

# BURMA BULLETIN

XXXXXXXX A month-in-review of events in Burma XXXXXXXX

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

Issue 90

June 2014

- **Tatmadaw attacks, including those targeting civilians, increase in Kachin and Shan States.**
- **Tatmadaw again violates the two-year-old peace agreement with the Karen National Liberation Army by killing a KNLA soldier and attacking KNLA posts.**
- **A UN official finds Kachin, Arakan IDP camp conditions “appalling”.**
- **The regime uses census data to round up Rohingya identified as ‘Bengali’ and starts a ‘citizenship assessment’ based on 1982 Citizenship Law.**
- **The regime, security forces, and Rakhine extremists persecute Rohingya residents of villages and camps in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State.**
- **The regime raids Rangoon monastery, arrests and disrobes five monks, then backs off.**
- **National Parliament amends the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law to reduce the maximum prison penalty but still requires official permission.**
- **NLD, 88 Generation Peace and Open Society’s constitutional reform campaign gains more support.**
- **The regime sentences five people to prison terms under repressive laws.**
- **Two unidentified males abduct and kill NLD environmental rights defender San Tun.**
- **The regime endorses the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence.**
- **Families forced out of Thilawa SEZ file a complaint in Tokyo with Japan International Cooperation Agency, but SEZ development moves ahead.**
- **Factory workers in Rangoon and Mandalay strike for increased pay and better treatment.**

## KEY STORY

### Tatmadaw attacks increase in Kachin and Shan States

June 9 marked three years since conflict between the Tatmadaw and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) resumed in Kachin State. At the end of May, the Tatmadaw increased militarization in Northern Shan State.<sup>1</sup> Despite a 15 June meeting between the regime and ethnic armed groups’ peacemaking teams in Chiang Mai, Thailand, in June Tatmadaw aggressions increased against the KIA, Shan State Army North (SSA-N), and the Ta’ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) in Kachin and Shan States.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> SHAN (05 Jun 14) Burma Army deploys troops closer to Wa

<sup>2</sup> IMNA (20 Jun 14) UPWC and NCCT Negotiate for Another Round of Peace Talks

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- **1 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 237 at Dum Bau Bum Village fired artillery shells in Mung Hka Village, Southern Kachin State, targeting KIA forces there.<sup>3</sup>
- **2 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LID 77 clashed with TNLA Battalion 527 forces in Pa Hlaing Village, Kyaukme Township, Shan State.<sup>4</sup>
- **3 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LID 88 clashed with TNLA Battalion 478 forces between Nam Seint and San Kar Villages, Namkham Township, Shan State.<sup>5</sup>
- **4 June:** Around 50 Tatmadaw troops from LIB 323 clashed with KIA Battalion 36 forces at Nam Ba Tek, Pang Sai, Muse Township, Shan State.<sup>6</sup>
- **4 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 215 and 217 clashed with KIA Battalion 2 forces in Man Jum valley, between Ta Mung Nye and Maw Han Villages, Kutkai Township, Northern Shan State.<sup>7</sup>
- **4 June:** About 60 Tatmadaw and pro-regime militia group Pyi Tu Tsits troops clashed with TNLA Battalion 478 near Nawng Ang Village, Namkham Township, Shan State.<sup>8</sup>
- **11 June:** Tatmadaw troops began an assault on a SSA-N camp at Red Ruby Mountain, Monghsu, Southern Shan State.<sup>9</sup>
- **15 June:** Tatmadaw deployed troops from LID 66, 88 and 99 in Kachin and Shan States.<sup>10</sup>
- **16 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 323 and regime-backed militia force Pyi Tu Tsits fired two mortar shells at KIA forces in Man Jak Village, Tachilek Township, Northern Shan State.<sup>11</sup>
- **16 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 215 and 217 clashed with KIA Battalion 2 forces in Kawng Sa Village, Namkham Township, Northern Shan State.<sup>12</sup>
- **17 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 103 clashed with KIA Battalion 27 forces in Nam Hka Bum Village, Mansi Township, Southern Kachin State.<sup>13</sup>
- **17 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 323 clashed with KIA Battalion 38 forces in Man Jak Village, Tachilek Township, Northern Shan State.<sup>14</sup>
- **17-18 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LID 88 clashed with KIA Battalion 27 forces in Gaw Ngu Yang Village, Mansi Township, Southern Kachin State.<sup>15</sup>
- **19 June:** Tatmadaw troops gained control of a SSA-N camp at Red Ruby Mountain, Monghsu, Southern Shan State.<sup>16</sup>
- **20 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LID 88 clashed with KIA Battalion 27 forces in Pung Ling Village, Mansi Township, Kachin State.<sup>17</sup>
- **22 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LID 88 clashed with KIA Battalion 27 forces in Dingga Bum Village, Mansi Township, Kachin State.<sup>18</sup>
- **26 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 88 clashed four times with TNLA in Kutkai Township, Shan State.<sup>19</sup>

## Tatmadaw attacks, kills, and displaces civilians in Kachin and Shan States

In June, Tatmadaw troops continued to attack and persecute civilians in Kachin and Shan States.

- **15 June:** Residents fled after Tatmadaw forces burned down a house and opened fire on Ton Pan Village, Kutkai Township, Shan State, after clashing with the TNLA nearby.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Kachinland News (04 Jun 14) Battles Continue in Northern Shan State

<sup>4</sup> Kachinland News (04 Jun 14) Battles Continue in Northern Shan State

<sup>5</sup> Kachinland News (04 Jun 14) Battles Continue in Northern Shan State

<sup>6</sup> Kachinland News (04 Jun 14) Battles Continue in Northern Shan State

<sup>7</sup> Kachinland News (04 Jun 14) Battles Continue in Northern Shan State

<sup>8</sup> Kachinland News (04 Jun 14) Battles Continue in Northern Shan State

<sup>9</sup> SHAN (19 Jun 14) SSA-North loses Mongsu camp to Burma Army

<sup>10</sup> Kachinland News (18 Jun 14) Kachin Volunteers Fight Government Troops

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<sup>14</sup> Kachinland News (18 Jun 14) Kachin Volunteers Fight Government Troops

<sup>15</sup> Kachin News Group (24 Jun 14) Burmese troops and KIA repeatedly clash in southern Kachin state

<sup>16</sup> SHAN (19 Jun 14) SSA-North loses Mongsu camp to Burma Army

<sup>17</sup> Kachin News Group (24 Jun 14) Burmese troops and KIA repeatedly clash in southern Kachin state

<sup>18</sup> Kachin News Group (24 Jun 14) Burmese troops and KIA repeatedly clash in southern Kachin state

<sup>19</sup> EMG (30 Jun 14) Army, TNLA fail to hold talks to curb fighting

<sup>20</sup> Irrawaddy (16 Jun 14) Palaung Villagers Flee Burmese Army Shelling: TNLA

