party to re-register for by-elections; VOA (18 Nov 11) Burma's Opposition Party Re-Enters Politics; RFA (10 Nov 11) NLD To Contest Polls; NLD (18 Nov 11) National League for Democracy's Central Committee Meeting Held; DVB (18 Nov 11) Suu Kyi's party confirms political return; Mizzima News (18 Nov 11) NLD will contest in Burmese by-election; Irrawaddy (18 Nov 11) NLD Decides to Re-register, Compete in Coming Elections

<sup>54</sup> AP (18 Nov 11) Suu Kyi's party to register as legal body so it can participate in elections; AFP (18 Nov 11) Suu Kyi party announces official Myanmar comeback; BBC (18 Nov 11) Suu Kyi's NLD democracy party to rejoin Burma politics; DPA (18 Nov 11) Burma opposition party decides to rejoin political fray; Xinhua (18 Nov 11) Myanmar opposition party to re-register for by-elections; VOA (18 Nov 11) Burma's Opposition Party Re-Enters Politics; RFA (10 Nov 11) NLD To Contest Polls; NLD (18 Nov 11) National League for Democracy's Central Committee Meeting Held; DVB (18 Nov 11) Suu Kyi's party confirms political return; Mizzima News (18 Nov 11) NLD will contest in Burmese by-election; Irrawaddy (18 Nov 11) NLD Decides to Re-register, Compete in Coming Elections

<sup>55</sup> AFP (25 Nov 11) Suu Kyi party launches political comeback; DPA (25 Nov 11) Myanmar opposition party registers to re-enter political fray; NLM (26 Nov 11) 21 persons including U Tin Oo submit application to form National League for Democracy Party to UEC - Scrutiny underway to ensure whether it is in conformity with Sections 4 and 6 of Political Parties Registration Law

<sup>56</sup> AP (30 Nov 11) Suu Kyi says she'll run in Myanmar by-elections; DPA (30 Nov 11) Aung San Suu Kyi to run for Myanmar parliament; AFP (01 Dec 11) Suu Kyi says plans to run in Myanmar elections

<sup>57</sup> DVB (25 Nov 11) Burma by-elections 'not until 2012'; Irrawaddy (28 Nov 11) Suu Kyi's NLD Forms Election Campaign Committee

monks' protest.<sup>58</sup> Police watched the protest but did not intervene.<sup>59</sup> On 16 November the monks ended their peaceful protest after they moved to the Old Masoeyein monastery and talked to an audience of over 500 people.<sup>60</sup>

## Regime still uses landmines

On 23 November, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines released its "Landmine Monitor 2011."<sup>61</sup> The report's key findings concerning Burma for the past year included:<sup>62</sup>

- Burma's regime was one of the only three state actors worldwide to use antipersonnel mines.
- The regime was also one of the only three state actors worldwide to "actively" produce antipersonnel mines.
- Ethnic armed groups continued to use antipersonnel mines.
- Burma had the world's fifth largest number (274) of mine casualties.

On 29 November, regime Foreign Affairs Ministry's Deputy Director-General Win Naing defended the use of landmines as part of "the legitimate right of every state to self-defense in matters of its national security."<sup>63</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS

---

### More arrests and imprisonment

- **14 November:** Police in Bassein, Irrawaddy Division, arrested activist Myint Naing on charges of having filmed farmers who protested over the confiscation of their land in Irrawaddy Division on 15 September.<sup>64</sup> [See *September 2011 Burma Bulletin*]
- **21 November:** Police in Akyab, Arakan State, detained at least 10 local activists who were campaigning for better supply of electricity in Arakan State.<sup>65</sup>
- **4 November:** Regime authorities in Mrauk-U, Arakan State, sentenced three Muslim students to two and half years in prison for traveling from Kyauktaw to Mrauk U (about 40km) without a permit in June.<sup>66</sup>

### NDSC blocks amnesty

In early November, various regime officials indicated that more political prisoners would be released in the following days as part of a presidential amnesty.<sup>67</sup> However, on 14 November, the regime's military-backed National Defense and Security Council (NDSC) put the amnesty on hold.<sup>68</sup>

