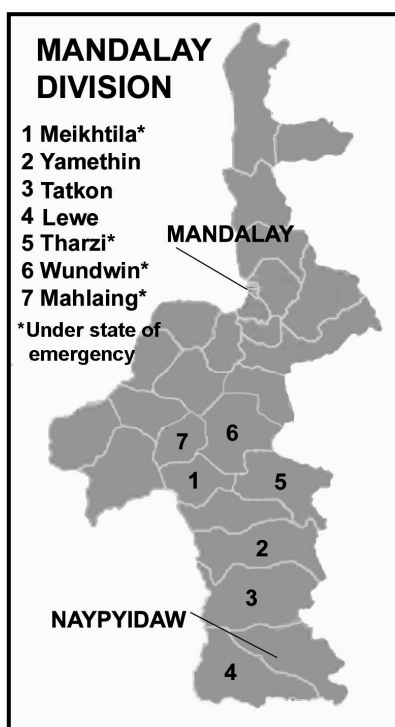




curfew effective from 8pm on 20 March.<sup>4</sup> However, despite the measure, violence continued during the next two days.<sup>5</sup> Rioters, including some Buddhist monks, also attacked and threatened several reporters who were covering the unrest for local and foreign news agencies.<sup>6</sup>



On 21 March, a mob attacked and razed a Muslim school in Mingalar Zayone quarter, Meikhtila. Thirty-two students, aged between 14 and 24, and four teachers were believed to have been killed in the attack.<sup>7</sup> NLD MP Win Htein, who witnessed the attack, said that he saw eight people killed while the police “stood and watched.”<sup>8</sup>

On 22 March, President Thein Sein declared martial law in Meikhtila, Wundwin, Tharzi, and Mahlaing Townships, Mandalay Division.<sup>9</sup> The following day, hundreds of Tatmadaw troops took up positions in key areas in Meikhtila and restored a tense calm in the city.<sup>10</sup>

According to official figures, 44 people had been killed during the violence.<sup>11</sup> As of 9 April, over 8,400 people remained displaced, with 1,174 houses destroyed and 420 houses damaged in and around Meikhtila.<sup>12</sup> At least 13 mosques were destroyed during the unrest in Meikhtila.<sup>13</sup> On 23-24 March, Buddhist mobs set ablaze mosques and predominately Muslim homes in Yamethin, Lewe, and Tatkon Townships, Mandalay Division.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>4</sup> NLM (22 Mar 13) Meikhtila placed under curfew as from 8 pm, 20 March Effective action to be taken against those who led riot; Xinhua (21 Mar 13) Death toll raises to 4 in violence in central Myanmar: official

<sup>5</sup> AFP (22 Mar 13) Mobs roam streets of riot-hit Myanmar town; VOA (22 Mar 13) Buddhist-Muslim Clashes in Burma Continue; Reuters (22 Mar 13) Myanmar riots stoke fears of widening sectarian violence; DVB (22 Mar 13) Martial law declared in Meikhtila as mobs threaten journalists; AP (22 Mar 13) Emergency declared in Myanmar town where riots left 6,000 homeless

<sup>6</sup> EMG (21 Mar 13) Curfew imposed to contain religious riot in Mandalay Region town; NYT (23 Mar 13) Toll Rises as Sectarian Violence in Myanmar Spreads to Nearby Villages; AFP (22 Mar 13) Bodies in streets of riot-hit Myanmar town; AP (22 Mar 13) Death toll rises to 20 in Myanmar riots; DVB (22 Mar 13) Martial law declared in Meikhtila as mobs threaten journalists; Irrawaddy (22 Mar 13) State of Emergency Declared as Death Toll Rises in Meikhtila; RFA (22 Mar 13) Armed Burmese Monks Threaten Journalists in Meikhtila; CPJ (25 Mar 13) Journalists threatened in sectarian violence in Burma; EMG (08 Apr 13) Hardliner blames communists and subversives for Meikhtila riots

