

BURMA BULLETIN

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- **One year after sectarian violence broke out in Arakan State, Rohingya IDPs continue to face abuses. Regime authorities shoot and kill five Rohingya IDPs in two separate incidents.**
- **The UN slams Naypyidaw over ongoing human rights violations against Rohingya. The European Parliament and the UN Human Rights Council urge the regime to grant citizenship to Rohingya.**
- **The regime jails three more Muslims in connection with incidents that triggered anti-Muslim attacks in Rangoon Division and Shan State. The regime has yet to hold any Buddhists accountable in connection with the violence against Muslims.**
- **Tatmadaw attacks against Kachin Independence Army (KIA) positions in Kachin and Northern Shan States undermine the 30 May agreement to de-escalate hostilities. UN delivers aid to only 8% of Kachin IDPs in KIA-held areas.**
- **The regime arrests three people and sentences 11 to prison terms in connection with various peaceful protests across Burma.**
- **In a show of support for extremist monk U Wirathu, the regime bans the latest issue of Time magazine for a cover portraying U Wirathu as “the face of Buddhist terror.”**
- **Annual US State Department report says trafficking within Burma remains “a significant problem” with the regime failing to investigate, prosecute, or punish officials complicit in trafficking.**
- **The regime awards Qatar’s Ooredoo and Norway’s Telenor two telecoms licenses. The two operators enter a market dominated by three regime-controlled providers in a sector without an independent regulator pending the adoption of a new telecommunications law.**

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KEY STORY

One year on, Rohingya IDPs face ongoing abuses and restrictions

The situation for Rohingya IDPs remained grim one year after the first of several waves of violence broke out in Arakan State. Regime authorities continued to commit serious abuses against Rohingya IDPs, who make up at least 90% of the estimated 140,000 IDPs in Arakan State.

- **4 June:** Police in Parein Village, Mrauk U Township, Arakan State, shot and killed three Rohingya women who were part of a crowd of IDPs who refused to relocate to new shelters provided by regime authorities.¹
- **27 June:** Regime authorities in Pauktaw Township, Arakan State, shot and killed two Rohingya IDPs following a dispute between a group of IDPs and a village leader.²

On 17 June, the UN voiced concern for Rohingya IDPs who continued to face restrictions on their freedom of movement and lacked access to employment, health, and education.³ The UN said that 20,000 predominately Rohingya IDPs of primary school age had no access to formal education and had lost a whole year of schooling.⁴ In addition, UK Minister of State for International Development Alan Duncan, who visited Arakan State on 18-19 June, warned that the rainy season had made conditions worse for Rohingya IDPs and that they may be forced to remain in IDP camps for at least another 12 months.⁵

Rohingya discriminated against; Rakhine resettled from Bangladesh

In June, a regime minister and local Rakhine communities expressed support for a ban on Rohingya having more than two children in Arakan State's Maungdaw and Buthidaung Townships [See *May 2013 Burma Bulletin*].

- **4 June:** About 1,000 people, including Buddhist monks and members of several political parties, rallied in Akyab [Sittwe], Arakan State, to show their support for the 'two-child policy' for Rohingya.⁶ Demonstrators urged regime authorities to extend the policy to the entire state.⁷
- **11 June:** It was reported that regime Immigration and Population Minister Khin Yi backed the 'two-child policy' on Rohingya and claimed that the measure would benefit Rohingya women.⁸

Meanwhile, as significant numbers of Rohingya sought to escape persecution and discrimination by crossing into Bangladesh, the regime continued to encourage the resettlement of Buddhist Rakhine from Southern Bangladesh into model villages in Northern Arakan State.⁹ In June, the regime resettled at least 130 Rakhine to Maungdaw Township, Arakan State.¹⁰ On 13 June, it was reported that regime authorities in Arakan State would consider granting citizenship to Rakhine who fled unrest in Southern Bangladesh.¹¹

UN slams Naypyidaw over human rights violations against Rohingya

- **11 June:** UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana said that there continued to be no accountability for the "widespread and systematic" human rights violations committed against Rohingya in Arakan State.¹² Ojea Quintana also criticized the regime for its ongoing failure to conduct "prompt, thorough, and impartial investigations" into those violations.¹³

¹ AP (05 Jun 13) Myanmar police say 3 Rohingya women killed in confrontation over relocation plan; OHCHR (11 Jun 13) UN Myanmar expert: Fatal shooting of Rohingya women the latest product of impunity; RFA (05 Jun 13) Three Rohingya Women Shot Dead, Several Injured Over Housing Dispute

² UNHCR (28 Jun 13) UNHCR consternation at killing of two IDPs in Myanmar's Rakhine state; Irrawaddy (28 Jun 13) 2 Rohingyas Killed, 6 Injured, For 'Attacking Security Forces'

³ UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar (17 Jun 13) Situation remains bleak one year on for 140,000 people displaced in Rakhine state by inter-communal violence

⁴ UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar (17 Jun 13) Situation remains bleak one year on for 140,000 people displaced in Rakhine state by inter-communal violence

⁵ Independent (20 June 13) Muslim refugees in Burma will be forced to remain in squalid emergency camps for at least 12 months, warns minister Alan Duncan; Narinjara News (20 Jun 13) UK minister pays visit to Arakan's refugee camps

⁶ Irrawaddy (04 Jun 13) Supporters of Two-Child Limit for Rohingya Stage Demonstration in Sittwe; Narinjara News (06 Jun 13) Thousands join rally supporting two-child policy for Muslims

⁷ Irrawaddy (04 Jun 13) Supporters of Two-Child Limit for Rohingya Stage Demonstration in Sittwe; Narinjara News (06 Jun 13) Thousands join rally supporting two-child policy for Muslims

⁸ Reuters (11 Jun 13) Myanmar minister backs two-child policy for Rohingya minority

⁹ Narinjara News (18 Jun 13) 86 Bangladeshi Buddhists arrive in Maungdaw

¹⁰ Narinjara News (18 Jun 13) 86 Bangladeshi Buddhists arrive in Maungdaw

¹¹ EMG (13 Jun 13) Myanmar considers citizenship for Rakhines fleeing Bangladesh

¹² OHCHR (11 Jun 13) UN Myanmar expert: Fatal shooting of Rohingya women the latest product of impunity

¹³ OHCHR (11 Jun 13) UN Myanmar expert: Fatal shooting of Rohingya women the latest product of impunity

