

# BURMA BULLETIN



A month-in-review of events in Burma



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

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- Regime releases only 220 political prisoners in a routine mass amnesty. Over 1,700 dissidents remain detained in Burma's jails.
- Despite the regime's rhetoric of change, the UN says that "many serious human rights issues" remain unaddressed in Burma.
- Fighting continues between the Tatmadaw and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in Kachin State and Northern Shan State. Tatmadaw soldiers commit serious crimes against civilians, including rape of women, extrajudicial killings, and the use of forced labor.
- On the same day that the Parliament approves a bill that will grant Burma's people the right to peacefully assemble, regime authorities detain seven people who hold a sit-in to protest land confiscation.
- Thailand Burma Border Consortium report says that the regime forced 112,000 people to flee their homes between August 2010 and July 2011, the highest number recorded in 10 years.
- Palaung Women's Organization report documents an increase in opium cultivation in Namkham Township, Shan State, and exposes the regime's involvement in drug production.
- The regime fails to provide a prompt and adequate response to deadly flash floods in Magwe Division.
- Regional lawmakers urge ASEAN to delay any decision on whether to grant Burma the 2014 Chair as Indonesia assesses the regime's readiness to chair the group.
- Delhi and Naypyidaw strengthen economic and military ties during President Thein Sein's first official visit to India.
- China shows its displeasure over Thein Sein's decision to suspend the Myitsone dam project. Regime statements that say it may reconsider its decision heighten concerns that the project may continue.

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## KEY STORY

### Regime continues to use political prisoners

In an effort to convince ASEAN that it deserves the group's Chair in 2014, the regime carried out yet another mass amnesty.

On 11 October, President Thein Sein ordered the release of 6,359 prisoners from jails across Burma.<sup>1</sup> As in previous mass releases under the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), most of those freed were common criminals. [See table *Most recent mass releases of prisoners*] Only 237 political prisoners (or 3.7%) were among those released on 12 October.<sup>2</sup> They included prominent comedian Zarganar; Shan leader Gen Hso Ten; labor activist Su Su Nway; three MPs elected in the 1990 elections; seven trade unionists; and three DVB video journalists.<sup>3</sup>

However, over 1,700 political prisoners remain detained in Burma's jails, including monks, ethnic leaders, 88 Generation Students, and NLD members. On 26 October, 15 political prisoners went on a hunger strike in Rangoon's Insein prison to demand a reduction of their sentences.<sup>4</sup> On 27 October, prison authorities stopped providing drinking water to the striking political prisoners.<sup>5</sup> On 29 October, prison authorities placed eight of the prisoners in solitary confinement in the prison's dog kennels.<sup>6</sup>

Most recent mass releases of prisoners			
Date	Total Prisoners	Political prisoners	%
18 Nov 2004	3,937	28	0.7%
29 Nov 2004	5,311	12	0.2%
13 Dec 2004	5,070	21	0.4%
3 Jan 2005	5,588	26	0.5%
6 Jul 2005	334	253	75.7%
3 Jan 2007	2,831	50	1.7%
23 Sep 2008	9,002	10	0.1%
20 Feb 2009	6,313	24	0.4%
17 Sep 2009	7,114	128	1.8%
16 May 2011	14,578	55	0.4%
12 Oct 2011	6,359	237	3.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,437</b>	<b>844</b>	<b>1.3%</b>

## International community urges release of all dissidents

Although members of the international community welcomed the release of some political prisoners, they acknowledged that the gesture was insufficient and continued to call for the unconditional release of all remaining political prisoners.

### UN

- **12-13 October:** UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana welcomed the amnesty but said that it was “imperative” that the regime release all remaining political prisoners in the country before the end of the year.<sup>7</sup>
- **13 October:** UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon welcomed the amnesty of some political prisoners, but urged that the regime should release all of them.<sup>8</sup>

### ASEAN

- **12 October:** Indonesian FM Marty Natalegawa said that Indonesia welcomed the regime's commitment to release political prisoners but added that implementation of the regime's commitment had to be continuously monitored.<sup>9</sup>
- **18 October:** The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus (AIPMC) released a statement that urged the regime to release all remaining political prisoners and called for the closure of all the prisons, described as “illegal internment camps.”<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> AP (11 Oct 11) Burma announces amnesty for some 6,300 prisoners; number of political detainees unclear; NLM (12 Oct 11) 6359 prisoners granted amnesty; AFP (11 Oct 11) Myanmar to free thousands of prisoners: media; Reuters (11 Oct 11) Myanmar to release 6,359 prisoners under amnesty order –Xinhua; DPA (11 Oct 11) Myanmar announces release of 6,359 prisoners; BBC (11 Oct 11) Burma to grant prisoner amnesty; CNN (11 Oct 11) State TV: Myanmar to release 6,000 prisoners

<sup>2</sup> AAPP (24 Oct 11) Update List of Political Prisoners Released

<sup>3</sup> AFP (12 Oct 11) Myanmar releases prominent dissident Zarganar: family; Reuters (12 Oct 11) Myanmar frees prominent dissident as prisoner amnesty begins; Reuters (12 Oct 11) Myanmar frees around 100 political prisoners; Reuters (16 Oct 11) Su Su Nway, a 39-year-old labor activist, arrives at Yangon's domestic airport; BBC (12 Oct 11) Burma starts release of prisoners; DPA (12 Oct 11) Myanmar releases comedian, ethnic leader in general amnesty; NLD (13 Oct 11) Some political prisoners released; Mizzima News (12 Oct 11) Zarganar, released from prison, flying to Rangoon; ITUC (13 Oct 11) Burma: Seven Trade Unionists Released From Prison; DVB (17 Oct 11) Three DVB journalists freed from jail; NLD (13 Oct 11) Some political prisoners released

<sup>4</sup> Mizzima News (26 Oct 11) Political prisoners on hunger strike in Insein Prison, demanding remission; DVB (27 Oct 11) Hunger strike underway in Insein prison

<sup>5</sup> Irrawaddy (31 Oct 11) Families Fear for Hunger Strikers; DVB (31 Oct 11) Punishment of Insein hunger strikers begins

<sup>6</sup> Irrawaddy (31 Oct 11) Families Fear for Hunger Strikers

<sup>7</sup> OHCHR (13 Oct 11) Myanmar: UN expert welcomes prisoners' release and urges Government to free those still jailed

<sup>8</sup> Office of the Spokesperson (13 Oct 11) Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on Myanmar; UN News Center (13 Oct 11) After latest release, UN expert urges Myanmar to free all political prisoners; AFP (14 Oct 11) Ban urges Myanmar to free all political prisoners; DPA (13 Oct 11) UN urges Myanmar to release all political prisoners