---

<sup>58</sup> AFP (15 Nov 11) Monks demand freedom in rare Myanmar protest; AP (15 Nov 11) Monks stage rare sit-in protest in Myanmar city; AP (15 Nov 11) Monks stage rare protest in Myanmar's 2nd largest city, demand release of political prisoners; RFA (15 Nov 11) Monks Hold Rare Protest; Mizzima News (15 Nov 11) Burmese monks protest in support of political prisoners

<sup>59</sup> AP (15 Nov 11) Monks stage rare protest in Myanmar's 2nd largest city, demand release of political prisoners; Irrawaddy (15 Nov 11) Five Buddhist Monks Protest in Mandalay

<sup>60</sup> AP (15 Nov 11) Monks stage rare protest in Myanmar's 2nd largest city, demand release of political prisoners; RFA (15 Nov 11) Monks Hold Rare Protest; AFP (16 Nov 11) Rare Myanmar monk protest enters second day; Mizzima News (15 Nov 11) Protesting Burmese monks agree to move to new location to deliver a talk; DVB (16 Nov 11) Monks attract crowds as protest continues; Mizzima News (16 Nov 11) Protesting Burmese monks deliver final talk; Mizzima News (16 Nov 11) Burmese monk protest ends in Mandalay; Irrawaddy (16 Nov 11) Monks Continue Political Protest in Mandalay

<sup>61</sup> AFP (23 Nov 11) Landmine use at 7-year high in 2011: campaigners; Irrawaddy (24 Nov 11) Burma Finds Company as Layer of Landmines

<sup>62</sup> ICBL (23 Nov 11) Landmine Monitor 2011

<sup>63</sup> AFP (29 Nov 11) Myanmar sparks hope for dialogue at landmine meet

<sup>64</sup> DVB (16 Nov 11) Activist arrested for filming protest

<sup>65</sup> Narinjara News (22 Nov 11) Over 10 Activists for 24-Hour Electricity in Arakan State Detained

<sup>66</sup> Kaladan News (23 Nov 11) Three religious students jailed in southern Arakan

<sup>67</sup> RFA (04 Nov 11) New Political Prisoner Release 'Likely'; RFA (13 Nov 11) Burma to Free Political Prisoners; Al Jazeera (13 Nov 11) Myanmar to free more political prisoners; Reuters (13 Nov 11) Myanmar to free more political prisoners "soon"; AFP (14 Nov 11) Myanmar prisoner amnesty expected

<sup>68</sup> AFP (14 Nov 11) Myanmar "delays" prisoner release

Instead of releasing the 1,668 political prisoners still detained in jails across Burma,<sup>69</sup> on 16 November the regime began transferring several high-profile political prisoners to jails located closer to their families:

- SNLD Chairman **Hkun Htun Oo** from Putao prison, Kachin State, to Taungoo prison, Pegu Division.<sup>70</sup>
- 88 Generation Student leader **Min Ko Naing** from Kengtung prison, Shan State, to Rangoon's Insein prison and subsequently to Thayet prison, Magwe Division.<sup>71</sup>
- Buddhist monk **U Gambira** from Kale prison, Sagaing Division, to Rangoon's Insein prison and subsequently to Myaungmya prison, Irrawaddy Division.<sup>72</sup>
- 88 Generation Students member **Nilar Thein** from Thayet prison, Magwe Division, to Tharawaddy prison, Pegu Division.<sup>73</sup>

### Detention conditions still concerning

- **1 November:** Two of the 15 political prisoners who had been on a hunger strike since 26 October [See *October 2011 Burma Bulletin*] were hospitalized in Rangoon's Insein prison.<sup>74</sup>
- **8 November:** UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana voiced concern over the situation of the political prisoners on hunger strike in Insein prison and the deteriorating health of jailed Buddhist monk U Gambira.<sup>75</sup> Ojea Quintana reiterated his call for the release of all dissident and urged the regime investigate all allegations of mistreatment of prisoners.<sup>76</sup>
- **9 November:** It was reported that regime authorities in Rangoon's Insein prison denied visitation rights to the family members of the striking political prisoners until early December.<sup>77</sup>