- **14 June:** The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) President issued a statement that expressed “deep concern” over the “gross violations of human rights” against Rohingya in Arakan State.¹⁴ The statement also urged the regime to review the 1982 Citizenship Law and grant full citizenship rights to Rohingya.¹⁵
- **19 June:** UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said that the regime’s “widespread and systematic” human rights violations against Rohingya in Arakan State were threatening Burma’s reform process.¹⁶ Pillay also slammed the regime’s ‘two-child policy’ for Rohingya in Arakan State’s Maungdaw and Buthidaung Townships as “blatantly discriminatory” and urged Naypyidaw to immediately rescind the order.¹⁷

More Muslims attacked, jailed

In June, anti-Muslim attacks flared up again. On 30 June, a Buddhist mob torched four Muslim-owned houses in Sandoway [Thandwe] Township, Arakan State, after a rumor spread that a local Rakhine woman had been raped.¹⁸

Meanwhile, the regime sentenced three more Muslims to prison terms in connection with incidents that triggered anti-Muslim attacks in Rangoon Division and Shan State. As of 30 June, the regime had jailed 13 Muslims but no Buddhists in connection with the predominantly anti-Muslim violence that hit Central and Northern Burma beginning in March.

- **5 June:** A court in Taikgyi Township, Rangoon Division, sentenced two Muslim women to two years in prison each on charges of “insulting religion” in relation to the 30 April incident that triggered anti-Muslim attacks in Okkan, Taikgyi Township.¹⁹
- **11 June:** A court in Lashio, Northern Shan State, sentenced a Muslim man to 26 years in prison on various charges, including attempted murder, for the 28 May attack on a Buddhist woman that sparked anti-Muslim violence in the city.²⁰

On 19 June, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay slammed the regime’s failure to bring to justice those involved in anti-Muslim attacks in various parts of Burma and said that the lack of accountability sent out a message that violence directed against Muslim communities was “somehow acceptable or justified.”²¹

Regime backs U Wirathu, bans Time magazine

Time magazine’s portrayal of extremist Buddhist monk U Wirathu as “the face of Buddhist terror” on the cover of its upcoming 1 July issue prompted the regime to defend the monk and ban the magazine’s distribution.

- **23 June:** The President’s Office issued a press release that described U Wirathu as a “noble person” committed to peace and accused Time’s cover story of undermining efforts to rebuild trust between faiths.²²

¹⁴ HRC, 23rd session, Situation of human rights of Muslims in Myanmar, 11 June, UN Doc A/HRC/23/L.26; Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations (14 Jun 13) Press Release

¹⁵ HRC, 23rd session, Situation of human rights of Muslims in Myanmar, 11 June, UN Doc A/HRC/23/L.26

¹⁶ OHCHR (19 Jun 13) Myanmar must tackle discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities – Pillay

¹⁷ OHCHR (19 Jun 13) Myanmar must tackle discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities – Pillay

¹⁸ AP (01 Jul 13) Tense calm returns to western Myanmar after religious violence; 4 houses torched; Reuters (01 Jul 13) Rioters renew violence in Myanmar’s Rakhine State; (Xinhua (01 Jul 13) Curfew imposed on western Myanmar’s Thandwe as unrest sparks

¹⁹ AP (19 Jun 13) Myanmar court convicts 2 Muslims over violence; Irrawaddy (18 Jun 13) Burma Imprisons Two Muslim Women for Sparking Okkan Unrest

²⁰ AP (12 Jun 13) Myanmar Jails Man for Attack That Sparked Rioting; AFP (12 Jun 13) Myanmar man gets 26 years for attack that caused riots; NLM (13 Jun 13) Man sentenced to 26 years for setting woman fire in Lashio; DVB (12 Jun 13) Man behind Lashio riots handed 26 year sentence; Irrawaddy (12 Jun 13) Man Sentenced to 26 Years for Incident That Sparked Lashio Riots; EMG (12 Jun 13) Man who set a woman alight sentenced to 26 years in jail

²¹ OHCHR (19 Jun 13) Myanmar must tackle discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities – Pillay

²² BBC (24 Jun 13) Burmese leader defends ‘anti Muslim’ monk Ashin Wirathu; DVB (24 Jun 13) Burma president backs anti-Muslim ‘hate preacher’ Wirathu; EMG (24 Jun 13) Myanmar government condemns TIME magazine’s July issue

- **24 June:** President Thein Sein's spokesperson Ye Htut dismissed allegations that U Wirathu's sermons instigated anti-Muslim violence.²³
- **25 June:** The regime banned the distribution of the 1 July issue of Time magazine "in order to prevent further racial and religious conflicts."²⁴
- **27 June:** It was reported that regime Religious Affairs Minister Hsan Hsint said that U Wirathu's sermons promoted "love and understanding between religions."²⁵

U Wirathu proposes restrictions on interfaith marriages

On 13-14 June, over 200 Buddhist monks gathered at a monastery in Rangoon Division's Hmawby Township for a conference aimed at discussing ongoing religious violence in Burma.²⁶ At the conclusion of the two-day meeting, the monks issued a statement that appealed for peace but expressed support for the 1982 Citizenship Law and stopped short of condemning anti-Muslim attacks.²⁷

On the first day of the conference, extremist Buddhist monk U Wirathu circulated a draft legislative proposal aimed at introducing restrictions on marriages between Buddhist women and Muslim men.²⁸ According to the document, any Buddhist woman seeking to marry a Muslim man would be required to obtain prior permission from her parents and local authorities.²⁹ The proposed restrictions would also require Muslim men who marry Buddhist women to convert to Buddhism.³⁰ Violators could face up to 10 years in prison.³¹ U Wirathu said they would collect signatures to pressure Parliament to discuss the proposed law.³² On 27 June, over 1,500 senior Buddhist monks from across Burma expressed their support for the proposed restrictions during a meeting at a monastery in Rangoon's Insein Township.³³

Eight Rangoon-based women's rights groups as well as Daw Aung San Suu Kyi slammed U Wirathu's proposals.³⁴ Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that such measures discriminated against women, violated human rights as well as the country's laws, and were contrary to Buddhism.³⁵

INSIDE BURMA

After two years, Kachin conflict rages on

June 9 marked two years since conflict between the Tatmadaw and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) broke out in Kachin State. Despite a 30 May agreement between the regime and the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) to de-escalate hostilities [See *May 2013 Burma Bulletin*], Tatmadaw