- **15 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LID 88 set up a new post in Nam Jang Gu Dawng Village, between Muse and Namkham Townships, Northern Shan State, and ordered 12 neighboring villages to each supply 50 bamboo poles and 20 hardwood posts.<sup>21</sup>
- **15 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LID 66 ordered residents of three villages in Hpakant Township, Kachin State, to move out by the end of the month, and expelled jade miners without resident IDs to Mogaung Township, Kachin State.<sup>22</sup>
- **16 June:** Tatmadaw LIB 318 troops shot and killed Nbreng Gam Shawng, a 41-year-old Kachin IDP, near Mung Ding Pa Village, Mansi Township, Southern Kachin State.<sup>23</sup>
- **16 June:** A Tatmadaw LIB 88 soldier killed Dashi Gam Seng, a 40-year-old shopkeeper in his shop in Nam San Godaung, on the road between Muse and Namkham Townships, Shan State.<sup>24</sup>
- **17 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 103 fired several mortar shells on Gaw Ngu Yang Village Mansi Township, Southern Kachin State.<sup>25</sup>

### **Tatmadaw breaks Karen National Liberation Army peace agreement**

On 13-14 June, Tatmadaw troops in Tenasserim Division again violated the two-year-old peace agreement with the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) when they killed a KNLA soldier in Karen National Union (KNU)'s territory and attacked a KNLA camp twice.<sup>26</sup> The previous breach took place in January [See *January 2014 Burma Bulletin*].

- **13 June:** Tatmadaw troops from LIB 557 shot and killed a KNLA soldier on his way back from work, stole his rifle and attacked the neighboring KNLA Battalion 11 camp in Huaypha Village, Tavoy [Dawei] Township, Tenasserim Division.<sup>27</sup>
- **14 June:** About 80 Tatmadaw troops from LIB 557 attacked KNLA Brigade 4 at a frontline outpost in Tavoy Township, Tenasserim Division.<sup>28</sup>

### **Kachin, Arakan IDP camp conditions “appalling”**

On 17 June, after a four-day visit to IDP camps in Kachin and Arakan States, UN Assistant Sec-Gen & Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator Kyung-wha Kang said she had “witnessed a level of suffering in IDP camps” that she had never seen before, with people living in “appalling conditions” with severe restrictions on their freedom of movement. She said many people had inadequate access to basic services including health, education, water and sanitation.<sup>29</sup>

On 17 June, it was reported that a two-year-old boy had died from diarrhea complications in a Rohingya IDP camp in Arakan State, after his family was unable to find medical assistance.<sup>30</sup> In June, malaria and dysentery spread in IDP camps in Mantwynegyi Village, Mansi Township, Kachin State.<sup>31</sup>

### **Census data used for Rohingya ‘citizenship assessment’**

On 15 June, the regime began ‘citizenship assessment’ in the Rohingya Taung Paw IDP camp in Myebon Township, Arakan State, for anyone who had identified as ‘Bengali’ in the census.<sup>32</sup> The extended census data collection closed without enumerating Kachin and Arakan populations excluded

<sup>21</sup> Kachinland News (18 Jun 14) Kachin Volunteers Fight Government Troops

<sup>22</sup> Kachinland News (18 Jun 14) Kachin Volunteers Fight Government Troops

<sup>23</sup> Kachinland News (17 Jun 14) Two Kachin Civilians Killed by Burmese Army Soldiers

<sup>24</sup> DVB (21 Jun 14) Kachin family call for Rule of Law, refuse blood money from Burmese commander; Kachinland News (17 Jun 14) Two Kachin Civilians Killed by Burmese Army Soldiers

<sup>25</sup> Kachinland News (18 Jun 14) Kachin Volunteers Fight Government Troops

<sup>26</sup> KIC (17 Jun 14) Ceasefire Under Threat as Burma Army's Attack on Karen Army Kills One and Wounds One; Irrawaddy (17 Jun 14) Trust Shaken as Burma Army Allegedly Attacks Karen Soldiers

<sup>27</sup> KIC (17 Jun 14) Ceasefire Under Threat as Burma Army's Attack on Karen Army Kills One and Wounds One; Irrawaddy (17 Jun 14) Trust Shaken as Burma Army Allegedly Attacks Karen Soldiers

<sup>28</sup> KIC (17 Jun 14) Ceasefire Under Threat as Burma Army's Attack on Karen Army Kills One and Wounds One; Irrawaddy (17 Jun 14) Trust Shaken as Burma Army Allegedly Attacks Karen Soldiers

<sup>29</sup> UNOCHA (17 Jun 14) Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Kyung-Wha Kang Press Remarks on Myanmar

<sup>30</sup> TIME (17 Jun 14) These Aren't Refugee Camps, They're Concentration Camps, and People Are Dying in Them

<sup>31</sup> EMG (30 May 14) Malaria and dysentery spread in Kachin refugee camps

<sup>32</sup> Mizzima News (16 Jun 14) 'Bengalis' being assessed for citizenship, says official; DVB (24 Jun 14) Rohingyas screened to assess citizenship claims

earlier.<sup>33</sup> The ‘assessment’, based on 1982 Citizenship Law, stipulates “anyone who can provide documentary evidence” to prove their families were living in Arakan State before 4 January 1948 would be “eligible to apply to become naturalized citizens”, a version of citizenship that is subject to conditions and that the regime has the right to revoke for any perceived offense.<sup>34</sup>

Arakan State Attorney-General Hla Thein told a press conference in Akyab [Sittwe] that Myebon IDP camp residents were cooperating with the ‘citizenship assessment’. Hla Thein said action would be taken against those who do not qualify as “we cannot allow the illegal settlers in our country”.<sup>35</sup>

On 10 June, regime border guard and Maungdaw Township village administrators began their own ‘census’, causing Rohingya residents of Aley Than Kyaw and Kyeekanpyin Villages to flee.<sup>36</sup> On 21 June, local administrators and regime border guard held two meetings with over 150 Rohingya residents, ordering them to identify as ‘Bengali’ in the survey or face consequences.<sup>37</sup> On 23 June, Maungdaw Township officials threatened to block travel, marriage and bureaucratic processes for Rohingya residents if they did not identify as ‘Bengali’.<sup>38</sup>

### **Discrimination against Rohingya continues**

In Arakan State, regime security forces and extremist Buddhist Rakhine continued discriminatory policies and open attacks on Rohingya communities.