<sup>7</sup> PHR (05 Apr 13) Burma's Leaders Should Take Steps to Investigate and Prevent Anti-Muslim Violence; Irrawaddy (09 Apr 13) 32 Students Allegedly Massacred in Recent Meikhtila Violence

<sup>8</sup> Irrawaddy (09 Apr 13) 32 Students Allegedly Massacred in Recent Meikhtila Violence

<sup>9</sup> NLM (23 Mar 13) Declaration of State of Emergency; Xinhua (22 Mar 13) Myanmar President declares state of emergency in Meikhtila after three-day riot; BBC (22 Mar 13) Myanmar declares state of emergency to stem sectarian clashes

<sup>10</sup> Reuters (23 Mar 13) Troops impose uneasy calm on violence-torn Myanmar city; RFA (23 Mar 13) Move to Restore Order in Meikhtila After Violence; VOA (23 Mar 13) Burma Army Patrols Riot-Struck City; AP (23 Mar 13) Myanmar's army takes control of central city, imposing tense calm after violence kills dozens; AFP (23 Mar 13) Soldiers patrol riot-hit Myanmar town; Irrawaddy (23 Mar 13) Army Restores Calm in Meikhtila after Deadly Sectarian Clashes

<sup>11</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs (03 Apr 13) Briefing by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin to the diplomatic corps on record incidents; OCHA (10 Apr 13) Myanmar: Meikhtila inter-communal violence Situation Report No. 4 (as of 9 Apr 2013)

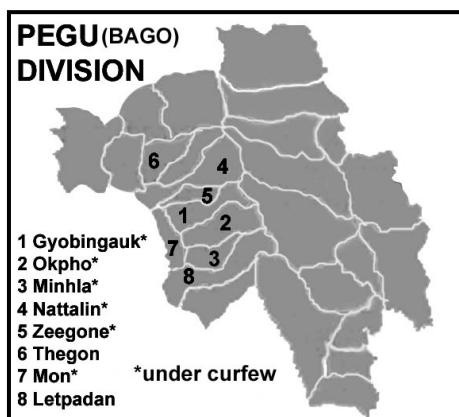
<sup>12</sup> OCHA (10 Apr 13) Myanmar: Meikhtila inter-communal violence Situation Report No. 4 (as of 9 Apr 2013)

<sup>13</sup> RFA (26 Mar 13) Burma Told to Take Swift Action Against Rioters

<sup>14</sup> AP (25 Mar 13) Five mosques and dozens of homes torched in Myanmar; AFP (24 Mar 13) Myanmar communal unrest spreads: officials; Reuters (25 Mar 13) Myanmar government struggles to contain anti-Muslim hostility; RFA (23 Mar 13) Move to Restore Order in Meikhtila After Violence; AP (25 Mar 13) Deadly violence between Myanmar's Buddhists, Muslims spreads to 2 more towns in heartland; AP (24 Mar 13) Buddhist-Muslim violence spreads in Myanmar; Reuters (25 Mar 13) Myanmar government struggles to contain anti-Muslim hostility

## Attacks spread to Pegu Division

Anti-Muslim violence quickly spread from Mandalay Division to eight townships in Pegu Division. From 25 to 28 March, the attacks involved the destruction or ransacking of mosques and Muslim-owned property in Okpho, Gyobingauk, Nattalin, Zeegone, Thegon, Mon, Minhla, and Letpadan Townships.<sup>15</sup> Despite the extensive destruction, no loss of life was reported. The regime imposed a 6pm-6am curfew in Pegu Division's Okpho, Gyobingauk, Nattalin, Zeegone, Mon, and Minhla Townships.<sup>16</sup>



## Rangoon tense

Anti-Muslim violence did not spread to Rangoon. However, the situation in the former capital was tense as rumors swirled of imminent anti-Muslim attacks.<sup>17</sup> The regime dispatched police to areas with a large concentration of Muslim residents.<sup>18</sup> In addition, on 25-26 March, regime authorities ordered businesses in Tamwe, Pazundaung, Mingala Taungnyunt, and Thaketa Townships to close by 9pm.<sup>19</sup>