²³ DVB (24 Jun 13) Burma president backs anti-Muslim 'hate preacher' Wirathu

²⁴ AP (25 Jun 13) Myanmar bans Time magazine over cover story about monk called 'Face of Buddhist terror'; AFP (26 Jun 13) Myanmar bans Time's 'Buddhist Terror' cover story; DPA (26 Jun 13) Myanmar bans Time magazine issue on 'Buddhist Terror'; EMG (26 Jun 13) Myanmar bans Time's 'The Face of Buddhist Terror' cover story

²⁵ Reuters (27 Jun 13) SPECIAL REPORT-Myanmar gives official blessing to anti-Muslim monks

²⁶ AP (14 Jun 13) Myanmar Buddhist monks call for peace as they conclude meeting on religious tensions; Irrawaddy (13 Jun 13) Monks' Convention in Burma Calls for Restricting Buddhist-Muslim Marriage; EMG (15 Jun 13) Myanmar Buddhist monks make clarification of Buddhism

²⁷ AFP (14 Jun 13) Myanmar monks urge peace after bloodshed; EMG (15 Jun 13) Myanmar Buddhist monks make clarification of Buddhism

²⁸ Irrawaddy (13 Jun 13) Monks' Convention in Burma Calls for Restricting Buddhist-Muslim Marriage; Mizzima News (14 Jun 13) Monks propose restricting interfaith marriages; DPA (21 Jun 13) Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi opposes interfaith marriage proposal; Irrawaddy (17 Jun 13) Monks Conference Calls for Harmony, Criticizes Interfaith Marriage Draft Law; Reuters (27 Jun 13) SPECIAL REPORT-Myanmar gives official blessing to anti-Muslim monks

²⁹ Irrawaddy (13 Jun 13) Monks' Convention in Burma Calls for Restricting Buddhist-Muslim Marriage; Mizzima News (14 Jun 13) Monks propose restricting interfaith marriages; Myanmar Times (21 Jun 13) Monks to amend controversial marriage law

³⁰ Irrawaddy (13 Jun 13) Monks' Convention in Burma Calls for Restricting Buddhist-Muslim Marriage; Myanmar Times (21 Jun 13) Monks to amend controversial marriage law

³¹ Irrawaddy (13 Jun 13) Monks' Convention in Burma Calls for Restricting Buddhist-Muslim Marriage; Mizzima News (14 Jun 13) Monks propose restricting interfaith marriages; Myanmar Times (21 Jun 13) Monks to amend controversial marriage law

³² Irrawaddy (13 Jun 13) Monks' Convention in Burma Calls for Restricting Buddhist-Muslim Marriage; RFA (20 Jun 13) Suu Kyi Blasts Proposed Law on Marriage Restrictions; Irrawaddy (25 Jun 13) U Wirathu to Propose Interfaith Marriage Law Again at Monks' Conference; DPA (21 Jun 13) Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi opposes interfaith marriage proposal

³³ DPA (28 Jun 13) Myanmar monks support restrictions on interfaith marriage; DVB (28 Jun 13) Monk threatens politicians over proposed interfaith marriage ban; Irrawaddy (28 Jun 13) Monks Rally Behind Bill That Would Restrict Interfaith Marriage

³⁴ DPA (18 Jun 13) Myanmar women's groups oppose interfaith marriage proposal; Irrawaddy (17 Jun 13) Monks Conference Calls for Harmony, Criticizes Interfaith Marriage Draft Law

³⁵ RFA (20 Jun 13) Suu Kyi Blasts Proposed Law on Marriage Restrictions; DPA (21 Jun 13) Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi opposes interfaith marriage proposal

attacks against KIA positions in Kachin and Northern Shan States were reported throughout the month. In addition, the Tatmadaw continued to commit abuses against civilians during military operations.

- **8 June:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces at Hka Lum in the Pangasai area of Muse Township, Northern Shan State.³⁶
- **9-10 June:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces in the Pangasai area of Muse Township, Northern Shan State.³⁷
- **14 June:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces in the Mongkoe area of Muse Township, Northern Shan State.³⁸
- **14 June:** Tatmadaw troops forced two villagers from Wing Seng, Muse Township, Northern Shan State, to work as porters on the frontline.³⁹
- **16 June:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces in Loi Hem, Muse Township, Northern Shan State.⁴⁰ More than 100 villagers fled their homes to escape the fighting.⁴¹
- **18 June:** Tatmadaw artillery fire hit three civilian houses in Wing Seng, Muse Township, Northern Shan State.⁴²
- **18 June:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces in Du Hku, Mansi Township, Kachin State.⁴³
- **18 June:** Tatmadaw troops killed a civilian, who had been forced to work as a porter on the frontline from 14 June, during a clash with KIA forces near Loi Sa in Muse Township, Northern Shan State.⁴⁴
- **19 June:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces in Du Hku, Mansi Township, Kachin State.⁴⁵
- **26 June:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces near Hpai Kawng, Muse Township, Northern Shan State.⁴⁶
- **27 June:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with KIA forces in the Pangasai area of Muse Township, Northern Shan State.⁴⁷

The KIO questioned the regime's commitment to the peace process and reiterated its call for political dialogue.⁴⁸ On 23 June, KIO spokesperson La Nan said that KIA forces had clashed with Tatmadaw troops 21 times since the 30 May agreement.⁴⁹

Tatmadaw troops also clashed with the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), an ally of the KIA, in Northern Shan State.

- **14 June:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with TNLA forces in Kutkai Township.⁵⁰
- **15 June:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with TNLA forces near Namhsan.⁵¹
- **18 June:** Tatmadaw troops overran a TNLA outpost in the Nampaka area of Kutkai Township.⁵²
- **19 June:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with TNLA forces in Kutkai Township.⁵³

Limited aid reaches Kachin IDPs

Four months after the regime announced that it would allow the UN and INGOs to provide humanitarian assistance to all IDP camps in Kachin State [See *February 2013 Burma Bulletin*], the UN was finally able to deliver aid to IDPs in Kachin Independence Army (KIA)-controlled areas.⁵⁴ On 12

³⁶ Kachin News Group (12 Jun 13) Clashes between KIO and Burma army continue in Shan state, despite 7 point agreement

³⁷ Kachin News Group (12 Jun 13) Clashes between KIO and Burma army continue in Shan state, despite 7 point agreement

³⁸ Kachin News Group (14 Jun 13) More fighting between KIO and army in Shan state

³⁹ Kachinland News (19 Jun 13) Burmese army's mortar shells hit civilian houses

⁴⁰ Kachin News Group (18 Jun 13) Over 100 villagers in Shan state flee after Tatmadaw and KIA clash

⁴¹ Kachin News Group (18 Jun 13) Over 100 villagers in Shan state flee after Tatmadaw and KIA clash