### Censorship continues unabated

Despite renewed pledges by regime officials to allow more press freedom and end media censorship,<sup>78</sup> the regime Censorship Board continued to ban the publication of 'sensitive' political news. On 17 November, it was reported that the regime Censorship Board banned the publication of remarks made by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi regarding the lack of rule of law and the partiality of the judiciary in Burma during her 14 November press conference in Rangoon.<sup>79</sup> In addition, the Board suppressed news reports of the 15 November monks' demonstration in Mandalay [See above *Monks protest*] and the 27 October farmers' sit-in protest in Rangoon. [See *October 2011 Burma Bulletin*]<sup>80</sup> The Board also did not allow the publication of follow-up stories regarding the Myitsone dam project.<sup>81</sup>

## DISPLACEMENT

---

### Rohingya flee Burma

In November, Bangladeshi authorities arrested and pushed back at least 143 Rohingya who attempted to flee to Bangladesh.<sup>82</sup> Rohingya boat people continued to risk a perilous journey from Bangladesh to Malaysia.

<sup>69</sup> AAPP (08 Nov 11) AAPP Calls to Bridge the Gap on Political Prisoner Numbers

<sup>70</sup> SHAN (16 Nov 11) 16 November 2011; Irrawaddy (16 Nov 11) Amnesty Still Uncertain as Prisoners Transferred

<sup>71</sup> AP (16 Nov 11) Myanmar said to begin transfers of political prisoners, no releases yet; DVB (18 Nov 11) Min Ko Naing moved to Burma's Insein jail; Irrawaddy (18 Nov 11) NLD Decides to Re-register, Compete in Coming Elections

<sup>72</sup> Irrawaddy (18 Nov 11) NLD Decides to Re-register, Compete in Coming Elections; Mizzima News (23 Nov 11) Monk-leader Ashin Gambira has mental problems: prison doctor

<sup>73</sup> DVB (17 Nov 11) Gambira, Khun Tun Oo in jail transfer; Irrawaddy (22 Nov 11) Dissident Leader Tells Comrades Not to Sacrifice for His Freedom

<sup>74</sup> AI (04 Nov 11) Myanmar political prisoners held in dog cells and denied water

<sup>75</sup> UN News Center (08 Nov 11) Myanmar: UN rights expert voices concern over health of political prisoners

<sup>76</sup> UN News Center (08 Nov 11) Myanmar: UN rights expert voices concern over health of political prisoners

<sup>77</sup> Irrawaddy (09 Nov 11) Families Banned from Visiting Hunger Strikers

<sup>78</sup> Reuters (22 Nov 11) INSIGHT-"The Lady" media splash presents new face of Myanmar

<sup>79</sup> Irrawaddy (17 Nov 11) Burma's PSRD Still Alive and Censoring

<sup>80</sup> Irrawaddy (17 Nov 11) Burma's PSRD Still Alive and Censoring

<sup>81</sup> Irrawaddy (17 Nov 11) Burma's PSRD Still Alive and Censoring

<sup>82</sup> Kaladan News (14 Nov 11) BGB sends 17 Rohingyas to Jail, 39 pushes back to Burma; Kaladan News (01 Nov 11) 11-Rohingya pushed back to Burma; Kaladan News (02 Nov 11) Eleven Rohingya forced back to Burma; Kaladan News (19 Nov 11)



- **10 November:** Border Guards of Bangladesh (BGB) personnel arrested 22 Rohingya and Bangladeshi boat people off the coast of Teknaf.<sup>83</sup>
- **12 November:** BGB personnel in Shapuri Dip arrested 17 Rohingya who were attempting to leave for Malaysia by boat.<sup>84</sup>
- **19 November:** BGB personnel arrested 16 Rohingya and Bangladeshi boat people en route to Malaysia off the coast of Teknaf.<sup>85</sup>
- **23 November:** Only 17 boat people survived when a trawler carrying 155 Rohingya and Bangladeshi boat people capsized off the coast of Arakan State.<sup>86</sup>
- **24 November:** Thai Border Patrol Police near Kuraburi, Phang Nga Province, detained 92 Rohingya boat people.<sup>87</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