- **3 June:** Maungdaw police declared they would arrest 50 Rohingya from Du Chee Yar Tan Village, Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, apparently over violence that took place in January.<sup>39</sup>
- **5 June:** Riot police burned 25 Rohingya-owned shops in Kyauk Hla Gaar market in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, and arrested the shop owners.<sup>40</sup>
- **6 June:** It was reported that a court had sentenced 13 villagers from Du Chee Yar Tan Village, Maungdaw Township, to seven-year prison terms on 30 May, for their alleged involvement in the 14 January violence in Du Chee Yar Tan Village. Many of the convicted men were over 60 years old.<sup>41</sup>
- **8 June:** About 16 extremist Buddhist Rakhine disguised in police uniforms attacked four Rohingya men in Nwa Yon Daung Village, Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, demanding information about the Rohingya Solidarity Organization.<sup>42</sup>
- **8 June:** Maungdaw Township authorities reportedly enforced an 11pm-4am curfew under the Emergency Act using riot police, police, and Tatmadaw forces to restrict Rohingya movement.<sup>43</sup>
- **22 June:** Tatmadaw soldiers from Marawaddy outpost in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, destroyed several betel farms, the only source of livelihood for several Rohingya families.<sup>44</sup>

## **INSIDE BURMA**

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### **Regime tries to seize monastery land**

On 10 June, the regime Religious Affairs Ministry and riot police raided the Mahasantisukha Monastery in Rangoon’s Tamwe Township, and detained staff and monks.<sup>45</sup> The site is part of an ongoing land dispute between the abbot U Penang Sayadaw, who was away in Japan, and the regime-backed Sangha

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<sup>33</sup> Myanmar Times (02 Jun 14) Ministry closes book on its missing census data; EMG (17 Jun 14) Census stalled in KIO-controlled areas

<sup>34</sup> Irrawaddy (16 Jun 14) Burmese Govt Resumes Citizenship Verification of Rohingyas; Mizzima News (16 Jun 14) ‘Bengalis’ being assessed for citizenship, says official

<sup>35</sup> Narinjara News (18 Jun 14) Muslims of Mray Bon agreed to scrutinize their citizenship rights

<sup>36</sup> EMG (19 Jun 14) Rakhine border survey continues despite resistance

<sup>37</sup> Kaladan News (22 Jun 14) Villagers summoned for meeting about census in Maungdaw

<sup>38</sup> Kaladan News (24 Jun 14) Administration officer harasses villagers to participate in census

<sup>39</sup> Kaladan News (06 Jun 14) 13-villager jailed in Maungdaw

<sup>40</sup> Kaladan News (06 Jun 14) Kyauk Hla Gaar market burnt down in Maungdaw

<sup>41</sup> Kaladan News (06 Jun 14) 13-villager jailed in Maungdaw

<sup>42</sup> Kaladan News (09 Jun 14) 969 members torture sentry men at Maungdaw Township

<sup>43</sup> Kaladan News (13 Jun 14) Maungdaw authority again imposes emergency Act 144

<sup>44</sup> Kaladan News (24 Jun 14) Army destroy betel farms for firewood in Maungdaw

<sup>45</sup> RFA (11 Jun 14) Myanmar Authorities Raid Monastery in Ownership Dispute; DVB (11 Jun 14) Mahasantisukha Monastery raided in Rangoon; Irrawaddy (14 Jun 14) De-robed monks await trial after monastery raid

(the body that oversees Burma's Buddhist clergy).<sup>46</sup> The regime Religious Affairs Ministry authorized the disrobing of five of the detained monks – including a British citizen, U Uttara. All five were charged under Articles 295 to 298 of the Criminal Code for insulting religion.<sup>47</sup>

Immediate censure from political parties, celebrities, civil society organizations, and the UK government forced the regime to back off.<sup>48</sup> On 19 June, regime Religious Affairs Minister Hsan Hsint was sacked.<sup>49</sup> On 20 June, Tamwe Township Court released the five detained monks on bail, after which they returned to the monastery to be re-ordained.<sup>50</sup>

## Parliament's tenth session continues

In June, Parliament continued its tenth regular session. Important developments included:

- **2 June:** The National Parliament approved the **Anti-Terrorism Bill** after accepting some of President Thein Sein's amendments [See *January 2014 Burma Bulletin*].<sup>51</sup>
- **11 June:** The National Assembly approved, by a vote of 117 to 85, a proposal to recommend to the regime Election Commission, a **proportional representation system** for the election of MPs to the National Assembly. The NLD and ethnic minority parties voted against the proposal.<sup>52</sup> On 3 June, National Democratic Force (NDF) MP Khin Waing Kyi introduced the proposal to change from the first-past-the-post to the proportional representation voting system.<sup>53</sup> On 11 June, National Assembly Speaker Khin Aung Myint formed a commission on the subject.<sup>54</sup> The proposed change would require the constitution to be amended. NLD Central Executive committee member Win Myint said the NLD would not support a proportional representation voting system.<sup>55</sup> The Nationalities Brotherhood Federation – an alliance of political parties – also objected because the proposed system would make it difficult for minority parties to win seats.<sup>56</sup>
- **18 June:** The National Parliament approved amendments to **Article 18 of the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law** [See *February 2014 Burma Bulletin*].<sup>57</sup> The new amendments, introduced in November, require local authorities to provide "valid" reasons for refusing permission to would-be protesters, and reduce maximum prison terms for violators from one year to six months.<sup>58</sup>
- **25 June:** The National Parliament approved the **Association Bill** [See *February 2014 Burma Bulletin*]. The new law contains no penalties and enables organizations to apply for registration either at the regional level (30,000 kyat; US\$30) or at the national level (100,000 kyat; US\$100).<sup>59</sup>

## Constitutional review committee holds on to Article 59(f)

On 10 June, the 31-member parliamentary committee tasked with reviewing the compilation of suggested amendments to the constitution said they had decided, by a vote of 26-5, to retain Article 59(f) in the constitution, which bars anyone with a foreign spouse or offspring from running for president. The retention of this provision will effectively ban Daw Aung Suu Kyi from being able to run for president in 2015.<sup>60</sup> The committee's recommendations will go to Parliament for debate and vote.<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> DVB (12 Jun 14) Mahasantisukha monks, supporters will be charged, say religious dept officials

<sup>47</sup> DVB (20 Jun 14) Uttara, Mahasantisukha monks have their day in court

<sup>48</sup> DVB (12 Jun 14) Mahasantisukha monks, supporters will be charged, say religious dept officials

<sup>49</sup> NLM (20 Jun 14) Republic of the Union of Myanmar President Office Order No. 12/2014

<sup>50</sup> AFP (20 Jun 14) Detained British monk freed on bail in Myanmar; DVB (20 Jun 14) Mahasantisukha monks released on bail

<sup>51</sup> NLM (03 Jun 14) Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sends Anti-terrorism Bill to president

<sup>52</sup> NLM (12 Jun 14) Roads of international standards to be built if budget is increased: deputy minister; Irrawaddy (13 Jun 14) Burma's Upper House Votes to Change Electoral System

<sup>53</sup> DVB (05 Jun 14) Burma to consider proportional representation

<sup>54</sup> Irrawaddy (13 Jun 14) Burma's Upper House Votes to Change Electoral System; Myanmar Times (13 Jun 14) Electoral change to be examined by new body

<sup>55</sup> DVB (09 Jun 14) NLD will 'never give false hope to the people', says Suu Kyi

<sup>56</sup> DVB (11 Jun 14) Debate on proportional representation continues in parliament; SHAN (11 Jun 14) Ethnic political party alliance opposes proportional representation system; Myanmar Times (23 Jun 14) Electoral change motion reveals true political colours

<sup>57</sup> NLM (19 Jun 14) Construction plans for more hydropower plants set

<sup>58</sup> Irrawaddy (25 Jun 14) Burma's Parliament Amends Protest Law; DVB (19 Jun 14) Peaceful Assembly Bill passed, now awaits president's signature; Myanmar Times (23 Jun 14) Parliament passes changes to peaceful protest law