On 2 April, tensions increased following an early morning fire at a Muslim boarding school in Rangoon's Botataung Township, which killed 13 children.<sup>20</sup> The regime deployed riot police after around 150 Muslims gathered outside the burned building on suspicion that the fire had been deliberately lit.<sup>21</sup> On 3 April, the regime formed a seven-member commission tasked with determining the cause of the fire.<sup>22</sup> After a hastily conducted investigation, on 10 April, Rangoon Division Chief Minister Myint Swe announced the commission's findings.<sup>23</sup> He said that the fire was caused by an "overheated voltage regulator" and that regime authorities would charge two of the school's administrators with negligence.<sup>24</sup> The latest tensions follow an incident on 17 February, when a mob of hundreds of Buddhists viciously attacked an Islamic school in Rangoon's Thaketa Township.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Irrawaddy (26 Mar 13) Govt Vows to End Anti-Muslim Riots, As Fresh Violence Hits Pegu Division; DVB (26 Mar 13) Sectarian violence spreads as mobs target Muslim communities in Pegu; Irrawaddy (26 Mar 13) Govt Vows to End Anti-Muslim Riots, As Fresh Violence Hits Pegu Division; AFP (27 Mar 13) Mob torches mosque in fresh Myanmar unrest: police; Irrawaddy (27 Mar 13) More Anti-Muslim Riots Reported Overnight; DVB (27 Mar 13) Mob assaults mosque, houses in Pegu division; Irrawaddy (27 Mar 13) More Anti-Muslim Riots Reported Overnight; RFA (27 Mar 13) Warning Shots Fired in Bago Clashes; EMG (27 Mar 13) Simultaneous riots break out in western Bago; Irrawaddy (28 Mar 13) Anti-Muslim Attacks Hit Two More Pegu Division Towns; DVB (28 Mar 13) Two more Burma towns under curfew as violence spreads; RFA (28 Mar 13) Burmese Security Forces Fire on Rioters; Irrawaddy (28 Mar 13) Anti-Muslim Attacks Hit Two More Pegu Division Towns; DVB (28 Mar 13) Two more Burma towns under curfew as violence spreads; RFA (28 Mar 13) Burmese Security Forces Fire on Rioters; NLM (29 Mar 13) Strict security measures taken in Minhla, Moenyo; Xinhua (29 Mar 13) Riot intensifies in 3 areas in Myanmar central part

<sup>16</sup> NLM (01 Apr 13) Order restored in Thayawady District

<sup>17</sup> AP (25 Mar 13) Myanmar warns violence could threaten reforms; NYT (25 Mar 13) Worries Over Violence Prompt Shutdown in Myanmar; Irrawaddy (25 Mar 13) After Rumors, Rangoon Muslims Fear Attacks; Xinhua (26 Mar 13) Death toll rises to 40 in Myanmar riot: media; DPA (25 Mar 13) Agitators try to spread sectarian unrest to Yangon, politician says; EMG (26 Mar 13) Jittery township in Yangon unnerved by rumours of mosque attacks

<sup>18</sup> RFA (25 Mar 13) Rangoon Placed on Alert Amid Spreading Riots; DPA (25 Mar 13) Agitators try to spread sectarian unrest to Yangon, politician says

<sup>19</sup> Xinhua (26 Mar 13) Death toll rises to 40 in Myanmar riot: media; AFP (26 Mar 13) Death toll from Myanmar unrest hits 40: state media; AP (26 Mar 13) Death toll from Myanmar religious riots up to 40; Xinhua (26 Mar 13) Myanmar extends shop business hours restriction to more townships; Xinhua (26 Mar 13) Myanmar extends shop business hours restriction to more townships

<sup>20</sup> Xinhua (02 Apr 13) 13 children confirmed killed in mosque school fire in Myanmar's Yangon

<sup>21</sup> AP (02 Apr 13) Electrical fire kills 13 children at Yangon mosque that sheltered orphans, Myanmar police say