---

### UN resolution condemns regime abuses

On 22 November, the UN General Assembly's Third Committee adopted a resolution on Burma by a vote of 98 to 25 with 63 abstentions.<sup>88</sup> Countries that voted 'no' included China, Russia, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Brunei, Laos, and Vietnam. Countries that abstained included Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.<sup>89</sup> The resolution:<sup>90</sup>

- Expressed "grave concern" about the ongoing systematic violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of the Burmese people, including arbitrary detention, forced disappearance, rape, and torture.
- Expressed concern about the conditions in prisons and other detention facilities and consistent reports of ill-treatment of prisoners of conscience, including torture.
- Expressed concern over the ongoing discrimination, human rights violations, violence, displacement, and economic deprivation that affect numerous ethnic communities, including Rohingya.
- Urged the regime to undertake "as a matter of priority" a full, transparent, effective, impartial and independent investigation into all reports of human rights violations and to bring to justice those responsible.
- Called on the regime to undertake a transparent, inclusive, and comprehensive review of compliance of the constitution and all national legislation with international human rights law.

### ASEAN rewards regime with 2014 Chair

Despite sustained opposition from regional MPs, ASEAN decided to reward the regime's recent cosmetic changes with the group's chairmanship for 2014.

- **14 November:** The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus (AIPMC) expressed concern over the ongoing fighting in ethnic areas and the slow pace of political reform in Burma.<sup>91</sup> The caucus called on ASEAN leaders to urgently address concerns regarding democratic reform, conflict in

---

Two Rohingya arrest on suspicion in Bangladesh; Kaladan News (21 Nov 11) BGB arrests 16 boat- people, 33 pushed back to Burma; Kaladan News (23 Nov 11) 47 Rohingyas pushed back to Burma; Kaladan News (30 Nov 11) Bangladesh pushes back 16 Rohingya

<sup>83</sup> Kaladan News (11 Nov 11) New way to send Malaysia voyages

<sup>84</sup> Kaladan News (14 Nov 11) BGB sends 17 Rohingyas to Jail, 39 pushes back to Burma

<sup>85</sup> Kaladan News (21 Nov 11) BGB arrests 16 boat- people, 33 pushed back to Burma

<sup>86</sup> Narinjara News (27 Nov 11) 60 Feared Dead After Malaysian Bond Trawler Capsized of Arakan Coast; Kaladan News (28 Nov 11) 17 rescued, around 138 missing while boat capsized in Bay of Bengal

<sup>87</sup> Phuket Wan (24 Nov 11) Rohingya Captured North of Phuket Are Handed Straight Over to the Thai Army; Age (28 Nov 11) More boat people to flee Burma

<sup>88</sup> AFP (22 Nov 11) Record for UN vote on Iran, N. Korea, Myanmar; VOA (21 Nov 11) UN Panel Cites Rights Abuses in Burma, Iran, North Korea; Irrawaddy (22 Nov 11) UN Committee Expresses 'Grave Concern' on Burma

<sup>89</sup> UNGA 3<sup>rd</sup> Committee, Recorded vote on A/C.3/66/L.55/Rev.1 - Draft resolution entitled "Situation of human rights in Myanmar"

<sup>90</sup> UNGA, 66<sup>th</sup> Session, Situation of human rights in Myanmar, 28 October 2011, UN Doc A/C.3/66/L.55

<sup>91</sup> Irrawaddy (14 Nov 11) Asean Urged to Put Burma Abuses on Agenda

ethnic areas, and human rights abuses in Burma at the upcoming ASEAN Summit and related meetings in Bali.<sup>92</sup>

- **15 November:** AIPMC called on ASEAN to delay the decision to grant Burma the 2014 Chair until the regime releases all political prisoners and ends military operations against ethnic nationalities.<sup>93</sup>
- **15 November:** At the 44<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting (AMM), ASEAN FMs voiced their support for Burma's bid to chair the regional bloc in 2014.<sup>94</sup> "ASEAN countries support Myanmar's chairmanship but please don't construe this as a reaffirmation that the situation in Myanmar is 100% perfect," said Indonesian FM Marty Natalegawa.<sup>95</sup>
- **17 November:** At the 19<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, ASEAN leaders unanimously agreed to grant Burma the group's Chair for 2014.<sup>96</sup>

## China and regime strengthen cooperation

In response to Washington's diplomatic initiatives [See above *US steps up engagement*] China reiterated its commitment to strengthen military, political, and economic ties with the regime. At the same time, Beijing urged the regime to ensure peace and stability in Burma.