<sup>9</sup> Antara News (12 Oct 11) RI welcomes Myanmar's commitment to release thousands of prisoners

## EU

- **12 October:** High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton welcomed the decision to grant an amnesty to some prisoners but said the EU continued to advocate for the unconditional release of all political prisoners.<sup>11</sup>
- **17 October:** The European Parliamentary Caucus on Burma (EPCB) said that by releasing so few political prisoners, President Thein Sein had not gone beyond similar releases already undertaken by his predecessors. The EPCB said that the latest releases did not justify the lifting of diplomatic or economic sanctions applied by the EU on the regime.<sup>12</sup>

## US

- **13 October:** US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the US welcomed the regime's decision to release hundreds of political prisoners, but said the US called for all of them to be released.<sup>13</sup>
- **17 October:** US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma Derek Mitchell welcomed the release of political prisoners but made it clear that the US wanted to see all those who remained imprisoned released.<sup>14</sup>

## UN: Serious human rights issues remain

Despite the rhetoric of change by the regime, the human rights situation in Burma remained dire. On 20 October, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana presented his annual report to the UN General Assembly.<sup>15</sup> According to the report, “many serious human rights issues” remain unaddressed.<sup>16</sup> In particular, the report highlighted:<sup>17</sup>

- The Tatmadaw's ongoing human rights violations in ethnic areas, including attacks against civilians, extrajudicial killings, sexual violence, arbitrary arrests and detentions, internal displacement, land confiscations, the recruitment of child soldiers, and forced labor.
- The regime's continued use torture and ill-treatment during interrogation, the use of prisoners as porters for the military or “human shields,” and the transfer of prisoners to prisons in remote areas.
- The negative impact of infrastructure projects on land and housing rights.

Ojea Quintana said the international community should be ready to consider the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry among the “necessary steps” required to ensure truth, justice, and accountability in Burma.<sup>18</sup>

## INSIDE BURMA

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### Crimes, conflict escalate in Northeastern Burma

Throughout October, fighting continued between the Tatmadaw and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in Kachin State and Northern Shan State. The Tatmadaw deployed additional troops, armored vehicles, and heavy artillery to areas surrounding the KIA headquarters in Laiza, Momauk Township,

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<sup>10</sup> AIPMC (13 Oct 11) A step forward, on a long path

<sup>11</sup> European Union (12 Oct 11) Statement by the spokesperson of Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative on the release of political prisoners in Burma/Myanmar; New Europe Online (13 Oct 11) EU welcomes release of political prisoners in Myanmar

<sup>12</sup> EPCB (17 Oct 11) Burma political prisoner releases not enough to justify lifting of sanctions

<sup>13</sup> AFP (14 Oct 11) US welcomes Myanmar release of political prisoners; KUNA (13 Oct 11) U.S. welcomes release of Burmese political prisoners

<sup>14</sup> Reuters (17 Oct 11) U.S. welcomes Myanmar moves but unsure of real reform; AFP (17 Oct 11) US envoy: Myanmar improving but more reform needed; AP (17 Oct 11) US urges end to abuses of Myanmar minorities

<sup>15</sup> AFP (20 Oct 11) 'Serious' rights violations persist in Myanmar: UN; UN News Center (19 Oct 11) Myanmar's new Government must tackle continuing rights abuses – UN expert

<sup>16</sup> UNGA, 66<sup>th</sup> session, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, 16 September 2011, UN Doc A/66/365

<sup>17</sup> UNGA, 66<sup>th</sup> session, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, 16 September 2011, UN Doc A/66/365

<sup>18</sup> UNGA, 66<sup>th</sup> session, Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, 16 September 2011, UN Doc A/66/365

Kachin State.<sup>19</sup> Fighting was reported in Bhamo, Mansi, Mohnyin, Momauk, Myitkyina, and Waingmaw Townships, Kachin State, and in Muse Township, Northern Shan State.<sup>20</sup> In addition, reports surfaced that Tatmadaw forces used chemical weapons against KIA troops during military operations.<sup>21</sup> In most clashes, KIA forces inflicted heavy casualties on the Tatmadaw:

- **6 October:** KIA Battalion 38 forces killed two Tatmadaw soldiers in a clash in Muse Township, Northern Shan State.<sup>22</sup>
- **11 October:** KIA Battalion 27 forces killed four Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 601 and IB 47 during fighting in Mansi Township, Kachin State.<sup>23</sup>
- **12 October:** KIA Battalion 27 forces killed 10 Tatmadaw soldiers from IBs 47 and 144 during five clashes in Mansi Township, Kachin State.<sup>24</sup>
- **13 October:** KIA Battalion 11 forces killed over 12 Tatmadaw soldiers in an attack near Myitkyina, Kachin State.<sup>25</sup>
- **13-16 October:** KIA forces killed over 50 Tatmadaw soldiers during fighting in Ga Ra Yang Village, Waingmaw Township, and Momauk, Bhamo Township, Kachin State.<sup>26</sup>
- **18 October:** KIA forces killed at least three Tatmadaw soldiers during fighting in Momauk Township, Kachin State. A landmine killed one KIA soldier during the fighting.<sup>27</sup>
- **19 October:** KIA forces killed two Tatmadaw soldiers during a clash in Momauk Township, Kachin State.<sup>28</sup>
- **19 October:** KIA Battalion 3 forces killed five Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 260 during fighting in Ga Ra Yang Village, Waingmaw Township, Kachin State.<sup>29</sup>
- **25 October:** KIA forces killed four Tatmadaw soldiers during heavy fighting in Du Ra Kawng Village, Bhamo Township, Kachin State.<sup>30</sup>
- **26 October:** KIA forces killed nine Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 138 during an attack on a Tatmadaw post in Sumprabum Township, Kachin State.<sup>31</sup>
- **27 October:** KIA forces killed at least 23 Tatmadaw soldiers during three separate attacks in Southern Kachin State.<sup>32</sup>

Tatmadaw soldiers continued to commit serious crimes against civilians, including rape of women, extrajudicial killings, and forced labor.