<sup>22</sup> NLM (03 Apr 13) Formation of Investigation Team

<sup>23</sup> NLM (11 Apr 13) Findings of investigation committee over Yekyaw mosque fire briefed

<sup>24</sup> DVB (11 Apr 13) Government to prosecute two administrators following school fire

<sup>25</sup> DVB (21 Feb 13) Religious attack in Rangoon wreaks havoc on local community; Myanmar Times (25 Feb 13) Building sealed after violent religious clashes in Yangon

## **Thein Sein warns of “use of force”**

The regime publicly vowed to adopt tough measures against rioters. On 28 March, in a televised address to the nation, President Thein Sein blamed “political opportunists and religious extremists” for sowing hatred between faiths and warned that he would “not hesitate to use force as a last resort” to quell religious violence.<sup>26</sup> On 30 March, President Thein Sein appointed five regime ministers and five deputy ministers to a 10-member committee responsible for tackling the ongoing violence.<sup>27</sup> On 3 April, FM Wunna Maung Lwin said that regime authorities had arrested 142 people for their alleged involvement in the unrest.<sup>28</sup>

Despite the overwhelmingly anti-Muslim nature of attacks perpetrated by Buddhist mobs, the regime was quick to jail Muslim suspects. On 11 April, a court in Meikhtila sentenced a Muslim shop owner, his wife, and an employee to 14 years in prison each for assault and theft after an altercation at their gold shop in Meikhtila on 20 March sparked anti-Muslim riots.<sup>29</sup>

## **Regime authorities fail to intervene**

***“We received an order to do nothing but extinguish fires. Obedience is more important than anything else in our service.”*** A junior police officer in Meikhtila.<sup>30</sup>

Disturbing accounts emerged of the extent of the anti-Muslim violence and the regime’s inability, or unwillingness, to control it. Police stood by as mobs rampaged through Meikhtila’s Muslim quarter, apparently awaiting orders on how to respond.<sup>31</sup> NLD MP Win Htein, who witnessed an attack on a Muslim school in Meikhtila’s Muslim quarter, said that he saw eight people killed while the police “stood and watched.”<sup>32</sup> Anti-Muslim violence continued with impunity despite the imposition of curfews in several areas.

The inaction of regime authorities mirrored their response to the June 2012 unrest in Arakan State, during which security forces failed to stop the early violence and subsequently became actively involved in rampant human rights abuses against the Muslim Rohingya population.<sup>33</sup>

## **UN cites possible regime complicity**

The UN also cited several troubling aspects of the violence, including possible regime complicity. On 26 March, UN Sec-Gen’s Special Advisor on Burma Vijay Nambiar said that Muslims were “clearly targeted” during the violence and that the attacks were carried out with “brutal efficiency.”<sup>34</sup> On 28 March, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana said that he had received reports of “state involvement in some acts of violence.”<sup>35</sup> Ojea Quintana also said that the regime had “not done enough” to address the

<sup>26</sup> AP (28 Mar 13) Myanmar’s president says force could be used to end unrest; NLM (29 Mar 13) As a nation it is our firm belief that only an inclusive democratic society based on equality for all citizens will ensure peace and stability, especially in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-faith country such as ours

<sup>27</sup> NLM (31 Mar 13) Formation of Central Management Committee for Emergency Period

<sup>28</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs (03 Apr 13) Briefing by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin to the diplomatic corps on record incidents

<sup>29</sup> Reuters (12 Apr 13) Myanmar court jails Muslim shop owners after anti-Muslim riots

<sup>30</sup> NYT (29 Mar 13) Kristallnacht in Myanmar

<sup>31</sup> NYT (29 Mar 13) Kristallnacht in Myanmar

<sup>32</sup> Irrawaddy (09 Apr 13) 32 Students Allegedly Massacred in Recent Meikhtila Violence