- **18 November:** China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Weimin said Beijing hoped the regime's domestic and foreign policies would be conducive to peace and stability in Burma.<sup>97</sup>
- **28 November:** Chinese Vice-President Xi Jinping met with Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Gen Min Aung Hlaing in Beijing.<sup>98</sup> Xi said China would work with the regime to "further bolster the comprehensive strategic partnership of cooperation" and proposed closer military cooperation between Beijing and Naypyidaw.<sup>99</sup> Xi also asked the regime to "properly settle problems and maintain a sound momentum of development."<sup>100</sup>
- **28 November:** Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese Army Gen Chen Bingde and Gen Min Aung Hlaing signed an MoU on military cooperation during a meeting in Beijing.<sup>101</sup> Chen said Beijing hoped to enhance military cooperation with the regime and said that both China and Burma needed "a peaceful and stable surrounding environment."<sup>102</sup>
- **29 November:** Vice-Chairman of China's Central Military Commission Xu Caihou met with Gen Min Aung Hlaing in Beijing.<sup>103</sup> Xu said China was ready to expand bilateral cooperation and maintain peace and stability along the Sino-Burma border.<sup>104</sup>

## Nambiar calls for release of dissidents

On 4 November, UN Special Advisor to the Sec-Gen for Burma Vijay Nambiar concluded a five-day visit to the country.<sup>105</sup> During his visit, Nambiar met with numerous regime ministers and officials,

---

<sup>92</sup> Irrawaddy (14 Nov 11) Asean Urged to Put Burma Abuses on Agenda

<sup>93</sup> Jakarta Post (15 Nov 11) Leaders urged to reject Myanmar's bid

<sup>94</sup> AFP (15 Nov 11) ASEAN ministers "to approve" Myanmar as 2014 chair; DPA (15 Nov 11) ASEAN foreign ministers discuss Myanmar's chairmanship bid; Reuters (15 Nov 11) Reclusive Myanmar on course to host regional bloc; DPA (15 Nov 11) LEAD: ASEAN set to agree on Myanmar 2014 chairmanship; Bangkok Post (15 Nov 11) Burma to host Asean summit; VOA (15 Nov 11) ASEAN Foreign Ministers Endorse Burma as 2014 Chair

<sup>95</sup> DPA (15 Nov 11) LEAD: ASEAN set to agree on Myanmar 2014 chairmanship; Jakarta Post (16 Nov 11) Myanmar set to chair ASEAN: FM

<sup>96</sup> AFP (17 Nov 11) Myanmar to chair ASEAN in 2014; AP (17 Nov 11) Southeast Asian leaders say military-dominated Myanmar will chair ASEAN in 2014; DPA (17 Nov 11) Myanmar says ASEAN leaders have confirmed its 2014 chairmanship; BBC (17 Nov 11) Asean leaders approve Burma chairmanship bid; DPA (17 Nov 11) South-East Asian leaders OK Myanmar to chair ASEAN in 2014; WSJ (18 Nov 11) Neighbors Give Myanmar a Boost; NYT (17 Nov 11) Myanmar, in Big Step, Wins Regional Bloc Leadership; Jakarta Post (18 Nov 11) ASEAN gives Myanmar nod for 2014 chairmanship

<sup>97</sup> WSJ (18 Nov 11) China Cautious on Myanmar Reforms

<sup>98</sup> Xinhua (28 Nov 11) Chinese Vice President vows to further ties with Myanmar; AFP (28 Nov 11) China, Myanmar vow deeper ties before Clinton trip; AP (28 Nov 11) Chinese VP meets with Myanmar armed forces chief amid concerns over Mekong River security; NLM (30 Nov 11) Commander-in-Chief General Min Aung Hlaing meets Chinese Vice-President

<sup>99</sup> Xinhua (28 Nov 11) Chinese Vice President vows to further ties with Myanmar; AFP (28 Nov 11) China, Myanmar vow deeper ties before Clinton trip