- **7 October:** Tatmadaw soldiers gang-raped three ethnic Chinese women in Myitkyina Township, Kachin State.<sup>33</sup>
- **7 October:** Tatmadaw forces killed a villager in an attack on Nam Lin Pa Village, Mansi Township, Kachin State.<sup>34</sup>
- **13 October:** Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 56 shot and killed a toddler in Mansi Township, Kachin State.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Mizzima News (20 Oct 11) More government troops deployed around Laiza

<sup>20</sup> Kachin News Group (04 Oct 11) KIA-Burma Army battle for 3-hours in S. Kachin State; Kachin News Group (05 Oct 11) 40 Burma Army soldiers killed in one day in Kachin State; Kachin News Group (10 Oct 11) Govt troops shell Kachin village, kill student; Kachin News Group (12 Oct 11) KIA captures important frontline government post; Kachin News Group (14 Oct 11) KIA-Burma Army battle on the Myitkyina-Bhamo Road; Kachin News Group (20 Oct 11) Elderly Kachin man shot by govt troops; Kachin News Group (19 Oct 11) KIA destroys two Burma govt weapon transport ships; Mizzima News (20 Oct 11) More government troops deployed around Laiza

<sup>21</sup> Kachin News Group (30 Oct 11) Burmese Army resorts to chemical weapons warfare against Kachin rebels; Kachin News Group (31 Oct 11) Burmese Army attacks KIA with poison gas

<sup>22</sup> Kachin News Group (06 Oct 11) KIA ambushed Burma Army's column in Mongkoe

<sup>23</sup> Kachin News Group (11 Oct 11) Four Burma govt soldiers killed in fighting with KIA

<sup>24</sup> Kachin News Group (12 Oct 11) KIA kills 10 Burmese soldiers, injures 2 in southern Kachin State

<sup>25</sup> Kachin News Group (14 Oct 11) KIA attack near Myitkyina kills over a dozen Burmese soldiers

<sup>26</sup> Kachin News Group (17 Oct 11) Over 50 govt soldiers killed on Sunday

<sup>27</sup> Kachin News Group (18 Oct 11) Three Burmese soldiers killed in morning fighting

<sup>28</sup> Narinjara News (20 Oct 11) renewed Clashes Near Chinese Border

<sup>29</sup> Kachin News Group (20 Oct 11) Three Burma Army officers killed at Ga Ra Yang

<sup>30</sup> Kachin News Group (26 Oct 11) Four Burmese soldiers killed in fighting on Loije-Bhamo Road

<sup>31</sup> Kachin News Group (27 Oct 11) 9 Burmese soldiers killed on Myitkyina-Sumprabum Road

<sup>32</sup> Kachin News Group (28 Oct 11) 23 govt soldiers killed by KIA during fighting in three areas

<sup>33</sup> Kachin News Group (10 Oct 11) Burma govt troops gang-rape three Chinese women; Mizzima News (11 Oct 11) Rape case exposes endemic sexual violence by Burmese army

<sup>34</sup> Kachin News Group (10 Oct 11) Govt troops shell Kachin village, kill student

<sup>35</sup> Kachin News Group (18 Oct 11) Kachin baby shot dead by govt troops

- **16 October:** Tatmadaw troops from IB 29 detained 20 residents of Myitkyina, Kachin State, and forced them to carry military supplies.<sup>36</sup>
- **17 October:** In separate incidents, Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 141 and LIB 438 shot and killed two villagers in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State<sup>37</sup>
- **18 October:** Tatmadaw troops in Hka Wan Bang Village, Momauk Township, shot and killed a 25-year-old local villager suspected of having ties with the KIA.<sup>38</sup>
- **18 October:** Tatmadaw troops raped and killed a 19-year-old girl in Waingmaw Township, Kachin State.<sup>39</sup>
- **22 October:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 522 detained six ethnic Chinese women in Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State, and forced them to carry military supplies.<sup>40</sup>
- **24 October:** It was reported that Tatmadaw soldiers raped and killed nine ethnic Chinese women in Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State.<sup>41</sup>

## Regime pursues individual peace talks

In October, the regime continued to pursue peace talks with individual ethnic armed groups.

- **1 October:** After a first round of talks in September [See *September 2011 Burma Bulletin*], regime officials met again with United Wa State Army (UWSA) representatives in Lashio, Northern Shan State.<sup>42</sup> During the meeting the UWSA agreed to cooperate with the regime on maintaining peace and development in the region.<sup>43</sup> However, the regime did not address the removal of Tatmadaw forces from the area.<sup>44</sup>
- **6 October:** A regime delegation led by Mon State Minister of Security and Border Affairs Col Htay Myint Aung met with New Mon State Party (NMSP) representatives for talks at a military base in Ye, Southern Mon State.<sup>45</sup> During the talks, the NMSP officials called for a nationwide peace agreement brokered through the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC).<sup>46</sup>
- **9 October:** After a first round of talks in September [See *September 2011 Burma Bulletin*], regime officials met again with National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA) representatives in Kengtung, Eastern Shan State.<sup>47</sup> The two sides reached an agreement on anti-narcotic cooperation and economic development in the region. However, the regime did not address the primary demands of the NDAA, which included allowing the NDAA to trade and develop natural resources.<sup>48</sup>
- **26 October:** Regime officials met with Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) representatives for talks in Mottama, Paung Township, Mon State.<sup>49</sup> At the meeting, the DKBA representatives demanded that the group be allowed to set up liaison offices in Karen State and maintain a military presence in Hlaingbwe and Kyainnseikyi Townships.<sup>50</sup>

## Opium production increases in Shan State

On 25 October, the Palaung Women's Organization (PWO) released "Still Poisoned," a report that documented the increase in opium cultivation in Namkham Township, Shan State, and exposed the regime's involvement in the drug industry.<sup>51</sup> The report found that:<sup>52</sup>

<sup>36</sup> Kachin News Group (17 Oct 11) Burma Army detains 20 Myitkyina residents as porters

<sup>37</sup> Kachin News Group (20 Oct 11) Two Kachin villagers shot by Burma Army

<sup>38</sup> Kachin News Group (21 Oct 11) Innocent Shan civilian killed by Burmese soldiers

<sup>39</sup> Kachin News Group (21 Oct 11) Teenage Kachin girl raped and killed by Burmese soldiers

<sup>40</sup> Kachin News Group (24 Oct 11) Burma Army soldiers gang-raped and killed 9 Chinese women

<sup>41</sup> Kachin News Group (24 Oct 11) Burma Army soldiers gang-raped and killed 9 Chinese women

<sup>42</sup> NLM (04 Oct 11) Union level peace making group, "Wa" Special Region (2) peace making group hold peace talks for first time

<sup>43</sup> Irrawaddy (08 Sep 11) Govt Talks with Wa, Mongla Group Conclude

<sup>44</sup> SHAN (03 Oct 11) Second meeting between Wa and government officials reportedly results in compromise, possible third meeting