<sup>33</sup> HRW (05 Jul 12) Burma: Mass Arrests, Raids on Rohingya Muslims; AI (19 Jul 12) Abuse Against Myanmar’s Rohingya Erodes Recent Progress; Equal Rights Trust (02 Jul 12) Burning Homes, Sinking Lives: A situation report on violence against stateless Rohingya in Myanmar and their refoulement from Bangladesh ; VOA (20 Jul 12) Report: Rights Abuses Persist Against Burmese Muslims ; Al Jazeera (08 Aug 12) ‘Mass graves’ for Myanmar’s Rohingya

<sup>34</sup> VOA (26 Mar 13) UN Official Says Muslims Targeted in Burma

<sup>35</sup> OHCHR (28 Mar 13) Religious violence in Myanmar, the consequences of Government inaction in tackling prejudice and discrimination – UN expert

spread of discrimination and prejudice against Muslim communities across the country or to tackle the “organized mobs” that incited hatred and attacked Muslim communities.<sup>36</sup>

### **Int'l community expresses concern, calls for regime to take action**

The international community expressed serious concern over the religious violence in Central Burma. While ASEAN was conspicuous only for its silence on the issue, other international actors called on the regime to restore order, protect communities, and address the underlying causes of the violence.

- **21 March:** UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Burma Ashok Nigam said he was “deeply concerned” over violence in Meikhtila Township, Mandalay Division, and called on political and religious leaders to calm the situation and for all sides to exercise “tolerance and restraint.”<sup>37</sup>
- **21 March:** UK FCO Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Alistair Burt said the UK was “deeply concerned” over violence in Meikhtila Township, Mandalay Division, and called on the regime to take action to protect civilians and work with communities to address underlying issues.<sup>38</sup>
- **23 March:** EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton called on all parties concerned to end the violence in Mandalay Division and for the regime to protect all civilians and investigate the underlying causes of the violence.<sup>39</sup>
- **26 March:** UN Sec-Gen’s Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng urged the regime to promote reconciliation and tolerance between communities in Burma and take measures to prevent any further escalation of the violence.<sup>40</sup>
- **26 March:** The US State Department said it was “deeply concerned” over violence in Central Burma and urged the regime to “restore order and maintain peace” while respecting human rights and due process.<sup>41</sup>
- **1 April:** The Malaysian Foreign Ministry said it was concerned over the violence in Central Burma and called on all parties to refrain from actions that would aggravate the situation.<sup>42</sup>

In addition, three other Muslim-majority countries, as well as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), issued statements regarding the violence. Turkey and Iran called on the regime to take action to end the violence in Meikhtila, protect Muslims, and apprehend the perpetrators.<sup>43</sup> The Egyptian Foreign Ministry expressed concern over the “systematic targeting” of Muslims during the violence in Central Burma and called on the regime to enforce the rule of law, hold perpetrators to account, and protect the lives and properties of Muslims in Burma.<sup>44</sup> On 14 April, the OIC described the violence against Muslims in Burma as “unacceptable” and called on the regime to allow an OIC ministerial delegation to visit the country.<sup>45</sup> The OIC also urged the UN Human Rights Commission to dispatch a fact-finding mission to Burma.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> UN News Center (28 Mar 13) Myanmar authorities must do more to stop spread of violence – UN independent expert

<sup>37</sup> UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Myanmar (21 Mar 13) Statement on unrest in Meikhtila by Ashok Nigam, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Myanmar

<sup>38</sup> UK FCO (21 Mar 13) Foreign Office expresses deep concern over violence in Burma

<sup>39</sup> EU (23 Mar 13) Statement by the spokesperson of EU High Representative Catherine Ashton on the violent clashes in the town of Meikhtila town in Burma/Myanmar

<sup>40</sup> VOA (26 Mar 13) UN Official Says Muslims Targeted in Burma

<sup>41</sup> KUNA (26 Mar 13) US “deeply concerned” about anti-Muslim violence in Myanmar

<sup>42</sup> Bernama (02 Apr 13) Only Essential Travel To Myanmar’s Mandalay, Bago Divisions - Malaysian Embassy