<sup>59</sup> Myanmar Times (26 Jun 14) MPs remove punishments from NGO bill

<sup>60</sup> Irrawaddy (12 Jun 14) Parliament Committee Deals Blow to Suu Kyi's Presidential Hopes; AP (13 Jun 14) Myanmar committee's vote a setback for Suu Kyi; Reuters (13 Jun 14) Myanmar panel deals blow to Suu Kyi's chances of becoming president

## Constitutional amendment campaign gains momentum

In June, NLD and 88 Generation Peace and Open Society campaigned across Burma to amend Article 436 of the 2008 constitution. Although Chin and Kachin State authorities rejected the applications to hold public meetings, many people still attended.<sup>62</sup>

- **2 June:** About 300 supporters gathered in Haka, Chin State although authorities refused permission.<sup>63</sup>
- **3 June:** Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses a crowd at a rally in Naypyidaw.<sup>64</sup>
- **8 June:** About 5,000 people attended a rally in Tavoy [Dawei], Tenasserim Division.<sup>65</sup>
- **10 June:** More than 10,000 people attended a rally in Monywa, Sagaing Division.<sup>66</sup>
- **10 June:** People in Mergui, Tenasserim Division, rallied for constitutional amendments.<sup>67</sup>
- **12 June:** About 3,000 people attended the rally in Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Division.<sup>68</sup>
- **14 June:** It was reported that over 1,000 people gathered in Myitkyina, Kachin State, after state authorities refused to allow a rally in Bhamo.<sup>69</sup>
- **21 June:** Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addressed a rally in Taungoo, Pegu Division.<sup>70</sup>
- **29 June:** About 3,000 people attended the rally in Prome Township, Pegu Division.<sup>71</sup>

On 4 June, two more ethnic political parties, Mon National Party and Kayan New Land Party announced their support for the campaign.<sup>72</sup> As of 30 June, the campaign had already gathered more than 3.3 million signatures.<sup>73</sup>

## Drug production continues unabated

Two reports released in June documented an increase in opium poppy cultivation and opium production in Burma. Regime Home Affairs Deputy Minister Brig Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun admitted that Burma's 15-year drug eradication program had failed and needed to be extended another five years.<sup>74</sup>

- **2 June:** The Transnational Institute (TNI) report, "Bouncing Back: Relapse in the Golden Triangle", said China and India's rising heroin demand was pushing poppy cultivation in Burma, and that repressive anti-opium policies had driven hundreds of thousands of families into greater poverty.<sup>75</sup>
- **26 June:** The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)'s "World Drug Report 2014" said that in 2013 opium cultivation and production in Burma were up 13% and 26% respectively from 2012.<sup>76</sup>

## HUMAN RIGHTS

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### More charged, sentenced under restrictive laws

In June, more activists, many protesting against land confiscation, were charged under Article 18.

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<sup>61</sup> RFA (13 Jun 14) Myanmar Parliamentary Panel Against Suu Kyi Vying For President; AP (13 Jun 14) Myanmar committee's vote a setback for Suu Kyi

<sup>62</sup> Irrawaddy (02 Jun 14) State Govt Rejects Hakha Meeting for Charter Change; DVB (16 Jun 14) Charter reform rallies draw ethnic crowds; DVB (30 Jun 14) 2.6 million sign petition for 436 amendment: NLD

<sup>63</sup> DVB (03 Jun 14) NLD moves to Chin State for charter reform rallies

<sup>64</sup> EMG (04 Jun 14) Those opposing charter change oppose democracy - Suu Kyi

<sup>65</sup> EMG (10 Jun 14) NLD turns up heat on military to amend charter

<sup>66</sup> DVB (11 Jun 14) Constitutional reform campaign builds steam

<sup>67</sup> DVB (11 Jun 14) Constitutional reform campaign builds steam

<sup>68</sup> NLM (13 Jun 14) Protestors demand amendment of constitution

<sup>69</sup> DVB (16 Jun 14) Charter reform rallies draw ethnic crowds; DVB (30 Jun 14) 2.6 million sign petition for 436 amendment: NLD

<sup>70</sup> EMG (22 Jun 14) Suu Kyi reminds people about distraction from government puppets

<sup>71</sup> Mizzima News (30 Jun 14) Military uses 2008 Constitution to maintain power, says 88 Generation leader

<sup>72</sup> Myanmar Times (06 Jun 14) Kayan armed group backs NLD campaign; IMNA (12 Jun 14) MNP Join NLD in Calling for Amendment of Article 436

<sup>73</sup> Irrawaddy (30 Jun 14) NLD: Over 3 Million People Join Petition to Amend Charter

<sup>74</sup> Irrawaddy (17 Jun 14) 15-Year Drug Eradication Effort Failed: Minister; Xinhua (18 Jun 14) Poppy production bounces back in Myanmar

<sup>75</sup> TNI (02 Jun 14) Bouncing Back: Relapse in the Golden Triangle

<sup>76</sup> UNODC (26 Jun 14) World Drug Report 2014

- **1 June:** Police in Tavoy [Dawei], Tenasserim Division, filed multiple charges, including assault and the use of obscene language, against 20 farmers for “disturbing” local authorities in a land dispute. On 3 June, police briefly detained the farmers for questioning before releasing them on bail.<sup>77</sup>
- **4 June:** A court in Rangoon’s Kyauktada Township sentenced Movement for Democracy Current Force (MDCF) activist Htin Kyaw to three months in prison for protesting against land confiscation in Thameelay Village, in Rangoon’s Hlegu Township.<sup>78</sup>
- **5 June:** Myitkyina District Court, Kachin State, sentenced three Kachin IDPs: La Ring, Laphai Gum, and Brang Yone, under the Explosives Act to prison terms of three, 13, and 14 years respectively for alleged links to a bomb plot.<sup>79</sup> Since 2013, the three had been serving prison terms under the Unlawful Associations Act for alleged ties to the KIA.<sup>80</sup>
- **10 June:** Shwegu Township Court, Kachin State, sentenced ethnic Kachin village leader Mali Tang to 22 years imprisonment under the Explosives Act for allegedly planning a bomb attack against the Tatmadaw in June 2013.<sup>81</sup>
- **17 June:** Police in Maymyo, Mandalay Division, charged human rights activist Su Su Nway under Article 18 of the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law for organizing an unauthorized protest against land confiscation on 16 June.<sup>82</sup>
- **19 June:** It was reported that local authorities in Maddaya Township, Mandalay Division, had charged a group of farmers under Article 18 of the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law for organizing a plow protest on confiscated land.<sup>83</sup>
- **24 June:** Rangoon’s South Okkalapa Court sentenced MDCF activist Htin Kyaw to six months in prison under Article 505(b) of the Criminal Code for distributing anti-regime pamphlets on 5 May.<sup>84</sup>
- **24 June:** MDCF members Tin Maung Kyi and Zaw Win were tried under Article 505(b) of the Criminal Code, for protesting in Rangoon’s Tamwe, Bahan, and Mingala Taungnyunt Townships.<sup>85</sup>
- **25 June:** Police in Matupi, Chin State, interrogated and charged four activists, Thang Zin, Khin Lwe Parh, Mong Han, and Tate Manh, under Article 18 of the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law for organizing a protest against sexual violence.<sup>86</sup>