<sup>100</sup> Xinhua (28 Nov 11) Chinese Vice President vows to further ties with Myanmar

<sup>101</sup> Xinhua (28 Nov 11) China, Myanmar to enhance military ties; NLM (30 Nov 11) Chief of PLA General Staff General Chen Bingde extends warm welcome to Commander-in-Chief General Min Aung Hlaing; Irrawaddy (30 Nov 11) Chinese and Burmese Army Chiefs Sign Defense Agreement

<sup>102</sup> Xinhua (28 Nov 11) China, Myanmar to enhance military ties

<sup>103</sup> Xinhua (29 Nov 11) PLA senior officer meets Myanmar's commander of armed forces

<sup>104</sup> Xinhua (29 Nov 11) PLA senior officer meets Myanmar's commander of armed forces

<sup>105</sup> NLM (05 Nov 11) Special Advisor to UNSG and Under-Secretary-General wraps up visit

including Vice-President Tin Aung Myint Oo, in Naypyidaw and Rangoon.<sup>106</sup> He also met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and representatives of several political parties and civil society groups in Rangoon.<sup>107</sup>

At a press conference before departing Burma, Nambiar urged the regime to release all remaining political prisoners “as a matter of priority.”<sup>108</sup> Nambiar also urged all stakeholders to advance dialogue in order to strengthen national unity and bring about peace and development in ethnic areas.<sup>109</sup>

## OTHER BURMA NEWS IN NOVEMBER

2	Regime Deputy Ministry of Electric Power Khin Maung and Thailand’s Gunkul Engineering sign an MoU for the development of a 1000-megawatt wind power project near Moulmein, Mon State.
2	Rangoon Chief Minister Myint Swe announces that the Rangoon administration is expected to run a “very big” budget deficit until at least until the end of the 2011-2012 fiscal year
2	IMF delegation concludes its visit to Burma without determining whether the regime would accept the currency conditions needed to reform its monetary exchange system.
2	UN releases its Human Development Index for 2011 in which Burma is ranked 149 of 187 countries, down from 132 <sup>nd</sup> in the 2010 report.
2	Former Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamad says Burma should play a more active role in ASEAN to enable it to tackle problems arising from globalization.
3	Regime Election Commission removes NUP Pegu Division MP for Shwegyin Constituency 1 Khin Nwe from office as a result of the election challenge filed by USDP candidate Myo Myint.
3	Regime Election Commission declares USDP candidate Myo Myint the elected MP for Pegu Division Parliament from Shwegyin Constituency 1.
3	Regime officials temporarily reopen the Friendship Bridge connecting Mae Sot, Thailand, to Myawaddy, Karen State, to allow Burmese migrant workers who escaped floods in Thailand to return to Burma.
3	Karen National Union urges the international community to apply pressure on the regime on matters of ethnic conflict, minority protection, and NGO access to ethnic areas.
4	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with former Malaysian PM Mahathir Mohamad in Rangoon.
4	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Germany Deputy FM Werner Hoyer at her home in Rangoon.
4	President Thein Sein signs the Political Parties Registration Law Amendment Bill.
4	Burma Central Bank allows private banks to install ATM machines.
4	German Deputy FM Werner Hoyer meets with regime FM Wunna Maung Lwin in Naypyidaw.
5	Pro-democracy activists sign they have submitted a petition to President Thein Sein to demand the reinstatement of professional licenses to lawyers and doctors whose licenses were revoked due to their political activities.
6	Head of the EU delegation to Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Burma David Lipman says the EU hopes to support and encourage the “momentum of change” in Burma.
8	Indonesian FM Marty Natalegawa says that the international community should consider rewarding Burma’s regime for its recent reforms by removing some sanctions and allowing it to chair ASEAN.
9	Researchers with the University of Toronto say that the regime has been using internet monitoring devices produced by the US-based company Blue Coat Systems.
10	Japanese FM Koichiro Gamba and Indonesia’s FM Marty Natalegawa agree to enhance their cooperation in assisting Burma’s transition to democracy during a meeting in Tokyo.
10	Bangladeshi President Zillur Rahman calls for quick construction of the Bangladesh-Burma-China road link under the “Kunming Initiative.”
10	A bomb explosion near a police station in Namkham Township, Northern Shan State, kills a local police