<sup>45</sup> Irrawaddy (07 Oct 11) No Progress in Talks Between NMSP, Mon Govt

<sup>46</sup> Irrawaddy (07 Oct 11) No Progress in Talks Between NMSP, Mon Govt

<sup>47</sup> NLM (11 Oct 11) Peace talks between Union level peace group and Special Region (4) peace group held for first time

<sup>48</sup> SHAN (10 Oct 11) Second meeting between NDAA and government officials continues progress; Mizzima News (12 Oct 11) Burmese gov't and Mong La group renew relations, sign agreements

<sup>49</sup> Irrawaddy (31 Oct 11) Govt Holds Peace Talks with DKBA

<sup>50</sup> Irrawaddy (31 Oct 11) Govt Holds Peace Talks with DKBA

<sup>51</sup> Palaungland.org (25 Oct 11) Opium cultivation surging in constituency of Burma's new ruling party; Chinland Guardian (25 Oct 11) Opium Cultivation 'Shoots Up' under Burma's New Govt in Shan State; SHAN (25 Oct 11) New drug report details Gov't sanctioned opium production's effect on Palaung villages; Irrawaddy (25 Oct 11) Shan MP Accused of Being Opium Kingpin

- In the past two years, opium cultivation in 15 villages soared to over 1,100 hectares, an increase of land used for cultivation of almost 80% from 2008-2009.
- The regime continued to allow local militia leaders to cultivate and profit from drugs in return for help in suppressing ethnic armed groups.
- Shan State Parliament USDP MP and head of the local militia “Pansay” Kyaw Myint controlled opium production in the area. He had promised voters that they could grow opium freely for five years if they voted for him in the November 2010 elections.
- Since 2009, there had been a disturbing increase in drug addiction among local Palaung communities. In one village, over 90% of males aged 15 and over were addicted to opium or heroin, more than double the rates recorded in 2009.

### **Regime slow to respond to floods**

On 20 October, flash floods in Pauk and Pakokku Townships, Magwe Division, killed about 215 people and displaced around 1,700. The floods swept away nearly 1,200 homes and inundated about 3,700 more.<sup>53</sup> As in previous natural disasters, the regime failed to promptly and adequately respond to the emergency. Provisional relief teams funded by local businesses provided support to victims in place of regime authorities.<sup>54</sup> In addition, regime officials told reporters not to take photographs of flood damage and confiscated the memory cards from digital cameras of those who did.<sup>55</sup>

### **Parliament amends Political Parties Registration Law**

In October, the second parliamentary session continued in Naypyidaw. In an effort to persuade the NLD to re-register as a political party and thus legitimize the regime’s rule, the USDP-dominated Parliament approved a bill that amended the 2010 Political Parties Registration Law.<sup>56</sup> The law would now require political parties to “respect and observe” the 2008 constitution instead of “preserving and safeguarding” the charter. In addition, the bill removed the clause that prohibited anyone serving a prison sentence from joining a political party.<sup>57</sup> This appears to contradict the Parliament’s September approval of an amendment to the People’s Assembly election law, which stipulates that individuals convicted under laws such as the Unlawful Association Act would be barred from voting for life.<sup>58</sup>

### **Daw Suu and Aung Kyi meet**

On 30 October, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and regime Labor Minister Aung Kyi met at the Seinle Kantha state guesthouse in Rangoon.<sup>59</sup> It was their 13<sup>th</sup> meeting since October 2007. The two discussed the release of political prisoners, peace talks with ethnic armed groups, and economic and financial matters.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> PWO (25 Oct 11) Still poisoned - Opium cultivation soars in Palaung areas under Burma’s new regime

<sup>53</sup> DVB (25 Oct 11) Thousands of flood victims lacking aid; Myanmar Times (24 Oct 11) Hundreds die in Pakokku flash flood

<sup>54</sup> DVB (25 Oct 11) Thousands of flood victims lacking aid

<sup>55</sup> DVB (25 Oct 11) Thousands of flood victims lacking aid

<sup>56</sup> Irrawaddy (27 Oct 11) Amendments to Political Party Law Approved; Mizzima News (27 Oct 11) Amended party registration law opens way for NLD to re-register

<sup>57</sup> DPA (09 Oct 11) Myanmar sets scene for opposition party comeback; Reuters (29 Oct 11) Myanmar’s Suu Kyi could seek parliament seat; Irrawaddy (07 Oct 11) Political Party Bill Goes to Parliament; Myanmar Times (10 Oct 11) UEC proposes party law changes; Myanmar Times (17 Oct 11) NLD still undecided on registration; Irrawaddy (29 Oct 11) NLD to Decide on Party Registration

<sup>58</sup> DVB (07 Sep 11) Political laws could equal lifetime ban; The Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law Amendment Bill was introduced on 31 August, approved by the Peoples’ Assembly on 6 September and the National Assembly on 26 September respectively.

<sup>59</sup> AP (30 Oct 11) Suu Kyi holds talks with Myanmar gov’t minister; AP (30 Oct 11) Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Myanmar gov’t minister as hopes high for political breakthrough; Xinhua (30 Oct 11) Myanmar gov’t official, Aung San Suu Kyi meet for 4th round of talks; RFA (30 Oct 11) Suu Kyi Invited to Naypyidaw; VOA (30 Oct 11) Burma Democracy Leader Meets Again with Government Minister; NLM (31 Oct 11) Union Minister U Aung Kyi, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meet, news released after meeting; NLD (31 Oct 11) Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Meets Union Minister U Aung Kyi

<sup>60</sup> AP (30 Oct 11) Suu Kyi holds talks with Myanmar gov’t minister; AP (30 Oct 11) Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Myanmar gov’t minister as hopes high for political breakthrough; Xinhua (30 Oct 11) Myanmar gov’t official, Aung San Suu Kyi meet for 4th round of talks; RFA (30 Oct 11) Suu Kyi Invited to Naypyidaw; VOA (30 Oct 11) Burma Democracy Leader Meets Again with Government Minister; NLM (31 Oct 11) Union Minister U Aung Kyi, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meet, news released after meeting; Irrawaddy (30 Sep 11) Suu Kyi Welcomes Suspension of Myitsone Dam; NLD (30 Sep 11) Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met Union Minister U Aung Kyi; NLD (31 Oct 11) Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Meets Union Minister U Aung Kyi

## HUMAN RIGHTS

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### Regime detains peaceful protesters

On the same day that the Parliament approved a bill that would grant Burmese citizens the right to peacefully assemble and demonstrate,<sup>61</sup> regime authorities cracked down on a peaceful demonstration in Rangoon. On 27 October, police in Rangoon's Botataung Township dispersed about 60 farmers who were holding a peaceful sit-in outside the regime's Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development.<sup>62</sup> The farmers, led by human rights lawyer Pho Phyu, were protesting the confiscation of their land.<sup>63</sup> Police subsequently detained seven protesters, including Pho Phyu, and charged them with unlawful assembly.<sup>64</sup>