<sup>43</sup> FNA (23 Mar 13) Iran Voices Concern about Fresh Clashes in Myanmar; Anadolu Agency (23 Mar 13) Turkey calls on Myanmar to act against violence on Muslims

<sup>44</sup> Daily News (01 Apr 13) Egypt condemns renewed violence against Muslims in Myanmar

<sup>45</sup> AFP (15 Apr 13) OIC urges Myanmar to allow delegation

<sup>46</sup> AFP (15 Apr 13) OIC urges Myanmar to allow delegation

## Buddhist monk U Wirathu and '969' spearhead anti-Muslim campaign

In recent months, the so-called '969' movement has fueled anti-Muslim sentiment in Burma. The three numbers which make up the movement's name each refer to the attributes of Buddha, his teachings, and the Sangha (Buddhist monkhood).<sup>47</sup> The movement has become a symbol evoking Buddhist nationalism and solidarity and has urged Buddhists to shun Muslim businesses.<sup>48</sup> '969' stickers and materials were widely circulated in Meikhtila, Mandalay Division, and areas of Pegu Division in the lead-up to the recent violence.<sup>49</sup> Following the anti-Muslim attacks, it was reported that the number 969 had been spray-painted on partially destroyed Muslim-owned buildings in Meikhtila, Mandalay Division, and Pegu Division.<sup>50</sup>

The group's reputed leader, 45-year-old Buddhist monk U Wirathu, is an abbot in Mandalay's Masoeyein Monastery. He is known for his nationalistic, xenophobic, and anti-Muslim views.<sup>51</sup> U Wirathu has described himself as the "Burmese Bin Laden" whose "militancy is vital to counter aggressive expansion by Muslims".<sup>52</sup> In 2003, the military regime jailed U Wirathu for inciting anti-Muslim violence near Meikhtila.<sup>53</sup> He was released in January 2012 during one of the regime's mass releases of prisoners.<sup>54</sup> In September 2012, U Wirathu led an anti-Rohingya protest in Mandalay.<sup>55</sup> U Wirathu claimed the protest was held in order to condemn the "terrorism of Rohingya Bengalis" and to let the world know that the Rohingya were not a recognized ethnic group in Burma.<sup>56</sup>

Although U Wirathu denied playing a role in the recent anti-Muslim violence, he repeatedly made hateful and inflammatory comments.<sup>57</sup> In a late-February speech, U Wirathu warned Buddhists in Burma against buying from Muslim shops because, he contended, the money spent would empower "evil Muslims" to destroy the Buddhist "race and religion."<sup>58</sup> In early April, he wrote of a Muslim "conspiracy" to take over Burma.<sup>59</sup> He also referred to mosques as "enemy bases" and warned that Muslims were diluting Burma's Buddhist identity.<sup>60</sup> Revered former Buddhist monk U Gambira labeled U Wirathu "dangerous" and said that the regime should "take action against him."<sup>61</sup>

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<sup>47</sup> Irrawaddy (02 Apr 13) Nationalist Monk U Wirathu Denies Role in Anti-Muslim Unrest

<sup>48</sup> Independent (09 Apr 13) 'They stood shouting at us to come out and be killed': Anti-Muslim violence in central Burma has left thousands of people homeless

<sup>49</sup> The Straits Times (10 Apr 13) 969 'behind sectarian violence'; Myanmar Times (10 Apr 13) Monks speak out against misuse of '969'

<sup>50</sup> Irrawaddy (30 Mar 13) Root Out the Source of Meikhtila Unrest; Reuters (08 Apr 13) SPECIAL REPORT - Buddhist monks incite Muslim killings in Myanmar

<sup>51</sup> Reuters (08 Apr 13) SPECIAL REPORT - Buddhist monks incite Muslim killings in Myanmar

<sup>52</sup> DVB (25 Feb 13) Controversial monk handed 'freedom of religion' award

<sup>53</sup> BBC (04 Apr 13) What is behind Burma's wave of religious violence?; Reuters (08 Apr 13) SPECIAL REPORT - Buddhist monks incite Muslim killings in Myanmar

<sup>54</sup> Irrawaddy (4 Apr 13) Student Activist on Trial for Alleged Role in Anti-Muslim Riots

<sup>55</sup> AFP (03 Sep 12) Monks rally in support of plan to deport Rohingya

<sup>56</sup> AFP (03 Sep 12) Monks rally in support of plan to deport Rohingya

<sup>57</sup> BBC (04 Apr 13) What is behind Burma's wave of religious violence?