⁴² Kachinland News (19 Jun 13) Burmese army's mortar shells hit civilian houses

⁴³ Kachinland News (19 Jun 13) Burmese army's mortar shells hit civilian houses

⁴⁴ Kachinland News (19 Jun 13) Burmese army's mortar shells hit civilian houses

⁴⁵ Kachin News Group (21 Jun 13) Burma army and KIA battle in southern Kachin state

⁴⁶ Kachinland News (28 Jun 13) Hundreds of civilians flee as Burmese army continues to battle KIA

⁴⁷ Kachin News Group (27 Jun 13) Burma army and KIA battle for second straight day in Shan state

⁴⁸ AP (23 Jun 13) Myanmar rebel clashes continue despite agreement

⁴⁹ AP (23 Jun 13) Myanmar rebel clashes continue despite agreement

⁵⁰ Irrawaddy (21 Jun 13) Clashes in Shan State Kill 4 Govt Soldiers, Ethnic Militia Claims

⁵¹ Irrawaddy (21 Jun 13) Clashes in Shan State Kill 4 Govt Soldiers, Ethnic Militia Claims

⁵² Kachin News Group (19 Jun 13) Burma army takes post from KIO allied TNLA

⁵³ Irrawaddy (21 Jun 13) Clashes in Shan State Kill 4 Govt Soldiers, Ethnic Militia Claims

⁵⁴ OCHA (19 Jun 13) Myanmar: UN aid convoy crosses Kachin frontlines

June, a UN aid convoy departed Bhamo, Kachin State, to deliver aid to IDPs in camps along the road to Maijayang, Momauk Township, Kachin State.⁵⁵ The UN delivered food, mosquito nets, blankets, and hygiene supplies to more than 4,800 people.⁵⁶ However, this represented only 8% of the estimated 60,000 IDPs sheltering in KIA-held areas.⁵⁷

Tatmadaw attacks continue in Shan State

In June, Tatmadaw troops continued to attack Shan State Army-North (SSA-N) positions in Shan State.

- **5 June:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 501 shot and killed one SSA-N liaison office representative and injured another near Pangkham, Namtu Township, Northern Shan State.⁵⁸
- **7 June:** Tatmadaw troops fired on SSA-N positions in Monghsu Township, Shan State.⁵⁹
- **8 June:** Tatmadaw troops attacked SSA-N forces in Lashio Township, Northern Shan State.⁶⁰
- **20 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 506 attacked SSA-N positions in Loi Kuk, Kyethi Township, Shan State.⁶¹
- **22-23 June:** Tatmadaw troops attacked and overran two SSA-N bases in Wanwap and Ta San Puu Villages, Kyethi Township, Shan State.⁶²
- **24 June:** Tatmadaw troops clashed with SSA-N forces in Wanwap, Kyethi Township, Shan State.⁶³

Amid ongoing clashes in Shan State between the Tatmadaw and the SSA-N, on 10 June, Shan State Army-South (SSA-S) leader Yawd Serk met with President Thein Sein in Naypyidaw.⁶⁴ The two sides discussed the formation of a peace monitoring committee, the repatriation of Shan IDPs and refugees, the issuance of national identity cards, and efforts to establish future political dialogue.⁶⁵ Yawd Serk urged Thein Sein to honor previous agreements signed between the regime and the SSA-S.⁶⁶

Regime and KNPP sign third agreement

In June, the proliferation of ceasefire agreements under President Thein Sein continued. However, substantive issues such as ongoing militarization in ethnic nationality areas and progress towards genuine federalism remain unaddressed. On 19-20 June, a regime delegation led by President's Office Minister Aung Min met with Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) representatives in Loikaw, Karenni State.⁶⁷ On the second day of talks, the two sides signed an eight-point agreement.⁶⁸ It was the third agreement signed between the regime and the KNPP since March 2012. According to the agreement, both sides pledged to continue efforts towards political dialogue and a nationwide ceasefire, establish a 10-member joint peace monitoring committee, coordinate on landmine clearance operations, and coordinate on a pilot project for the resettlement of IDPs in Shadaw Township, Karenni State.⁶⁹

Land confiscation protests continue

Farmers across Burma continued to protest land grabs and campaigned for the return of land confiscated from them by the regime.

⁵⁵ OCHA (19 Jun 13) Myanmar: UN aid convoy crosses Kachin frontlines

⁵⁶ OCHA (19 Jun 13) Myanmar: UN aid convoy crosses Kachin frontlines

⁵⁷ DVB (14 Jun 13) UN convoy delivers aid to IDP camps in rebel territory

⁵⁸ SHAN (13 Jun 13) Shan Army's liaison reps attacked

⁵⁹ SHAN (08 Jun 13) Burma Army, Shan rebels renew clashes

⁶⁰ SHAN (08 Jun 13) Burma Army, Shan rebels renew clashes

⁶¹ SHAN (21 Jun 13) Burma army attacks Shan army base again

⁶² Irrawaddy (26 Jun 13) SSA-North Rebels Says It Lost 2 Bases to Govt Forces

⁶³ SHAN (25 Jun 13) Burma Army engaged in friendly-fire

⁶⁴ NLM (11 Jun 13) Long and difficult period of efforts for national brethren to be finally sitting together at the negotiation table

⁶⁵ Irrawaddy (10 Jun 13) Shan State's RCSS and Thein Sein Meet for Peace Talks; SHAN (12 Jun 13) Shan army chiefs meet Thein Sein for refugee resettlement talks

⁶⁶ DVB (10 Jun 13) Thein Sein, rebel leader hold historic talks in Naypyidaw

⁶⁷ NLM (21 Jun 13) Union Peace-Making Committee, KNPP agree to push ahead with nationwide ceasefire accord

⁶⁸ Xinhua (20 Jun 13) Myanmar gov't, Kayinni armed group sign 8-point agreement

⁶⁹ NLM (21 Jun 13) Union Peace-Making Committee, KNPP agree to push ahead with nationwide ceasefire accord

- **2 June:** About 200 farmers from Mi Chaung Kan Village, Thonegwa Township, Rangoon Division, demonstrated in Rangoon against land confiscation.⁷⁰
- **11 June:** Farmers from Hpa-an Township, Karen State, sent a letter to President Thein Sein to demand the return of 42 plots of land confiscated from them in 1994.⁷¹
- **19 June:** Farmers from Ponnagyun Township, Arakan State, sent an appeal to Arakan State Chief Minister Hla Maung Tin to demand the return of about 120 acres of farmland confiscated from them over the past 15 years.⁷²
- **26 June:** Over 100 farmers gathered in Rangoon's Mingaladon Township to protest the inadequate compensation for the confiscation of 800 acres of land since 2010.⁷³
- **27 June:** Over 200 farmers, mostly from Rangoon's Thingangyun and Mayangone Townships, gathered at Rangoon's Sule Pagoda and called on President Thein Sein to order the return of land confiscated from them in 1991.⁷⁴

HUMAN RIGHTS

Arbitrary arrests and imprisonment on the rise

In June, the regime arrested three people and sentenced 11 to prison terms in connection with various peaceful protests across Burma.