### Forced labor continues

- **5 October:** It was reported that Tatmadaw soldiers forced an unknown number of residents of Talawgyi, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, to carry military supplies.<sup>65</sup>
- **11 October:** It was reported that Tatmadaw troops from IB 41 forced villagers in Mongyaw, Lashio Township, Northern Shan State, to build fences, fetch water, and act as sentries.<sup>66</sup>
- **11 October:** Na Sa Ka personnel from Area 5 in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, began to force local villagers to do construction work at a military camp.<sup>67</sup>
- **16 October:** Tatmadaw troops from IB 29 detained 20 residents of Myitkyina and forced them to carry military supplies.<sup>68</sup>
- **22 October:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 522 detained six ethnic Chinese women in Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State, and forced them to carry military supplies.<sup>69</sup>

## DISPLACEMENT

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### Regime displaces 112,000 over the past year

On 25 October, the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) released "Displacement and Poverty in South Eastern Burma," their annual survey of the displacement situation in 14 townships in Shan, Karen, and Karenni States and Tenasserim Division.<sup>70</sup> The report found that:<sup>71</sup>

- Between August 2010 and July 2011, the regime forced at least 112,000 people to leave their homes, an increase of 53% from the 73,000 recorded between August 2009 and July 2010. The 112,000 figure is the highest estimate made in a decade.
- Over 450,000 people remained internally displaced.
- The populations of the nine refugee camps in Thailand also grew steadily. In August 2010, the total number of refugees TBBC assisted increased from 145,713 in August 2010 to 148,908 in July 2011.

### Burmese refugees in Malaysia at risk of repatriation

After the controversial refugee swap deal with Australia, Malaysia announced yet another wayward immigration policy that threatened the safety of the Burmese refugee population.

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<sup>61</sup> NLM (28 Oct 11) Second regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continues for 41st day - Questions raised, one bill discussed, two bills approved and one proposal submitted

<sup>62</sup> Reuters (27 Oct 11) Myanmar police shut down rare protest; Irrawaddy (27 Oct 11) Police Break Up Protest by Burmese Farmers

<sup>63</sup> AFP (27 Oct 11) Myanmar police break up rare land protest; VOA (27 Oct 11) Burmese Police Break Up Rare Public Protest; Irrawaddy (27 Oct 11) Police Break Up Protest by Burmese Farmers

<sup>64</sup> RFA (27 Oct 11) Police Break Up Rare Protest; AFP (28 Oct 11) Police detain seven Myanmarers in land protest; AP (28 Oct 11) Myanmar police charge 7 people for staging rare protest against land confiscation

<sup>65</sup> DVB (05 Oct 11) Army puts ransom on Kachin porters

<sup>66</sup> SHAN (11 Oct 11) Rights abuses persist in ethnic states despite international perception

<sup>67</sup> Kaladan News (13 Oct 11) Burma security force use forced labor in Maungdaw

<sup>68</sup> Kachin News Group (17 Oct 11) Burma Army detains 20 Myitkyina residents as porters

<sup>69</sup> Kachin News Group (24 Oct 11) Burma Army soldiers gang-raped and killed 9 Chinese women

<sup>70</sup> DVB (25 Oct 11) Forced displacement soars in Burma; Irrawaddy (25 Oct 11) Chance for Burma to End Ethnic Conflict: TBBC

<sup>71</sup> DVB (25 Oct 11) Forced displacement soars in Burma

On 17 October, Malaysian Home Affairs Minister Hishammuddin Hussein met regime Deputy FM Maung Myint in Kuala Lumpur.<sup>72</sup> After the meeting, Hishammuddin announced that Malaysia and the regime would implement an exchange program for immigration detainees.<sup>73</sup> As a result, approximately 1,000 Burmese nationals detained in immigration centers across Malaysia would be deported back to Burma.<sup>74</sup> Among those detained are a number of Burmese asylum seekers.<sup>75</sup> It was not immediately clear how many Malaysians detained in Burma would be deported back to their country.<sup>76</sup>

Human rights groups and lawmakers opposed the swap saying that the deportation of Burmese nationals was extremely dangerous given that the regime was still committing widespread human rights abuses.<sup>77</sup> On 18 October, in response to criticisms, Malaysian Home Affairs Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said that Burmese asylum seekers would not be included in the detainee swap.<sup>78</sup>

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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### **India and the regime strengthen cooperation**

Delhi continued to prioritize economic and military ties with Burma over concerns about human rights and democratic reform in the country during President Thein Sein's first official visit to India on 12 -16 October.<sup>79</sup>

On 14 October, Thein Sein met Indian PM Manmohan Singh in Delhi.<sup>80</sup> The two agreed to bolster intelligence sharing to combat insurgency, arms smuggling, and drug trafficking along the Indo-Burma border.<sup>81</sup> Thein Sein pledged not to allow anti-Indian groups to operate from bases in Burma.<sup>82</sup> In a joint statement issued at the end of the visit, Thein Sein also expressed his support for India's bid to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.<sup>83</sup>

In order to strengthened bilateral economic relations, the regime and India also announced several agreements and goals:

- Completion of the Akyab deep-sea port by June 2013.<sup>84</sup>
- Completion of the highway connecting the Kaladan River to India by 2014.<sup>85</sup>
- Extension of a US\$500 million line of credit to Naypyidaw for the development of infrastructure projects focused on irrigation.<sup>86</sup>
- Raising bilateral trade to US\$3 billion by 2015.<sup>87</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> Bernama (17 Oct 11) Malaysia, Myanmar Eye Swapping Immigration Detainees; New Straits Times (18 Oct 11) KL, Myanmar panel to meet on detainee swap; Star (18 Oct 11) Myanmar and Malaysia to swap detainees

<sup>73</sup> Bernama (17 Oct 11) Malaysia, Myanmar Eye Swapping Immigration Detainees; New Straits Times (18 Oct 11) KL, Myanmar panel to meet on detainee swap

<sup>74</sup> Bernama (17 Oct 11) Malaysia, Myanmar Eye Swapping Immigration Detainees

<sup>75</sup> AP (19 Oct 11) Malaysia-Myanmar detainee swap plan raises worries; Free Malaysia Today (18 Oct 11) Outcry over Myanmar-Malaysia detainee swap; DVB (19 Oct 11) Malaysia and Burma plan migrant swap

<sup>76</sup> Bernama (17 Oct 11) Malaysia, Myanmar Eye Swapping Immigration Detainees