<sup>106</sup> UN News Center (04 Nov 11) Sustaining recent initiatives could set Myanmar on a new course – UN envoy; NLM (01 Nov 11) Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Aung Kyi receive Special Adviser to UNSG; NLM (02 Nov 11) Vice-President Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo receives Special Adviser to UNSG and Under-Secretary-General and party; NLM (02 Nov 11) Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint receives Special Adviser to UNSG and Under-Secretary-General and party; NLM (02 Nov 11) Special Adviser meets Peace Making Group; NLM (02 Nov 11) Special Adviser to UNSG and Under-Secretary-General and party calls on Union Election Commission; NLM (05 Nov 11) Special Adviser to UNSG and Under-Secretary-General wraps up visit; NLM (05 Nov 11) Myanmar Human Rights Commission Chairman receives Special Adviser to UNSG

<sup>107</sup> UN News Center (04 Nov 11) Sustaining recent initiatives could set Myanmar on a new course – UN envoy; NLM (05 Nov 11) Special Adviser to UNSG and Under-Secretary-General wraps up visit; NLD (04 Nov 11) Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Meets Mr Vijay Nambiar

<sup>108</sup> UN News Center (04 Nov 11) Sustaining recent initiatives could set Myanmar on a new course – UN envoy; Xinhua (04 Nov 11) UN envoy stresses importance of Myanmar’s transition, reforms

<sup>109</sup> UN News Center (04 Nov 11) Sustaining recent initiatives could set Myanmar on a new course – UN envoy; Xinhua (04 Nov 11) UN envoy stresses importance of Myanmar’s transition, reforms

	officer.
11	Communist Party of China Politburo member Liu Qi meets with President Thein Sein and People's Assembly Speaker Shwe Mann in Naypyidaw.
12	A fire damages 700 shops in Myoma market, Minbya Township, Arakan State.
12	Regime Human Rights Commission says that only about 300 prisoners of conscience remains detained in Burma.
13	Regime Human Rights Commission urges President Thein Sein to release political prisoners or transfer them to prisons close to their families.
13	A bomb explosion near an orphanage in Thida Ward, Myitkyina, Kachin State, kills 10 people and injures 23.
14	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi says that the lifting of Western economic sanctions depends on the degree of political and human rights progress in Burma.
14	Thai company Ratchaburi Electricity Generation says it plans to spend 12 billion baht (US\$390 million) on projects in the Tavoy Special Economic Zone in 2012.
14	Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Gen Min Aung Hlaing meets Vietnamese PM Nguyen Tan Dung and Defense Minister Gen Phung Quang Thanh in Hanoi.
15	Kachin Development Networking Group releases a statement that says that gold mining continues near the Myitsone dam site despite a 25 October regime announcement that mining in the area violated regime policy.
15	UK International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell calls for the release of all political prisoners in Burma on the first day of his visit to the country.
15	A landmine explosion near the bridge over the Irrawaddy River between Myitkyina and Waingmaw, Kachin State, kills six Tatmadaw soldiers.
16	UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon and Thai PM Yingluck Shinawatra discuss the situation in Burma during a meeting in Bangkok.
17	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with UK International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell in Rangoon.
17	UK International Development Secretary Andrew Mitchell meets with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Rangoon.
17	East Timor President José Ramos-Horta praises Burma's regime for the "progress that has taken place" in the past eight months and reiterates previous calls for the West to lift sanctions.
18	Japanese PM Yoshihiko Noda promises two trillion yen (US\$26.1 billion) in infrastructure support to ASEAN to help pave the way for a 'southern corridor' connecting Southern Vietnam with Burma.
18	Regime Information Ministry launches Naypyidaw Times, a new weekly journal.
18	EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton says she is "delighted" at the NLD's decision to re-register as a political party and says that a "more substantial review of EU policy" on Burma is underway.
18	ASEAN Sec-Gen Surin Pitsuwan says he welcomes the US' decision "to enhance its engagement to a higher level."
19	UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon expresses support for the ASEAN's decision to grant Burma the regional group's Chair for 2014.
19	PM Julia Gillard says Australia welcomes Burma's recent progress but says that "there is a lot more to do in Burma."
19	President Thein Sein says he will grant another amnesty "depending on the circumstances."
21	All Burma Monks Alliance criticizes the NLD's decision to re-register as a political party and says that Burma's current political problems cannot be solved in the military-dominated Parliament.
22	Tatmadaw Deputy Commander-in-Chief Lt Gen Soe Win begins a visit to Bangladesh.
22	Senior White House official Ben Rhodes says that Washington has no plans to lift sanctions against Burma's regime.
22	Indian Minister of State for Home Affairs Mullappally Ramachandra says that Burma's regime has taken "some actions" against anti-Indian armed groups operating along the Indo-Burma border.
24	State-run newspapers Myanma Alin and Kyemon mention former SPDC Chairman Sr Gen Than Shwe for the first time since the end of March and refer to him as "retired."
25	Burma Central Bank grants 11 private banks the right to trade US dollars, euros, and Singapore dollars.
25	People's Assembly Speaker Shwe Mann says the regime wants a "regular relationship" with the US.
25	ASEAN Sec-Gen Surin Pitsuwan welcomes the NLD's decision to re-register as a political party and says that ASEAN can claim credit for the "positive changes" taking place in Burma.
25	Regime fires Tenasserim Division Chief Minister Khin Zaw over allegations of corruption in the local rice trade.
28	Kayin Democratic Party applies to the regime Election Commission for the formation of a political party.