- **1 June:** The Shwebo District Court, Sagaing Division, sentenced activist Aung Soe to 18 months in prison and two farmers to six months in prison under the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law for protesting against the Monywa copper mine in Salingyi Township on 25 April.⁷⁵
- **6 June:** A court in Monywa, Sagaing Division, sentenced activist Myint Aung to one year in prison under the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law for organizing several protests in 2012 against the Monywa copper mine without obtaining the authorities' prior permission.⁷⁶
- **11 June:** Regime authorities in Nattalin Township, Pegu Division, detained activists Myint Myint Aye, Khin Mi Mi Khine, and Thant Zin Htet under the Unlawful Association Act for visiting Pae Ma Khan Village to show support for farmers who plowed land confiscated from them by the military.⁷⁷
- **12 June:** A court in Mandalay's Chan Aye Thazan Township sentenced seven protestors to prison terms ranging from three to 15 months under the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law for demonstrating on 7 August against the relocation of Mandalay's Kinetan market without obtaining the authorities' prior permission.⁷⁸

In addition, the regime threatened to take action against more human rights defenders. On 13 June, the Monywa Township Court issued arrest warrants for Rangoon-based human rights activists Moe Thway, Wai Lu, and Wai Hmuu Thwin under Article 505(b) of the Criminal Code.⁷⁹ Regime authorities accused the three of "inciting unrest" during a 9 May interview in which they criticized the regime's use of an emergency decree to handle protests against the Monywa copper mine.⁸⁰

⁷⁰ AFP (02 Jun 13) Myanmar leader vows to curb poverty

⁷¹ Karen News (20 Jun 13) Phakat village plea to get their land back falls on deaf ears

⁷² Narinjara News (25 Jun 13) Arakanese villagers plead for their farmlands

⁷³ Irrawaddy (27 Jun 13) Farmers Across Burma Ask Thein Sein for Help

⁷⁴ Irrawaddy (27 Jun 13) Farmers Across Burma Ask Thein Sein for Help

⁷⁵ Irrawaddy (03 Jun 13) Anti-Letpadaung Mine Activists Condemn Detained Protesters' Sentences

⁷⁶ Mizzima News (07 Jun 13) Latpadaung activist sentenced to hard labor; EMG (17 Jun 13) More political prisoners in Myanmar these days: political analysts

⁷⁷ Irrawaddy (12 Jun 13) Social Network Activists Arrested After Supporting Farmers in Pegu Division

⁷⁸ EMG (14 Jun 13) Protestors jailed for demonstrating "without permission"; EMG (17 Jun 13) More political prisoners in Myanmar these days: political analysts

⁷⁹ Irrawaddy (20 Jun 13) Sagaing Authorities Seek Arrest of 3 Activists That Criticized Them; Mizzima News (21 Jun 13) Latpadaung activists say they're ready to fight charges

⁸⁰ Irrawaddy (20 Jun 13) Sagaing Authorities Seek Arrest of 3 Activists That Criticized Them; DVB (17 Jun 13) Copper mine activists face prison for 'insulting' police; EMG (17 Jun 13) More political prisoners in Myanmar these days: political analysts; Mizzima News (21 Jun 13) Latpadaung activists say they're ready to fight charges

DISPLACEMENT

Bangladesh arrests and push-backs of Rohingya continue

In June, Bangladeshi authorities continued to arrest and push back Rohingya attempting to flee Arakan State. In addition, on 16 June, a boat en route to Malaysia carrying 28 people, including Rohingya, sank off Cox's Bazaar and at least six boat people drowned.⁸¹

- **3 June:** Border Guards of Bangladesh (BGB) personnel pushed back 11 Rohingya at the border point at Naitaung Para, Teknaf.⁸²
- **10 June:** BGB personnel pushed back 24 Rohingya from Bangladesh's Bandarban District.⁸³
- **10 June:** BGB personnel arrested six Rohingya who were trying to enter Teknaf by crossing the Naff River.⁸⁴
- **16 June:** BGB personnel pushed back 99 Burmese, including Rohingya, at various points along the Burma-Bangladesh border.⁸⁵
- **20 June:** BGB personnel pushed back 19 Rohingya from Cox's Bazaar.⁸⁶
- **25-26 June:** Bangladeshi authorities arrested 11 Rohingya for illegal entry at various points along the Burma-Bangladesh border.⁸⁷

Rohingya subject to inhumane conditions in Thailand

As the six-month deadline of temporary stay for Rohingya asylum seekers set by the Thai government in January approached, details emerged of the conditions under which many were being detained in Southern Thailand. On 4 June, Human Rights Watch urged the Thai government to immediately end the detention under inhumane conditions of more than 1,700 Rohingya asylum seekers.⁸⁸ Human Rights Watch cited video footage which emerged in late May of large numbers of Rohingya men detained in extremely cramped conditions in two cells resembling large cages in an immigration detention facility in Phang Nga Province.⁸⁹ On 28 June, it was reported that since March four Rohingya had died in detention as a result of poor conditions.⁹⁰

Mass arrests of Burmese migrant workers in Malaysia

From 30 May to 7 June, attacks targeting Burmese migrants occurred in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor State, Malaysia.⁹¹ State-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar reported that five Burmese migrants were killed.⁹² It was unclear who perpetrated the attacks, however, some media reports suggested they were linked to recent religious violence in Burma.⁹³ In the space of a few days, Malaysian authorities rounded up and detained around 1,000 Burmese migrants in what turned into a wider crackdown on undocumented Burmese migrant workers in Malaysia.⁹⁴ On 13 June, Malaysian Home Deputy Minister Wan Junaidi Jaafar said that Malaysia had a total of 4,400 Burmese nationals currently in immigration detention and that Burma's regime should work to repatriate them.⁹⁵