<sup>77</sup> Chinland Guardian (19 Oct 11) Malaysia-Burma Detainee Swap Plan Sparks Outrage; Chinland Guardian (21 Oct 11) Possible Deportation and Crackdown Worries Chin Asylum Seekers; Irrawaddy (21 Oct 11) Malaysian Govt Pressured to Suspend Detainee Exchange with Burma; AFP (21 Oct 11) Opposition to Malaysia-Myanmar detainee swap grows; Mizzima News (21 Oct 11) Concern grows for safety of repatriated detainees

<sup>78</sup> Age (20 Oct 11) Malaysia to deport 1000 Burmese; Mizzima News (20 Oct 11) Malaysia-Burma detainee-swap does not include refugees; Chinland Guardian (21 Oct 11) Malaysia Defend Detainee Swap Deal with Burma

<sup>79</sup> Times of India (13 Oct 11) Myanmar President visits Bodh Gaya; DPA (12 Oct 11) Myanmar president visits India; AFP (14 Oct 11) India fetes Myanmar leader with full state honours; Deccan Herald (14 Oct 11) Democracy in Myanmar: India offers help

<sup>80</sup> AP (14 Oct 11) India welcomes Myanmar leader for neighborly talks; DPA (14 Oct 11) Myanmar president to hold talks with Indian leaders; IANS (14 Oct 11) Manmohan holds talks with Myanmar president; IANS (14 Oct 11) India unveils \$500 mn for Myanmar, to expand security ties; DPA (14 Oct 11) India welcomes Myanmar reforms during presidential visit

<sup>81</sup> AP (14 Oct 11) India welcomes Myanmar leader for neighborly talks; DPA (14 Oct 11) Myanmar president to hold talks with Indian leaders; IANS (14 Oct 11) Manmohan holds talks with Myanmar president; IANS (14 Oct 11) India unveils \$500 mn for Myanmar, to expand security ties; DPA (14 Oct 11) India welcomes Myanmar reforms during presidential visit

<sup>82</sup> ANI (14 Oct 11) India, Myanmar to enhance cooperation to tackle terrorism

<sup>83</sup> NLM (16 Oct 11) Myanmar-Indian Joint Statement released

<sup>84</sup> Times of India (14 Oct 11) India seeks to deepen economic ties with Myanmar

<sup>85</sup> Times of India (14 Oct 11) India seeks to deepen economic ties with Myanmar

<sup>86</sup> VOA (14 Oct 11) India, Burma Forge Closer Ties Amid Push for Political Reform; Myanmar Times (10 Oct 11) India trade to hit US\$3 billion: ministers



## ASEAN Chair not a done deal

Regional lawmakers urged ASEAN to delay any decision on whether to grant Burma the 2014 Chair as Indonesia's FM trip traveled to the country to assess the regime's readiness to chair the group.

- **18 October:** The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus (AIPMC) called on current ASEAN chair Indonesia to delay its decision to grant Burma the bloc's Chair for 2014.<sup>88</sup> AIPMC President Eva Sundari said suspending the decision would give the regime two years to show its political commitment to developing a true democracy and for ASEAN to assess the country's progress.<sup>89</sup>
- **28 October:** Indonesian FM Marty Natalegawa began a three-day visit to Burma to assess the country's readiness to chair ASEAN in 2014.<sup>90</sup>
- **29 October:** After meeting with President Thein Sein in Naypyidaw and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Rangoon, Indonesian FM Marty Natalegawa said there were "significant changes" in Burma.<sup>91</sup> Natalegawa said he would make a "full assessment" of Burma's situation after sharing his thoughts with the other ASEAN FMs.<sup>92</sup>

## Yingluck courts regime

On 5 October, Thai PM Yingluck Shinawatra made a one-day visit to Burma, her first since taking office.<sup>93</sup> She met President Thein Sein in Naypyidaw and assured him that Thailand would not allow ethnic armed groups to use its territory as a base to launch operations against the regime.<sup>94</sup> The two sides agreed to address cross-border issues including drug trafficking, protection for Burmese migrant workers, and assistance for Burmese fleeing conflict in ethnic areas.<sup>95</sup> Yingluck requested the regime's continued support for the development of the Tavoy deep-sea port project and the construction of the Tavoy-Kanchanaburi highway.<sup>96</sup> She also requested that the regime reopen the Mae Sot-Myawaddy border crossing.<sup>97</sup>

## Mitchell visits Burma to assess prisoner amnesty

Just over a month after his first trip, on 24 October US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma Derek Mitchell returned to Burma for a two-day visit to assess the political prisoner situation following the regime's mass amnesty.<sup>98</sup> On 24 October, he met FM Wunna Maung Lwin and People's Assembly Speaker Shwe Mann in Naypyidaw.<sup>99</sup> On 26 October, he met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Rangoon.<sup>100</sup> During his visit, Mitchell reiterated the call for the release of all political prisoners.<sup>101</sup>

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<sup>87</sup> VOA (14 Oct 11) India, Burma Forge Closer Ties Amid Push for Political Reform; Myanmar Times (10 Oct 11) India trade to hit US\$3 billion: ministers

<sup>88</sup> Jakarta Post (19 Oct 11) RI told to delay ASEAN decision on Myanmar chair bid; Irrawaddy (19 Oct 11) Delay Asean Decision: AIPMC; RFA (19 Oct 11) ASEAN Urged To Delay Decision

<sup>89</sup> Jakarta Post (19 Oct 11) RI told to delay ASEAN decision on Myanmar chair bid; Irrawaddy (19 Oct 11) Delay Asean Decision: AIPMC

<sup>90</sup> Antara News (28 Oct 11) RI Foreign Minister visiting Myanmar; Jakarta Post (29 Oct 11) FM in Myanmar to check readiness for ASEAN; Irrawaddy (28 Oct 11) Natalegawa Urged to Push Ethnic Issue; Mizzima News (28 Oct 11) Indonesian Foreign Minister arrives in Burma on fact-finding visit

<sup>91</sup> AFP (30 Oct 11) Indonesia hints at support for Myanmar ASEAN chair; NLD (30 Oct 11) NLD General Secretary Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Meets Indonesia Foreign Minister; NLM (30 Oct 11) President U Thein Sein receives Minister of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Indonesia

<sup>92</sup> AFP (30 Oct 11) Indonesia hints at support for Myanmar ASEAN chair

<sup>93</sup> Irrawaddy (05 Oct 11) Talking about the Weather? Thai PM Visits Burma Today; AFP (05 Oct 11) Thai PM meets Myanmar president; NLM (06 Oct 11) President U Thein Sein receives Prime Minister Ms. Yingluck Shinawatra of Kingdom of Thailand