## **NLD land rights defender killed**

On 4 June, two unidentified males abducted land rights defender San Tun from his home. San Tun was also the NLD Vice-Chairman for Ming Pyin Village, Hopong Township, Shan State. On 5 June, San Tun’s body was found near his village with bullet holes in the back of his head and wounds on his hands. Three bullet casings and a flashlight were found near his body.<sup>87</sup> San Tun had helped local farmers demand the return of land seized by Tatmadaw troops from LIB 249.<sup>88</sup>

## **Regime commits to ending sexual violence**

On 6 June, Burma became the 150<sup>th</sup> nation to endorse the UK government’s Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.<sup>89</sup> Burma Campaign UK challenged the regime to

<sup>77</sup> DVB (04 Jun 14) Tavoy farmers charged with ‘disturbing’ authorities over disputed land; Mizzima News (04 Jun 14) Land row farmers detained for refusing compensation

<sup>78</sup> EMG (25 Jun 14) Activist gets six more months in prison for leaflet protest

<sup>79</sup> Irrawaddy (06 Jun 14) After Alleged Torture, Three Kachin Men Sentenced for Explosives Offenses; DVB (06 Jun 14) Kachin court slaps jailed IDPs with additional sentences

<sup>80</sup> Irrawaddy (06 Jun 14) After Alleged Torture, Three Kachin Men Sentenced for Explosives Offenses; DVB (06 Jun 14) Kachin court slaps jailed IDPs with additional sentences

<sup>81</sup> Irrawaddy (12 Jun 14) Burma Jails Another Kachin on Explosives Charges

<sup>82</sup> DVB (19 Jun 14) Su Su Nway charged in Mandalay for protesting without permission

<sup>83</sup> DVB (19 Jun 14) Su Su Nway charged in Mandalay for protesting without permission

<sup>84</sup> EMG (25 Jun 14) Activist gets six more months in prison for leaflet protest

<sup>85</sup> EMG (25 Jun 14) Activist gets six more months in prison for leaflet protest

<sup>86</sup> DVB (27 Jun 14) Women activists charged for protesting in Chin State; Khonumthung News (27 Jun 14) District police files lawsuit on four leaders of women and youth

<sup>87</sup> Irrawaddy (06 Jun 14) Local NLD Leader Shot Dead in Shan State; DVB (05 Jun 14) Politician murdered in Taunggyi; VOA (05 Jun 14) Land Rights Activist Murdered in Burma

<sup>88</sup> Irrawaddy (06 Jun 14) Local NLD Leader Shot Dead in Shan State

<sup>89</sup> KIC (09 Jun 14) Burma’s Decision to Sign Sexual Violence Declaration Labeled a ‘PR Exercise’; Myanmar Times (07 Jun 14) Myanmar to sign sexual violence declaration; Irrawaddy (10 Jun 14) Burma Joins Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict; DVB (10 Jun 14) Rape summit aims to ‘shatter impunity’; Mizzima News (11 Jun 14) Myanmar attends summit on ending sexual violence in conflict

immediately publish what concrete actions it would take to implement the Declaration, with the first priority of ending impunity.<sup>90</sup>

On 10-13 June, separate delegations from the regime and civil society attended the Global Summit in London.<sup>91</sup> Karen Women's Empowerment Group director Susanna Hla Hla Soe criticized the regime for failing to take any action to implement CEDAW, although the treaty was ratified 17 years ago.<sup>92</sup>

## **DISPLACEMENT**

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### **Migrant workers face challenges in Thailand and Malaysia**

Following the 22 May coup in Thailand, foreign migrant workers faced difficulties with Thai authorities. The curfew imposed from 22 May till 13 June prevented many from working night shifts.

- **3 June:** In two separate mass arrests, Thai authorities arrested at least 363 Burmese migrant workers in Mae Sot, Thailand.<sup>93</sup>
- **3 June:** It was reported that the Thai junta had closed all unofficial border crossings, forcing workers to swim across rivers to get to work, or risk arrest by using official border crossings.<sup>94</sup>
- **5 June:** Thai authorities arrested 136 undocumented Burmese migrants in Ranong Province, Thailand.<sup>95</sup>
- **11 June:** More than 100 Thai police conducted an extensive door-to-door raid in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and detained at least 81 undocumented Burmese migrant workers.<sup>96</sup>
- **12 June:** It was reported that nearly 1,000 Burmese migrant workers had been detained in Thailand since 3 June.<sup>97</sup>
- **13 June:** Thai authorities deported 52 Burmese migrant workers to Tachilek Township, Shan State.<sup>98</sup>
- **16 June:** Thai junta denied the crackdown on migrant workers, stating that current efforts were in place to keep them "under control".<sup>99</sup>
- **21 June:** After talks with Thai junta leaders, Burma's Ambassador to Thailand Win Maung said that the regime would fully support documented migrant workers in Thailand, but did not mention any efforts to protect undocumented workers.<sup>100</sup>
- **22 June:** Malaysian authorities detained 29 undocumented Burmese migrant workers in Bukit Kayu Hitam Town, Kedah State, on the Thai-Malaysian border.<sup>101</sup>

Earlier talks between the regime and the former Thai government on migrant workers were put on hold. On 25 June, Thailand's National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) announced that some undocumented migrant workers could be granted temporary permits and exemption from deportation or imprisonment, but it remains unclear how individual cases will be handled.<sup>102</sup>

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<sup>90</sup> BCUK (06 Jun 14) Burma Signing Sexual Violence Declaration Should Not Just Be PR Exercise

<sup>91</sup> KIC (09 Jun 14) Burma's Decision to Sign Sexual Violence Declaration Labeled a 'PR Exercise'; Myanmar Times (07 Jun 14) Myanmar to sign sexual violence declaration; Irrawaddy (10 Jun 14) Burma Joins Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict; DVB (10 Jun 14) Rape summit aims to 'shatter impunity'; Mizzima News (11 Jun 14) Myanmar attends summit on ending sexual violence in conflict; DVB (29 Jun 14) Systematic sex crimes: Burma army still uses rape as tool of war

<sup>92</sup> DVB (29 Jun 14) Systematic sex crimes: Burma army still uses rape as tool of war

<sup>93</sup> DVB (07 Jun 14) Thais crack down on illegal Burmese migrants; EMG (14 Jun 14) Thai authorities detain undocumented Myanmar workers

<sup>94</sup> Myanmar Times (10 Jun 14) Thai coup compounds migrants' plight

<sup>95</sup> DVB (07 Jun 14) Thais crack down on illegal Burmese migrants

<sup>96</sup> DVB (12 Jun 14) Thai police raid Burmese neighbourhood in Chiang Mai for illegal migrants; Irrawaddy (25 Jun 14) Burmese Migrants Cite Safety Concerns Amid Crackdown by Thai Junta

<sup>97</sup> EMG (17 Jun 14) 1000 Myanmar workers detained in Thailand

<sup>98</sup> EMG (17 Jun 14) 1000 Myanmar workers detained in Thailand

<sup>99</sup> Xinhua (16 Jun 14) Ruling Thai military dismisses rumored plans to repel Indochinese migrant workers; Bangkok Post (17 Jun 14) Myanmar workers fear blitz: Rumours of a crackdown on foreign labour are spreading far and wide