⁸¹ Kaladan News (19 Jun 13) More dead bodies recovered in Bay of Bengal

⁸² Kaladan News (06 Jun 13) 11-Rohingya arrested at border

⁸³ Kaladan News (11 Jun 13) 30 more Rohingyas arrested along the Burma-Bangladesh border

⁸⁴ Kaladan News (11 Jun 13) 30 more Rohingyas arrested along the Burma-Bangladesh border

⁸⁵ Narinjara News (17 Jun 13) Bangladesh pushes back 99 Burmese nationals

⁸⁶ Kaladan News (22 Jun 13) Authority crackdown Rohingya in Bangladesh

⁸⁷ Kaladan News (29 Jun 13) 11-Rohingya sent to jail in Bangladesh

⁸⁸ HRW (04 Jun 13) Thailand: End Inhumane Detention of Rohingya

⁸⁹ HRW (04 Jun 13) Thailand: End Inhumane Detention of Rohingya

⁹⁰ IRIN (28 Jun 13) Rohingya detainees in Thailand face dire conditions

⁹¹ NLM (14 Jun 13) Five Myanmar workers dead, six injured in separate attacks in Malaysia; Star (05 Jun 13) Cops pick up more than 1,000 Myanmar as clashes spill over to KL

⁹² NLM (14 Jun 13) Five Myanmar workers dead, six injured in separate attacks in Malaysia

⁹³ Star (13 Jun 13) Myanmar workers clamouring to go home; Irrawaddy (18 Jun 13) 'After These Incidents, Everyone Is Living With Worries'; AP (13 Jun 13) Malaysia warns immigrants from Myanmar not to restart violence that killed 4, caused crackdown

⁹⁴ Star (05 Jun 13) Cops pick up more than 1,000 Myanmar as clashes spill over to KL; Irrawaddy (06 Jun 13) Malaysia Detains Hundreds of Burmese after Reports of Killings; Star (11 Jun 13) Dept probes how Myanmar nationals got fake UNHCR cards

⁹⁵ AFP (14 Jun 13) Malaysia to repatriate Myanmar nationals after clashes

US: Trafficking in Burma “a significant problem”

On 19 June, the US State Department issued its annual “Trafficking in Persons Report 2013,” which ranks countries in four tiers according to their compliance with the minimum standards of the US Trafficking Victim’s Protection Act.⁹⁶ The report found that trafficking within Burma continued to be “a significant problem” and as a result, for the second straight year, Burma was ranked at “Tier 2 Watch List”, the second-lowest ranking.⁹⁷ The report found that various regime practices continued to fuel human trafficking:⁹⁸

- Tatmadaw and regime officials systematically forced men, women, and children into working on state-run infrastructure or commercial projects.
- The regime failed to take adequate steps to prevent the recruitment of child soldiers and did not provide UN monitors with access to military installations in line with the action plan signed with the UN in June 2012 to prevent the recruitment of children by the Tatmadaw.
- The regime failed to investigate, prosecute, or punish any officials involved in human trafficking and there were no reports of investigations or prosecutions of military officials for extracting forced labor from civilians.
- The regime’s ongoing refusal to recognize members of certain ethnic groups, including Rohingya, as citizens, and their failure to provide them with identification documentation, left them vulnerable to trafficking.

Burma is the seventh largest source of refugees worldwide

On 19 June, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) released its annual report “Global Trends 2012.”⁹⁹ The report identified Burma as the world’s seventh largest source of refugees.¹⁰⁰ As of December 2012, 415,300 refugees had originated from Burma.¹⁰¹ Burma was also the seventh largest source of pending asylum claims, with 25,621 cases as of December 2012.¹⁰²

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

European Parliament calls for action on Rohingya

On 13 June, the European Parliament passed a resolution on the situation of Rohingya in Burma’s Arakan State.¹⁰³ In the resolution, the European Parliament condemned the grave violations of human rights and the violence perpetrated against Rohingya and called on the regime to immediately end the abuses and bring perpetrators to justice.¹⁰⁴ It also urged the regime to address the underlying causes of the violence, including the amendment or repeal of the 1982 citizenship law to allow Rohingya equal access to Burmese citizenship.¹⁰⁵

ECONOMY

Workers protest low wages and poor working conditions

Workers at factories across Burma continued to protest low wages and poor working conditions.

⁹⁶ US State Department (19 Jun 13) Trafficking in Persons Report 2013

⁹⁷ US State Department (19 Jun 13) Trafficking in Persons Report 2013

⁹⁸ US State Department (19 Jun 13) Trafficking in Persons Report 2013

⁹⁹ UNHCR (19 Jun 13) Global Trends 2012

¹⁰⁰ UNHCR (19 Jun 13) Global Trends 2012

¹⁰¹ UNHCR (19 Jun 13) Global Trends 2012

¹⁰² UNHCR (19 Jun 13) Global Trends 2012

¹⁰³ European Parliament (13 Jun 13) European Parliament resolution of 13 June 2013 on the situation of Rohingya Muslims (2013/2669(RSP))

¹⁰⁴ European Parliament (13 Jun 13) European Parliament resolution of 13 June 2013 on the situation of Rohingya Muslims (2013/2669(RSP))

¹⁰⁵ European Parliament (13 Jun 13) European Parliament resolution of 13 June 2013 on the situation of Rohingya Muslims (2013/2669(RSP))

- **3-6 June:** Workers at a camera factory in Maymyo Township, Mandalay Division, went on strike over low wages and poor working conditions.¹⁰⁶ They demanded an increase of their monthly salary from 24,000 kyat (US\$25) to 34,000 kyat (US\$35), 24-hour electricity in their living quarters, adequate meals, and proper sanitation.¹⁰⁷
- **9 June:** More than 12,000 striking workers from 30 factories in Rangoon Division gathered in Rangoon's Hlaing Tharyar Township to protest over wages and working conditions.¹⁰⁸ Workers demanded a daily wage of 3,000 kyat (US\$3) and an end to unfair dismissals and mandatory overtime.¹⁰⁹
- **24 June:** It was reported that the Yuzana sugar refinery in Naypyidaw planned to lay off 166 workers who threatened to go on strike over their employer's refusal to meet their demands for an increase of monthly salaries from 50,000 kyat (US\$52) to 85,000 kyat (US\$88).¹¹⁰

On 13 June, it was reported that National Parliament's Commission for Observing Rights of Employees and Employers had conducted fact-finding missions to factories in Rangoon's Hlaing Tharyar, Insein, South Dagon, and Dagon Seikkan Townships and had found that most workers received a basic monthly salary of only 30,000 kyat (US\$31).¹¹¹