<sup>94</sup> MCOT (10 Oct 11) Thailand, Myanmar agree to strengthen cooperation at all levels; Myanmar Times (10 Oct 11) Thai PM Yingluck makes flying visit

<sup>95</sup> MCOT (10 Oct 11) Thailand, Myanmar agree to strengthen cooperation at all levels; Myanmar Times (10 Oct 11) Thai PM Yingluck makes flying visit

<sup>96</sup> MCOT (10 Oct 11) Thailand, Myanmar agree to strengthen cooperation at all levels; Myanmar Times (10 Oct 11) Thai PM Yingluck makes flying visit

<sup>97</sup> MCOT (10 Oct 11) Thailand, Myanmar agree to strengthen cooperation at all levels; Myanmar Times (10 Oct 11) Thai PM Yingluck makes flying visit

<sup>98</sup> AP (24 Oct 11) US special envoy to Myanmar begins second visit following recent steps toward reform; AFP (24 Oct 11) US envoy on second trip to Myanmar; AFP (25 Oct 11) US envoy calls for prisoners' release in Myanmar; Mizzima News (24 Oct 11) Mitchell, U.S. special representative to Burma, returns again

<sup>99</sup> AFP (25 Oct 11) US envoy meets Suu Kyi in Myanmar; VOA (25 Oct 11) US Burma Envoy Meets Aung San Suu Kyi; AP (26 Oct 11) US special envoy quiet on visit to Myanmar after meetings with government, opposition

## ECONOMY

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### Regime draws China's ire over suspension of Myitsone dam project

China reacted with displeasure over President Thein Sein's 30 September announcement that the regime would suspend the Myitsone dam project [See *September 2011 Burma Bulletin*].

On 1 October, China's Foreign Ministry said that the regime should "guarantee the legal and legitimate rights of Chinese companies," and that issues relating to the project should be resolved through bilateral consultation.<sup>102</sup> On 3 October, Chinese Power Investment President Lu Qizhou threatened legal action to protect his company's investment in the project.<sup>103</sup>

After China's reaction, regime FM Wunna Maung Lwin rushed to Beijing to do damage control. On 10 October, Wunna Maung Lwin met Chinese FM Yang Jiechi and indicated that the regime could reconsider its decision to suspend construction on the Myitsone dam.<sup>104</sup> The two FM's agreed to hold further talks concerning the project's suspension.<sup>105</sup>

The regime's indication that it could reconsider the suspension of the project raised concerns that the construction of the dam would continue in the near future. On 16 October, the Kachin Development Networking Group reported that work on the Myitsone dam project was continuing. The group noted that equipment remained in place and that workers continued to construct a supply road as part of the project.<sup>106</sup>

On 20 October, Vice-President Tin Aung Myint Oo met Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao in Nanning.<sup>107</sup> Tin Aung Myint Oo said that the regime would cooperate with China to find a solution to the issue.<sup>108</sup> However, Wen pointed out that the implementation of Sino-Burma projects conformed to the interests of both sides and urged the regime to fulfill its commitments "to ensure a healthy and smooth growth of economic ties."<sup>109</sup>

## OTHER BURMA NEWS IN OCTOBER

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1	China National Petroleum announces the start of work on Section 4 of the Kyaukpyu-Kunming pipeline in Shan State.
2	Currency exchange counters open in Rangoon's Botataung Township.
2	A coalition of five ethnic political parties releases a statement that calls on the regime to include ethnic political parties and Burmese intellectuals in the recently formed Peace Committee.
3	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi criticizes the South African government for refusing to grant a visa to the Dalai Lama.
4	Regime Election Commission approves the registration of the New National Democracy Party.
4	University of Johannesburg awards Daw Aung San Suu Kyi an honorary doctoral degree.

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RFA (25 Oct 11) US Envoy Meets 'The Lady'; Irrawaddy (25 Oct 11) US Envoy Concludes Second Visit to Burma

<sup>100</sup> AFP (25 Oct 11) US envoy meets Suu Kyi in Myanmar; VOA (25 Oct 11) US Burma Envoy Meets Aung San Suu Kyi; AP (26 Oct 11) US special envoy quiet on visit to Myanmar after meetings with government, opposition

RFA (25 Oct 11) US Envoy Meets 'The Lady'; Mizzima News (25 Oct 11) U.S. special representative to Burma meets with Suu Kyi; Irrawaddy (25 Oct 11) US Envoy Concludes Second Visit to Burma

<sup>101</sup> AFP (25 Oct 11) US envoy calls for prisoners' release in Myanmar

<sup>102</sup> Reuters (01 Oct 11) China calls for talks over shelved Myanmar dam; AP (01 Oct 11) China wants its companies' interests respected after Myanmar halts dam projects; RFA (02 October 11) China Reminds Burma of Obligations; AFP (02 Oct 11) China raps Myanmar over dam project

<sup>103</sup> Irrawaddy (05 Oct 11) Was Dam Decision a Case of 'China Be Damned'?; DVB (04 Oct 11) Chinese dam company warns of legal action

<sup>104</sup> NTDTV (12 Oct 11) Burma Offers to Reconsider Suspension of Chinese-Backed Dam

<sup>105</sup> AP (10 Oct 11) China, Myanmar to discuss suspended dam project; Xinhua (10 Oct 11) China, Myanmar agree to cooperate on suspended joint hydropower project

<sup>106</sup> IMNA (16 Oct 11) Evidence work has not stopped on Myitsone dam: KDNG

<sup>107</sup> Irrawaddy (20 Oct 11) Burmese Vice President Tin Aung Myint Oo Visits China; China Daily (21 Oct 11) Differences over dam won't harm ties: Myanmar VP

<sup>108</sup> China Daily (21 Oct 11) Differences over dam won't harm ties: Myanmar VP

<sup>109</sup> China Daily (21 Oct 11) Differences over dam won't harm ties: Myanmar VP