<sup>100</sup> Irrawaddy (21 Jun 14) 'We Asked Them Not to Arrest Burmese Workers With Valid Documents'

<sup>101</sup> Bernama (23 Jun 14) 29 Myanmar Nationals Nabbed While Trying To Enter Country; New Straits Times (23 Jun 14) Army rounded 29 Myanmar nationals while trying to cross into the country illegally

<sup>102</sup> NLM (27 Jun 14) Thai forms committee to help migrant workers



On 10 June, The Guardian released a landmark investigative report, claiming that Charoen Pokphand, the world's largest prawn producer, uses fishmeal from Thai fishing boats where trafficked migrant workers from Burma and Cambodia work under slave-like conditions.<sup>103</sup>

### **US: Burma ranked at “Tier 2 Watch List” for third consecutive year**

On 20 June, the US State Department issued its annual “Trafficking in Persons Report 2014,” which ranks countries in four tiers according to their compliance with the minimum standards of the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act. The report found that the regime failed to demonstrate overall increasing efforts to combat trafficking from the previous year. As a result, for the third straight year, Burma was ranked at “Tier 2 Watch List”, the second-lowest ranking. The report found that various regime practices continued to fuel human trafficking.<sup>104</sup>

- Tatmadaw officials engaged in the forced conscription of child soldiers and forced men and boys through coercion, threats, and violence to serve in the Tatmadaw.
- Tatmadaw and regime officials systematically forced men, women, and children into working on infrastructure projects or state-run agricultural and commercial projects.
- Military officials involved in extracting forced labor from civilians or the forced recruitment of child soldiers often did so with impunity.
- The regime's ongoing refusal to recognize an estimated 800,000 men, women, and children, the majority of whom were Rohingya, as citizens, and their failure to provide them with identification documentation, left them vulnerable to trafficking.

### **Burma is the sixth largest source of refugees worldwide**

On 20 June (World Refugee Day), the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) released its annual report “Global Trends 2013”. The report identified Burma as the world's sixth largest source of refugees. As of December 2013, 479,600 refugees had originated from Burma. Burma was also the fifth largest source of pending asylum claims, with 45,038 cases filed as of December 2013.<sup>105</sup>

On 10 June, UNHCR stated that from January to April this year, nearly 15,000 people – mostly Rohingya – had fled from Burma on boats, and faced increased exploitation and abuse, particularly from smugglers and traffickers.<sup>106</sup>

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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### **Daw Suu travels to Nepal**

On 13 June, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi began a four-day visit to Kathmandu, Nepal, where she met with Nepali President Ram Baran Yadav, PM Sushil Koirala, FM Mahesh Acharya, and other officials.<sup>107</sup> During a speech at Nepal's Constituent Assembly, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said she wanted to participate in “genuine democratic elections” in a “fair playing ground”. She highlighted the need for countries to stay aware of developments in Burma.<sup>108</sup> On 15 June, Daw Suu received the Dr Dilli Raman Regmi International Peace Award.<sup>109</sup>

### **Border tensions ease between Burma and Bangladesh**

Following the regime border guard's killing of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) Cpl Nayek Mizanur Rahman last month, Burma and Bangladesh held several border security meetings, including their first

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<sup>103</sup> The Guardian (10 Jun 14) Revealed: Asian slave labour producing prawns for supermarkets in US, UK

<sup>104</sup> US State Department (20 Jun 14) Trafficking in Persons Report 2014

<sup>105</sup> UNHCR (20 Jun 14) Global Trends 2013

<sup>106</sup> UNHCR (10 Jun 14) UNHCR concerned about growing abuse as more people sail from Bay of Bengal

<sup>107</sup> Xinhua (13 Jun 14) Myanmar opposition leader visits Nepal; Nepal News (14 Jun 14) Suu Kyi calls on President Yadav; Telegraph Nepal (14 Jun 14) Nepal: Democracy and development must go together, claims Myanmar leader; Nepal News (13 Jun 14) Burmese democracy icon Suu Kyi arrives in Nepal

<sup>108</sup> AFP (15 Jun 14) NLD leader seeks international help to amend constitution

<sup>109</sup> Himalaya Times (15 Jun 14) Suu Kyi says overwhelmed by warm welcome, affection

high-level three-day meeting in Naypyidaw.<sup>110</sup> Regime border guard officials provided information on alleged Rohingya Solidarity Organization (RSO) members in Bangladesh and BGB representatives gave a list of methamphetamine (yaba) factories in Burma.<sup>111</sup> The meeting concluded with a nine-point agreement on border security.<sup>112</sup> On 19 June, it was reported that the BGB had called for an end to illegal Rohingya entry into Bangladesh, claiming several had been found trafficking yaba into the country.<sup>113</sup>

Following the meeting in Naypyidaw, Burma returned several prisoners to Bangladesh:

- **10 June:** Burma returned 30 Bangladeshi prisoners from Buthidaung Prison who had been detained for illegally entering Maungdaw Township, Arakan State.<sup>114</sup>
- **11 June:** Burma handed over Bangladeshi fishermen arrested for fishing in Burma.<sup>115</sup>
- **17 June:** Regime border guard handed over 32 Bangladeshi prisoners who had finished their jail terms to BGB.<sup>116</sup>

## **US, UN, civil society organizations voice concern over draft Religious Conversion Bill**

In June, the US, the UN, and civil society groups continued to denounce Burma's proposed Religious Conversion Bill.

- **11 June:** The US Commission on Religious Freedom (USCIRF) warned that the proposed Religious Conversion Bill would further restrict religious freedom and risked stoking continuing violence and discrimination against religious minorities.<sup>117</sup>
- **11 June:** US State Department expressed serious concerns about the proposed bill.<sup>118</sup>
- **12 June:** Chin Human Rights Organization issued a statement on behalf of 81 civil society groups warning that if adopted, the proposed bill would violate fundamental human rights and could lead to further communal violence.<sup>119</sup>
- **20 June:** Three UN Special Rapporteurs (religion, minority issues, and human rights in Burma) released a joint statement condemning the proposed bill, warning that it might lead to discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities, threaten minority rights, and is incompatible with international human rights standards.<sup>120</sup>

## **ECONOMY**

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### **Thilawa SEZ development continues despite formal complaint**

On 2 June, a delegation representing 1,000 families resettled because of Rangoon's Thilawa SEZ registered a formal complaint against development partner Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in Tokyo, Japan.<sup>121</sup> However, the regime and JICA continued with the SEZ's development:

- **6 June:** US beverage can company Ball Corporation signed the first lease in Rangoon, promising US\$40 million investment in a new plant.<sup>122</sup>

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<sup>110</sup> Xinhua (02 Jun 14) Dhaka rules out anti-Myanmar activities from Bangladesh soil

<sup>111</sup> Dhaka Tribune (13 Jun 14) BGB gives BGP a list of yaba-producing factories