Telecoms licenses awarded

On 27 June, the regime awarded Qatar's Ooredoo and Norway's Telenor the two licenses to develop and operate a nationwide mobile network.¹¹² The licenses, valid for 15 years, will be finalized by September.¹¹³ The two operators are expected to face significant challenges. They enter a market dominated by three regime-controlled providers (Myanmar Post Telecommunication, Yatanarpon, and Myanmar Economic Corporation).¹¹⁴ In addition, the sector lacks an independent regulator and is still awaiting the adoption of a new telecommunications law.¹¹⁵

The regime awarded the two licenses despite an eleventh-hour attempt by Parliament to delay the decision. On 26 June, the People's Assembly unanimously adopted a proposal introduced by USDP MP Myo Swe which called for delaying the awarding of the licenses until a new telecommunications law comes into force.¹¹⁶ The draft law has not been made public but is believed to contain a clause requiring telecoms operators to have local partners.¹¹⁷ Under such requirement, neither Ooredoo nor Telenor would have been eligible for the tender.

Burma-China pipeline set to start limited operations

On 3 June, a China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) official said that the Kyaukpyu-Kunming gas pipeline had been completed and that the parallel oil pipeline was 97% complete and scheduled to become operational in September or October.¹¹⁸ Deliveries of gas from offshore fields in the Bay of Bengal were scheduled to begin on 1 July.¹¹⁹ However, on 12 June it was reported that the pipeline wouldn't be fully operational for about three more months due to construction delays in China.¹²⁰

¹⁰⁶ Myanmar Times (17 Jun 13) Hundreds quit Cyber City camera factory

¹⁰⁷ Myanmar Times (17 Jun 13) Hundreds quit Cyber City camera factory

¹⁰⁸ Myanmar Times (17 Jun 13) Workers strike over wage demands

¹⁰⁹ Myanmar Times (17 Jun 13) Workers strike over wage demands

¹¹⁰ Myanmar Times (24 Jun 13) Yuzana seeks permission to fire factory workers

¹¹¹ EMG (13 Jun 13) Exploitation and forced-labour in Yangon's industrial zones

¹¹² WSJ (27 Jun 13) Norway's Telenor, Qatar Telecom Get Myanmar Telecom Licenses

¹¹³ WSJ (27 Jun 13) Norway's Telenor, Qatar Telecom Get Myanmar Telecom Licenses; Myanmar Times (03 Jun 13) Eleven consortiums, two licences

¹¹⁴ Reuters (24 Jun 13) Make or break moment for Myanmar reforms in opaque telecoms sector; AP (26 Jun 13) Myanmar's telecom race enters final stretch

¹¹⁵ AP (26 Jun 13) Myanmar's telecom race enters final stretch; Reuters (24 Jun 13) Make or break moment for Myanmar reforms in opaque telecoms sector; Myanmar Times (03 Jun 13) Uncertainty over law clouds tender;

¹¹⁶ AP (26 Jun 13) Myanmar moves to delay foreign telecom deals; Reuters (26 Jun 13) Myanmar parliament defers telecom licence award -lawmaker; Xinhua (26 Jun 13) Myanmar parliament delays granting telecommunication service operators to foreign investors

¹¹⁷ FT (28 Jun 13) Myanmar telco auction: the good and the bad

¹¹⁸ DPA (03 Jun 13) Myanmar completes 800-kilometre gas pipeline to China

¹¹⁹ DPA (03 Jun 13) Myanmar completes 800-kilometre gas pipeline to China

¹²⁰ Reuters (12 Jun 13) Myanmar gas pipeline complete but cites China delays

According to regime Energy Minister Than Htay, gas that will begin flowing from July will be used domestically until construction in China is completed.¹²¹

Meanwhile, farmers continued to demand compensation for land confiscated for the construction of the dual pipeline. On 19 June, 13 farmers from Kyauk Kha Mauk Village, Kyaukpyu Township, Arakan State, submitted a petition to local regime authorities demanding compensation.¹²²

OTHER BURMA NEWS IN JUNE

1	Thai authorities near Mae Fa Luang, Chiang Rai Province, seize 290,000 methamphetamine pills smuggled from Burma.
1	Regime authorities in Lashio Township, Northern Shan State, shorten the curfew hours from 7pm until 5am to 8pm until 4am.
2	Thai authorities off the coast of Ranong Province recover the bodies of nine Burmese migrants whose boat sank in the area on 31 May.
3	UK Chief of Defense Staff Gen David Richards holds talks with President Thein Sein in Naypyidaw.
4	Australian FM Bob Carr says that Australia will provide an additional A\$1.5 million (US\$1.4 million) in humanitarian aid for IDPs in Arakan State.
4	Minimum Wage Law comes into force.
4	Thai Foreign Ministry says Bangkok is unable to find a third country willing to accept around 2,000 Rohingya detained in Thailand.
4	US-based human rights activists urge President Barack Obama's administration not to grant the Generalized System of Preferences to Burma.
4	Coca-Cola inaugurates the opening of a bottling plant in Hmawby Township, Rangoon Division.
4	President Thein Sein says that all "prisoners of conscience" in Burma will be released "soon."
5	KWAT releases "Pushed to the Brink: Conflict and human trafficking on the Kachin-China border," a report that documents 24 cases of actual or suspected trafficking, predominately involving female IDPs, from Kachin State into China since conflict between the Tatmadaw and the KIA broke out in June 2011.
5	World Economic Forum on East Asia begins in Naypyidaw.
5	ADB, Norway, and the regime unveil a Tourism Master Plan that outlines 38 development projects valued at nearly US\$500 million.
5	Dawei Special Economic Zone Management Committee Chairman Thaug Lwin says that Thailand's Italian-Thai Development will step aside as the developer of the Tavoy SEZ.
5	Oxfam publishes "A new dawn for equitable growth in Myanmar?", a report that says that the regime must close the loopholes in the current laws to ensure that people living and working on the land are protected.
5	UK FCO Senior Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Sayeeda Hussain Warsi says that "independent investigative work" is required to establish whether ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity have been committed in Burma's Arakan State.
5	UK Embassy in Rangoon says that the UK will appoint a permanent defense attaché to Burma in 2013.
6	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi calls for a review of the 1982 Citizenship Law to determine whether it is in line with international norms.
6	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi says that she doesn't seek revenge for the atrocities committed by the former military regime but adds that Burma needs to acknowledge the past in order for the country to move forward.
6	During a meeting in Naypyidaw, regime Energy Minister Than Htay and India's Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma discuss the possibility of building a gas pipeline from Akyab, Arakan State, to India's Mizoram State.
6	Microsoft enters into partnership with Burmese company Myanmar Information Technology for the distribution of its products in the country.
6	ADB releases "New Energy Architecture: Myanmar," a report that says the average rate of electrification in Burma's rural areas is 16%.
6	Regime Energy Deputy Minister Htin Aung says that in the future Burma will only export energy resources after domestic demand has been met.
7	88 Generation Students issue a statement that urges China's state-owned China Power Investment to abandon the Myitsone dam project in Kachin State.
7	UNHCR says that since June 2012, 27,000 people, the majority Rohingya from Arakan State, have set out