4	Border Guards of Bangladesh destroy drugs worth nearly 1,800,000 taka (about US\$23,600) smuggled from Burma.
4	Karenni National Development Group urges the regime to suspend construction of three hydropower dams in Karenni State after the Moebye dam causes communities around Loikaw, Karenni State, to flood.
4	US State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland says that Burma needs to do more before the US can consider lifting economic sanctions.
5	MSF confirms that it will end operations in Thailand and expresses “deep concern” about the health of migrant workers in the country.
5	Bangladeshi police arrest three Burmese with 1,300 methamphetamine tablets in Dhaka.
6	Malaysian police detain 77 Burmese migrants off the Pulau Betong coast, Penang.
7	FM Wunna Maung Lwin meets Norwegian Deputy FM Espen Barth Eide in Naypyidaw.
8	Bangladeshi police in Cox’s Bazaar seize 1,500 methamphetamine tablets believed to have been smuggled from Burma.
9	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Norway Deputy FM Espen Barth Eide at her home in Rangoon.
9	About 200 people attend a ceremony to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the founding of the Generation Wave at a temple in Rangoon’s Sanchaung Township.
9	Democratic Karen Buddhist Army forces and Tatmadaw soldiers from IBs 203 and 204 clash near Myawaddy, Karen State.
10	Malaysian Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department Mohamed Nazri Aziz says that Burmese make up about 70% of asylum seekers in the country.
11	President Thein Sein signs the Labor Organizations Bill.
12	A coalition of five ethnic political parties calls on President Thein Sein to immediately and unconditionally release all remaining political prisoners in Burma.
12	Japanese government calls on the regime to speed up the democratic process.
12	Philippine President Benigno Aquino urges the regime to go further with democratic reforms.
13	Over 200 Burmese demonstrate in Delhi to urge visiting President Thein Sein to release all political prisoners and stop the fighting in ethnic areas.
14	Regime Election Commission approves the registration of the Democratic Alliance Party.
14	Regime Election Commission approves the registration of the Party for Unity and Peace.
14	Local regime authorities in Hpakant Township, Kachin State, issue an order that requires local churches to request permission at least 15 days in advance to carry out any religious activity.
15	Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes announces that the regime agreed to repatriate Rohingya from Nayapara and Kutupalong refugee camps.
15	A coalition of five ethnic political parties calls on the regime to release all remaining political prisoners in Burma and urges Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to re-register the NLD and contest the 2015 general elections.
16	Border Guards of Bangladesh in Teknaf arrested two Bangladeshi drug peddlers and seize more than 3,199 methamphetamine tablets believed to have been smuggled from Burma.
16	Tatmadaw soldiers detain five local villagers including a Christian pastor in Nam San Yang Village, Waingmaw Township, Kachin State.
17	US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator on Burma Derek Mitchell says the regime must release more political prisoners and end abuses against ethnic nationalities if it wants to transform its relations with Washington.
18	About 2,000 people, including NLD leaders, politicians, 88 Generation Students, activists, and foreign diplomats attend a ceremony to mark the 49 <sup>th</sup> birthday of detained student leader Min Ko Naing at a monastery in Rangoon’s Insein Township.
18	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pledges to work for the release of Burma’s remaining political prisoners.
18	National Parliament Speaker Khin Aung Myint says that the national budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year will be discussed at the next parliamentary session.
18	International Monetary Fund delegation arrives in Naypyidaw for a nine-day visit to Burma.
18	Tatmadaw soldiers from IB 250 detain five local villagers in Daw Tanaw Village, Pruso Township, Karenni State.
19	Presidential Advisor Ko Ko Hlaing says the regime may “soon” release more political prisoners.
20	Maj Phone Zaw Aung and Maj Aung Aung replace Lt Cdr Lin Naing and Lt-Cdr Yin Tun respectively as military-appointed MP in the Rangoon Division Parliament.
20	Shan State Army-South issues a statement that calls for peace-talks with the regime.
21	Rough seas force 156 boat people en route to Malaysia, including Rohingya, to return to Shapuri Dip, Bangladesh.
21	Japanese FM Koichiro Gamba meets regime FM Wunna Maung Lwin in Tokyo.
21	Two local villagers die after stepping on landmines in Kyaukkyi Township, Pegu Division.
21	Malaysian Defense Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi says that Burma’s regime is keen to acquire military

	equipment from Malaysia.
22	Shwegyin hydropower plant begins operations in Pegu Division.
22	Police in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, arrest a 50-year-old local woman on charges of human trafficking for sending her daughter to Bangladesh to attend a training course with the Burmese exiled organization Rakhine Women's Union.
24	Maj Kyaw Zeya replaces Maj Myint Moe Aung as military-appointed MP in the Shan State Parliament.
25	University of Michigan awards Daw Aung San Suu Kyi the Wallenberg Medal.
25	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets US Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma Derek Mitchell in Rangoon.
25	Police force about 10 local youths to take off their anti-Shwe gas t-shirts during a peaceful protest in Rathidaung, Arakan State.
28	Regime Election Commission removes NDPD Arakan State MP for Buthidaung Constituency 1 Aung Myint aka Zahidolla from office as a result of the election challenge filed by USDP candidate Maung San Shwe.
28	Regime Election Commission declares USDP candidate Maung San Shwe the elected MP for the Arakan State Parliament from Buthidaung Constituency 1.
28	Regime Election Commission removes NDPD Arakan State MP for Buthidaung Constituency 2 Bawshi Ahmed from office as a result of the election challenge filed by USDP candidate Barshi Armad.
28	Regime Election Commission declares USDP candidate Barshi Armad the elected MP for the Arakan State Parliament from Buthidaung Constituency 2.
28	Two Rohingya boat people die en route to Malaysia.
29	As a result of ongoing floods in Bangkok and surrounding provinces 10,000 Burmese migrant workers return to Burma through the border checkpoint in Mae Sot, Tak Province.
31	Ministers of China, Laos, Burma, and Thailand agree to take joint action to crack down on cross-border crime and secure transportation along the Mekong River.

## **REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN OCTOBER**

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**“Burma’s cover up war: Atrocities against the Kachin people”**, Kachin Women’s Association of Thailand (KWAT)

<http://bit.ly/pV2D0m>

**“Situation of human rights in Myanmar”**, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma

<http://bit.ly/pkBkYH>

**“EU annual report on human rights and democracy in the world in 2010”**, European Union (EU)

<http://bit.ly/n8FBk9>

**“Imprisoned for Reporting”**, Centre for Law and Democracy

<http://bit.ly/oTouKw>

**“Displacement and poverty in South East Burma/Myanmar”**, Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC)

<http://bit.ly/uVsw5W>

**“Thailand Migration Report 2011”**, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

<http://bit.ly/pnLCep>

**“Still Poisoned”**, Palaung Women’s Organization (PWO)

<http://bit.ly/sfYqPJ>

**“ASEAN should delay Burma’s chairmanship to help ensure it moves towards democratic transition and peace”**, Burma Partnership (BP)

<http://bit.ly/uIEpwn>

**“Burma’s NHRC: An Empty Gesture”**, Burma Partnership (BP)

<http://bit.ly/rpTaiP>