<sup>112</sup> NLM (13 Jun 14) Myanmar, Bangladesh discuss border security issues; DVB (13 Jun 14) Bangladesh, Burma reach agreement on border crisis; EMG (14 Jun 14) Myanmar and Bangladesh to cooperate on border security; Myanmar Times (14 Jun 14) Myanmar, Bangladesh to open crime-fighting border offices

<sup>113</sup> IRIN (19 Jun 14) Bangladesh-Myanmar border tensions pinch desperate Rohingya

<sup>114</sup> EMG (10 Jun 14) Myanmar to release 30 Bangladeshi prisoners

<sup>115</sup> NLM (13 Jun 14) Myanmar, Bangladesh discuss border security issues

<sup>116</sup> Kaladan News (20 Jun 14) BGP hands over 32 Bangladeshi prisoners to BGB; EMG (20 Jun 14) Myanmar frees and repatriates Bangladeshi prisoners

<sup>117</sup> USCIRF (11 Jun 14) USCIRF Deeply Concerned by Draft "Religious Conversion Law" in Burma

<sup>118</sup> US State Department (11 Jun 14) Proposed Legislation on Marriage Restrictions in Burma

<sup>119</sup> CHRO (12 Jun 14) Religious conversion law threatens religious freedom in Burma/Myanmar

<sup>120</sup> UNHRC (19 Jun 14) UN rights experts raise alarm on draft bill imposing restrictions to religious conversion in Myanmar

<sup>121</sup> Japan Times (02 Jun 14) JICA said funding Myanmar evictions; Irrawaddy (03 Jun 14) Thilawa Residents Formally Complain to Tokyo; DVB (06 Jun 14) Displaced Thilawa villagers descend on Tokyo

<sup>122</sup> Kyodo News (07 Jun 14) Myanmar's Thilawa gets first investors; Xinhua (08 Jun 14) Foreign firms start to join SEZ development in Myanmar; EMG (07 Jun 14) US-based Ball Corp to invest in Thilawa SEZ; NLM (07 Jun 14) MJTD allows US Ball Corp. to set up beverage can plant in Thilawa SEZ

- **16 June:** It was reported that 45 companies from 11 countries had submitted investment proposals to the regime.<sup>123</sup>
- **16 June:** Myanmar Ports Authority announced eight tenders for constructing a cargo port and loading dock in Thilawa SEZ.<sup>124</sup>

### Kyaukpyu SEZ development moves forward

In June, investment in the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Arakan State continued as bidding and recruitment began for a development advisory group and investment firms.<sup>125</sup> On 5 June, it was reported that ground surveys had begun for the construction of a 950 km railway linking Kyaukpyu Township with China.<sup>126</sup> The Kyaukpyu SEZ was to be built adjacent to the Kyaukpyu-Kunming oil and gas dual pipeline; however, the site will have to be moved due to the presence of a mud volcano discovered earlier this month located 2 km from the original site.<sup>127</sup>

### Factory workers protest low wages and workers' rights

In June, workers at factories in Rangoon and Mandalay Divisions continued to protest against low wages and for workers' rights.

- **2 June:** Six hundred workers at a textile factory in Rangoon's Shwepyithar Industrial Zone 2 went on strike for higher wages.<sup>128</sup>
- **7 June:** Several hundred employees of Chinese-owned Lucky Treasure woodcutting factory in Sintgaing Township, Mandalay Division, held a workers' rights demonstration over contract disputes. Police arrested 12 protesters for their involvement in the demonstration. The 12 protesters face several charges, including violating Article 505(b) of the Criminal Code.<sup>129</sup>
- **9 June:** Six hundred workers at Li Kyant shoe factory in Rangoon's Hlaing Tharyar Township went on strike to ask for a higher wages, bonuses, and food allowances.<sup>130</sup>

### OTHER BURMA NEWS IN JUNE

1	About 130 people from political parties and civil society organizations protest at the proposed site of the Toyo Thai coal-based power station in Aunden Village, Ye Township, Mon State.
2	The NLD responds to the regime Election Commission's warning letter, denying that the NLD spoke "outside the boundaries of the constitution" as alleged by the regime.
2	Under his Chinese alias Lo Ping Zhong, Steven Law travels to Canada to attend the ASEAN Economic Ministers Roadshow.
3	UNFAO releases its "The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources 2014" report, which lists Burma as one of seven countries which have lost the most forest cover from 1990-2010.
3	Local authorities in Maddaya Township, Mandalay Division, begin evicting villagers and bulldozing squatters' homes after they had been forced onto higher ground by rising floodwaters.
4	HRW releases a statement calling on the regime Election Commission to cease threatening and intimidating the NLD and to drop proposals that would set limits on future election campaigning.
4	In Akyab [Sittwe], UNICEF announces a US\$12 million aid program that will cover seven townships in Arakan State.
4	President Thein Sein tells KNU leaders in Naypyidaw that cooperation will only follow after the ceasefire, while Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Sr Gen Min Aung Hlaing says the Tatmadaw does not want any ethnic groups missing from the ceasefire agreement.
5	Shan Human Rights Foundation says Tatmadaw troops killed at least one civilian and injured five others since mid-April in their offensive in Mansi Township, Kachin State.
5	Dutch aerospace company Fokker Technologies Holding BV is fined \$21 million for selling US-made

<sup>123</sup> EMG (16 Jun 14) Foreign companies show growing interest in Thilawa SEZ

<sup>124</sup> EMG (16 Jun 14) Myanmar invites tenders to build Thilawa ports

<sup>125</sup> China Economy Times (30 May 14) Myanmar develops three SEZs with full speed and Chinese companies should play their role

<sup>126</sup> EMG (05 Jun 14) Survey commences on railway to China

<sup>127</sup> Mizzima News (02 Jun 14) Mud-Volcano moves proposed Kyaukphyu SEZ; EMG (07 Jun 14) Kyaukphyu SEZ to move out of mud volcano effects; Narinjara News (10 Jun 14) Mud volcano may shift SEZ to coastline

<sup>128</sup> Myanmar Times (07 Jun 14) 'Made in Myanmar' to hit US shelves

<sup>129</sup> DVB (09 Jun 14) Woodworkers arrested on march to Mandalay

<sup>130</sup> Mizzima News (12 Jun 14) Footwear factory workers on strike for minimum monthly wage