28	About 500 activists, including some NLD youth members, sign a petition that calls for the release of political prisoners and the end of military operations in ethnic areas.
28	NLD decides to form an 11-member campaign committee as part of the preparations to contest the by-elections.
28	US Senator Richard Lugar says the US must press Burma's regime to reveal the state of its nuclear program and any ties with North Korea as a condition for better relations.
29	Ta'aung Students and Youth Organization says that the regime displaced about 3,000 residents of five villages without compensation to make way for the construction of the Shweli hydropower dam projects in Mongmit, Mantong, and Namkham Townships, Northern Shan State.
29	US Congress Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen says that under the regime "atrocities, systematic human rights violations, and pursuit and proliferation of dangerous weapons" continue unabated.
30	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi says she has not changed her position supporting sanctions against Burma.

## **REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN NOVEMBER**

---

**"Burma's Parliament - A tool for institutionalized oppression"**, Altsean-Burma

<http://bit.ly/rNeBqb>

**"Crimes in Northern Burma: November 2011"**, Partners Relief and Development

<http://bit.ly/sicZfH>

**"Under Siege in Kachin State, Burma"**, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)

<http://bit.ly/vWrCq6>

**"Visit to the Thailand-Burma Border, October 2011"**, Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW)

<http://bit.ly/uPz7Te>

**"The recognition of political prisoners: essential to democratic and national reconciliation process"**,

Assistance Association for Political Prisoners-Burma (AAPP-B)

<http://bit.ly/vvRFG4>

**"Report on the Human Rights Situation in Burma: January-September 2011"**, Network for Human Rights Documentation-Burma (ND-Burma)

<http://bit.ly/sEtOFu>

**"Report Card: Democracy in Burma"**, Burma Campaign Australia (BCA)

<http://bit.ly/v5mIgH>

**"Patterns and Trends of Amphetamine-Type Stimulants and other Drugs: Asia and the Pacific 2011"**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

<http://bit.ly/tdJBSa>

**"Shan Drug Watch Issue 4"**, Shan Herald Agency for News (SHAN)

<http://bit.ly/u7c79g>

**"Landmine Monitor Report 2011"**, International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)

<http://t.co/kIzPP4MO>

**"Voices for Change"**, Palaung Women's Organization (PWO)

<http://t.co/33rPI07R>

**"Grabbing Land: Destructive Development in Ta'ang Region"**, Ta'ang Student and Youth Organization (TSYO)

<http://bit.ly/v3vQDh>

**"Discrimination, Conflict and Corruption: The Ethnic States of Burma"**, Ethnic Nationalities Council (ENC)

<http://bit.ly/sfInqu>

**"UN Human Development Report 2011"**, United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

<http://bit.ly/rLFGNw>