<sup>58</sup> Global Post (27 Mar 13) Myanmar's '969' crusade breeds anti-Muslim malice

<sup>59</sup> DVB (04 Apr 13) In riots' wake, govt charges alleged member of nationalist movement

<sup>60</sup> Reuters (08 Apr 13) SPECIAL REPORT - Buddhist monks incite Muslim killings in Myanmar

<sup>61</sup> Reuters (08 Apr 13) SPECIAL REPORT - Buddhist monks incite Muslim killings in Myanmar

## Anti-Muslim violence in Central Burma: chronology of events

**20 March:** An argument between a Muslim shop owner and two Buddhist customers in Meikhtila, Mandalay Division, escalated and triggered riots that quickly spread to several areas of the city.<sup>62</sup>

**22 March:** President Thein Sein declared martial law in Meikhtila, Wundwin, Tharzi, and Mahlaing Townships, Mandalay Division.<sup>63</sup>

**23 March:** A mob torched a mosque and over 40 houses, most of which belonged to Muslims, in Yamethin Township, Mandalay Division.<sup>64</sup>

**23 March:** A mob set fire to a mosque and several buildings in Lewe Township, Mandalay Division.<sup>65</sup>

**24 March:** About 20 men destroyed a mosque and four houses in Tatkon Township, Mandalay Division.<sup>66</sup>

**24 March:** Mandalay Division Chief Minister Ye Myint said that there were “people or organizations working behind the scenes” to incite religious violence in Burma.<sup>67</sup>

**25 March:** A mob of about 200 people destroyed a mosque and about 60 houses belonging to Muslims in Okpho Township, Pegu Division.<sup>68</sup>

**25 March:** A mob damaged a mosque and about 30 houses in a Muslim quarter in Gyobingauk Township, Pegu Division.<sup>69</sup>

**25 March:** Regime issued a statement that urged people to avoid “acts of violence and religious extremism that could disrupt the reform process.”<sup>70</sup>

**25 March:** Regime authorities in Rangoon Division ordered businesses in Tamwe and Pazundaung Townships to close by 9pm.<sup>71</sup>

**25 March:** Regime authorities in Rangoon Division warned that anyone caught spreading rumors of imminent religious violence would be punished.<sup>72</sup>

**26 March:** A mob of about 200 people destroyed a mosque and homes in Nattalin Township, Pegu Division.<sup>73</sup>

**26 March:** Regime authorities in Rangoon ordered businesses in Mingala Taungnyunt and Thaketa Townships to close by 9pm.<sup>74</sup>

**26 March:** Regime imposed a 6pm-6am curfew in Pegu Division’s Gyobingauk, Minhla, and Okpho Townships.<sup>75</sup>

**26 March:** During a meeting with representatives of 29 political parties in Rangoon, Rangoon Division Chief Minister Myint Swe hinted that some “small” political parties could be behind the wave of religious violence in Central Burma.<sup>76</sup>

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<sup>62</sup> RFA (20 Mar 13) Curfew Declared as Riots Erupt in Meikhtila; Reuters (21 Mar 13) New curfew declared after 10 killed in central Myanmar riots; RFA (21 Mar 13) Violence in Burmese City Takes Deadly Toll; NLM (22 Mar 13) Meikhtila placed under curfew as from 8 pm, 20 March Effective action to be taken against those who led riot