	goods to Iran, Sudan, and Burma in violation of US trade sanctions.
5	A research center on the Thai-Burma border, Shoklo Malaria Research Unit, identifies a new strain of drug-resistant malaria, and urges pre-emptive action before the disease can spread to Asia and Africa.
6	Regime National Planning and Economic Development Deputy Minister Le Le Thein and Japanese Ambassador to Burma Tateshi Higuchi sign three MoUs to provide funds for the construction of the Thaketa bridge, grants for the Institute of Education, and rural electrification projects.
6	Eight hundred farmers in Nyaungwan Village, Singu Township, Mandalay Division, plow over 3,000 acres of farmland in protest, demanding the return of farmland confiscated by the regime in the 1970s.
6	APR Energy's 100-megawatt power plant in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Division is operational.
6	During peace talks in Rangoon, RCSS and SSA-S demand a repeal of the Unlawful Association Act, which was used to detain a Shan Nationalities League for Democracy member in May.
7	Anti-Muslim extremist Buddhists start a boycott campaign of mobile operator Ooredoo because the company is Qatar-based and Qatar's state religion is Islam.
7	US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker ends her trip to Burma, where she met with President Thein Sein, Vice-President Nyan Tun, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, People's Assembly Speaker Shwe Mann, and representatives from two US corporations.
9	Regime Science and Technology Ministry releases a statement warning that schools can expel students if they are arrested and sentenced by a court "for involvement in political unrest" or "if they lead, incite, support or get involved in political unrest".
9	Kachin Women's Association Thailand releases a statement saying Tatmadaw offenses in Kachin and Shan States undermine the peace process, and that the Tatmadaw used the nationwide census as a pretext for a large scale offensive in Mansi Township in April.
9	Fortify Rights publishes a report, "I Thought They Would Kill Me: Ending Wartime Torture in Northern Myanmar", documenting the regime's systematic use of torture in the past three years.
10	A soldier from LIB 269 attempts to rape a 40-year-old Chin woman in Rezua Town, Matupi Township, Chin State, and severely beats her when she struggles to get away.
10	In Naypyidaw, Japan International Cooperation Agency and regime Construction Ministry sign a US\$4.1 million grant agreement to build a bridge connecting Rangoon Town to Rangoon's Thaketa Township.
11	Hilton Worldwide signs a joint venture with Eden Group Company to open five new hotels and renovate two existing hotels in Burma.
11	AAPP says that at the end of May, there were 60 political prisoners in prison and another 87 awaiting trial.
12	Regime Educational Planning and Training Department and Japan International Cooperation Agency sign a US\$24.5 million grant agreement for the 'Project for Improvement of Education College'.
12	The Kaladan Movement Group, a group of CSOs, urges the regime to incorporate public consultation and stakeholder accountability measures in the US\$21.4 million Kaladan Project.
13	Police in Tachilek Township, Shan State, seize 590,000 methamphetamine tablets worth approximately 1.5 billion kyat (US\$1.5 million).
13	UNDP experts report that Inle Lake, Shan State, already half its former size, could completely dry up within a century if proper environmental protection measures are not enforced.
13	Regime officials tell UN and other aid agency officials to provide aid 'without bias' at a meeting at the Emergency Coordination Center office in Arakan State.
16	Social media threats cause Rangoon Human Rights Human Dignity International Film Festival to cancel the screening of a documentary covering the 2013 anti-Muslim violence in Meikhtila, Mandalay Division.
17	IMF predicts that Burma's economy will grow 8.5% in the current fiscal year while inflation will rise 6.5%, and warns that Burma faces fiscal risks and needs a broad range of policy reforms.
17	The US State Department urges Burma to allow free and open voting in preparation for the 2015 general elections.
17	President Thein Sein's spokesman Ye Htut rejects US calls to promote free and fair elections, saying it is Parliament's responsibility to decide if and when the constitution should be amended.
17	Asia Foundation releases a report, "Natural Resources and Subnational Governments in Myanmar", which finds that Burma has the 41 <sup>st</sup> highest volume of natural gas reserves in the world.
18	President Thein Sein appoints former President's Office Minister Thant Shin as regime Education Deputy Minister.
18	UN Sec-Gen's Special Advisor on Burma Vijay Nambiar says he is frustrated at the lack of significant improvement in the condition of Rohingya IDP camps.
20	Over 100 Chin refugees protest discrimination and exploitation in front of the Delhi UNCHR office, and Delhi Chin Community Fellowship President Tin Duh Thang urges UNHCR to provide safety and legal support to Chin refugees in India.
21	Regime Investment and Company Administration Directorate grants trade licenses to six FDI corporations and four foreign garment manufacturers.
22	Following several regime border guard provocations at the Indian border town of Haolenphai, former

	Indian PM Manmohan Singh states that no land belonging to India will be given to Burma.
22	UNESCO designates Burma's Pyu Kingdom in the Irrawaddy Basin Burma's first World Heritage site and grants it endangered status.
23	The 51 <sup>st</sup> annual Myanmar Gems Emporium begins in Naypyidaw.
24	Authorities release activists Nay Myo Zin and Win Cho from Rangoon's Insein Prison, after serving a three-month sentence under Article 18 of the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law.
24	Regime Defense Deputy Minister Maj Gen Kyaw Nyunt tells the People's Assembly that the Tatmadaw has no plans to return unused land confiscated on Kalegawk Island in 2001.
25	National Parliament approves the President's proposal to appoint regime Religious Affairs Deputy Minister Soe Win as regime Religious Affairs Minister.
25	President Thein Sein appoints Religious Affairs Deputy Minister Soe Win as regime Religious Affairs Minister.
25	Myanmar Interim Press Council releases a statement calling on the regime Home Affairs Ministry's Special Branch police to drop their investigation into the financial records of private news journals.
26	UK MPs hold a parliamentary discussion on Burma and the UK's responsibility to the people of Burma, highlighting Rohingya and Kachin persecution Tatmadaw human rights violations.
30	HRW releases a statement, criticizing anti-Muslim hate speech in Burma, referring to monks calling for a boycott of Ooredoo and threats made to organizers of a film festival in Rangoon.
30	Arakan State Parliament confirms former regime Border Affairs Deputy Minister Maj Gen Maung Maung Ohn's appointment as Arakan State Chief Minister.

## REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN JUNE

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“**Bouncing Back - Relapse in the Golden Triangle**”, Transnational Institute (TNI) <http://bit.ly/1nJtu3G>

“**“I Thought They Would Kill Me”**: Ending Wartime Torture in Northern Myanmar”, Fortify Rights <http://bit.ly/1lhdaDW>

“**The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources 2014**”, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNFAO) <http://bit.ly/1n3bKvi>

“**Myanmar: Capitalizing on Rice Export Opportunities**”, World Bank (WB) <http://bit.ly/1pb59QW>

“**Microfinance for Poverty Alleviation in Myanmar**”, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) <http://bit.ly/UypXbI>

“**Natural Resources and Subnational Governments in Myanmar: Key considerations for wealth sharing**”, Asia Foundation <http://bit.ly/1iGXBi>

“**Women's Participation in the Subnational Governance of Myanmar**”, Asia Foundation <http://bit.ly/T931yx>

“**Ethnic Conflict and Social Services in Myanmar's Contested Regions**”, Asia Foundation <http://bit.ly/1qumGag>

“**UNHCR Global Trends 2013**”, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) <http://bit.ly/1qkyV7f>

“**Trafficking in Persons Report 2014 - Burma**”, US State Department <http://1.usa.gov/1prAtwG>

“**Routes of Extinction: The corruption and violence destroying Siamese rosewood in the Mekong**”, Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) <http://bit.ly/1nC9mMh>

“**World Drug Report 2014**”, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) <http://bit.ly/1sILm15>

“**Monthly Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for May, 2014**”, Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) <http://bit.ly/1nKDxku>

“**Who are the real winners of Myanmar's latest oil and gas block sales? Tackling hidden company ownership in Myanmar**”, Global Witness <http://bit.ly/1sF7s4y>

“**Global Rights Index 2014**”, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) <http://bit.ly/1sWvoQM>