¹²¹ Reuters (12 Jun 13) Myanmar gas pipeline complete but cites China delays

¹²² Narinjara News (20 Jun 13) Arakanese farmers demand compensations, submit memorandum

	in boats from Burma and Bangladesh in search of refuge abroad.
7	Twenty-eight civil society and ethnic organizations release a joint-statement calling for a genuine peace, the initiation of political dialogue, and protection and assistance for IDPs in Kachin State.
8	A delegation of MPs led by People's Assembly Speaker Shwe Mann leaves Burma for a goodwill visit to the US.
9	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi says that the absence of rule of law and the lack of infrastructure are holding back foreign investment in Burma.
10	People's Assembly Speaker Shwe Mann announces that he intends to run for Burma's presidency in 2015.
10	Myanmar Airways plane skids off the runway at Kawthaung airport; no injuries reported.
10	Monks who coordinated the Saffron Revolution issue a statement that warns that an unidentified group is seeking to create religious and racial conflicts in order to bring back military rule in the country.
11	Kaladan Movement releases a report that criticizes the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project in Burma's Arakan State as lacking transparency, excluding local people's input, and threatening the environment and livelihoods of 1.2 million people along its route.
11	Fifteen ethnic political parties agree to form the Federal Union Party to contest the 2015 elections during a meeting between the groups in Taunggyi, Shan State.
11	US State Department says the US is deeply concerned over reports that Burma's regime plans to enforce a two-child limit for Rohingya in Arakan State and that it opposes "coercive and discriminatory birth limitations policies."
12	European Union reinstates its Generalized System of Preferences for Burma.
13	Committee to Protect Journalists says there are already signs of backtracking on promised media reforms in Burma.
14	China Power Investment's representatives tell residents of Aung Myin Thar Village, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, that the company plans to resume work on the Myitsone dam project in 2015.
14	Regime Electric Power Ministry resumes 24-hour electricity supply to industrial zones across Burma.
14	US Department of State announces that Washington will provide political support and technical assistance to the regime in order to achieve greater transparency and good governance in Burma's extractive industries.
14	Parliamentary delegation led by People's Assembly Speaker Shwe Mann meets with UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon in New York to discuss the political situation in Burma, possible amendments to the constitution, the peace process, and political prisoners.
15	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Shan State Army-South leader Yawd Serk discuss the peace process, the need to establish a federal system, and drug-related-issues during a meeting at her home in Rangoon.
15	Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque says that Burma has agreed to restart the voluntary repatriation program for Rohingya refugees during annual foreign office consultations in Naypyidaw.
15	Co-founder of Dagon International Win Aung is re-elected as the Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
15	Thirteen-day annual gem emporium begins in Naypyidaw.
15	Regime officials meet with KNU representatives in Rangoon for informal discussions on a ceasefire code of conduct, troop positions, and the establishment of ceasefire monitoring groups.
15	State-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar reports that a total of 889 farmers have received 2.5 billion kyat (US\$2.6 million) in compensation for land confiscation for the expansion of the Monywa copper mine in Salingyi Township, Sagaing Division.
16	Regime-appointed political prisoner verification committee agrees on a list of 155 political prisoners to be forwarded to the President's Office for consideration.
17	ALD and RNPP sign an agreement to merge into a single party called the Rakhine National Party during a meeting between the two parties in Rangoon.
17	Inaugural Burma-EU forum begins in Naypyidaw.
18	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and leaders of five ethnic political parties agree to support Burma's current electoral system and to work towards the establishment of a federal system during a meeting at her home in Rangoon.
18	International Labor Conference adopts a resolution that removes all remaining ILO restrictions on Burma and calls on ILO member states to provide financial support for the elimination of forced labor in the country.
19	HURFOM releases "Bitter Pills: Breaking the Silence Surrounding Drug Problems in the Mon Community," a report that documents the widespread use and trafficking of drugs among Mon communities in Mon and Karen States and the involvement of regime authorities in the drug trade.
20	Twelve Nobel Peace laureates release a joint statement calling for an immediate end to violence against ethnic and religious minorities in Burma.
23	Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi calls for the smooth implementation of major bilateral projects between China and Burma during a meeting with Vice-President Nyan Tun in Naypyidaw.

24	At the end of a three-day party conference, USDP Vice-Chairman Htay Oo says that the party didn't make any decision concerning possible amendments to the 2008 constitution or the current electoral system.
24	Thai food manufacturing company Charoen Pokphand agrees to reinstate around 160 Burmese workers that it fired from its seafood-processing plant in Samut Sakhon Province on 22 June.
24	Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Sr Gen Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu in Moscow.
25	Parliament convenes for its seventh session in Naypyidaw.
25	Regime's Central Supervisory Committee for Registration and Distribution of Printers and Publishers approves five applications for daily newspaper licenses.
25	European Parliament Member Sajjad Karim calls on the EU to exert more political pressure on President Thein Sein to end violence against Rohingya in Arakan State.
26	About 200 farmers and locals gathered outside a police station in Nawngkhio Township, Northern Shan State, to urge the release of farmers who were detained for trying to clear bushes on confiscated land.
26	Regime Election Commission Chairman Tin Aye says there are no plans to hold by-elections for the 15 parliamentary seats that are vacant.
27	Thailand's low-cost carrier Nok Air announces that it will begin direct flights between Thailand's Mae Sot and Moulmein, Mon State, on 1 September.

REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN JUNE

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“**Trafficking in Persons Report 2013 - Burma**”, US State Department <http://1.usa.gov/14jQ6d1>

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“**Myanmar: Humanitarian Bulletin, Issue: 18 April to 31May**”, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) <http://bit.ly/10LdAJk>

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“**A Tentative Peace in Myanmar's Kachin Conflict**”, International Crisis Group (ICG) <http://bit.ly/12nZgrZ>

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“**World Drug Report 2013**”, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) <http://bit.ly/1atNzDo>