<sup>63</sup> NLM (23 Mar 13) Declaration of State of Emergency; Xinhua (22 Mar 13) Myanmar President declares state of emergency in Meikhtila after three-day riot; BBC (22 Mar 13) Myanmar declares state of emergency to stem sectarian clashes

<sup>64</sup> AP (25 Mar 13) Five mosques and dozens of homes torched in Myanmar; AFP (24 Mar 13) Myanmar communal unrest spreads: officials; Reuters (25 Mar 13) Myanmar government struggles to contain anti-Muslim hostility; RFA (23 Mar 13) Move to Restore Order in Meikhtila After Violence

<sup>65</sup> AP (25 Mar 13) Deadly violence between Myanmar’s Buddhists, Muslims spreads to 2 more towns in heartland

<sup>66</sup> AP (24 Mar 13) Buddhist-Muslim violence spreads in Myanmar; Reuters (25 Mar 13) Myanmar government struggles to contain anti-Muslim hostility

<sup>67</sup> EMG (27 Mar 13) Police detain 13 over Mandalay riots, alleged links to terrorist groups

<sup>68</sup> Irrawaddy (26 Mar 13) Govt Vows to End Anti-Muslim Riots, As Fresh Violence Hits Pegu Division; DVB (26 Mar 13) Sectarian violence spreads as mobs target Muslim communities in Pegu

<sup>69</sup> Irrawaddy (26 Mar 13) Govt Vows to End Anti-Muslim Riots, As Fresh Violence Hits Pegu Division

<sup>70</sup> NLM (26 Mar 13) Information Team - Press release (7/2013); AFP (25 Mar 13) Riot-hit Myanmar urges end to “religious extremism”

<sup>71</sup> Xinhua (26 Mar 13) Death toll rises to 40 in Myanmar riot: media; AFP (26 Mar 13) Death toll from Myanmar unrest hits 40: state media; AP (26 Mar 13) Death toll from Myanmar religious riots up to 40; Xinhua (26 Mar 13) Myanmar extends shop business hours restriction to more townships

<sup>72</sup> EMG (26 Mar 13) Yangon govt warns against rumours in aftermath of Mandalay riots

<sup>73</sup> AFP (27 Mar 13) Mob torches mosque in fresh Myanmar unrest: police; Irrawaddy (27 Mar 13) More Anti-Muslim Riots Reported Overnight

<sup>74</sup> Xinhua (26 Mar 13) Myanmar extends shop business hours restriction to more townships

<sup>75</sup> Xinhua (26 Mar 13) Myanmar imposes curfew on 3 townships in Bago region

<sup>76</sup> RFA (26 Mar 13) Burma Told to Take Swift Action Against Rioters

**27 March:** A mob destroyed a mosque and Muslim-owned property in Minhla Township, Pegu Division.<sup>77</sup>

**27 March:** A mob of about 100 people ransacked a mosque and attacked Muslim-owned property in Zeegone Township, Pegu Division.<sup>78</sup>

**27 March:** A mob destroyed a mosque and Muslim-owned property in Padigon, Thegon Township, Pegu Division.<sup>79</sup>

**27 March:** A mob destroyed a mosque and ransacked about 100 Muslim-owned houses in Mon Township, Pegu Division.<sup>80</sup>

**27 March:** Regime imposed a 6pm-6am curfew in Pegu Division's Nattalin and Zeegone Townships.<sup>81</sup>

**27 March:** UN OCHA said that violence in Meikhtila, Mandalay Division, had displaced over 12,800 people.<sup>82</sup>

**28 March:** A mob destroyed two mosques and a dozen Muslim-owned houses in Minhla Township, Pegu Division.<sup>83</sup>

**28 March:** Attacks were reported in Letpadan Township, Pegu Division.<sup>84</sup>

**28 March:** UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana said that he had received reports of "state involvement in some acts of violence" in Central Burma.<sup>85</sup>

**28 March:** In a televised address to the nation, President Thein Sein blamed "political opportunists and religious extremists" for sowing hatred between faiths and warned that he would "not hesitate to use force as a last resort" to quell religious violence.<sup>86</sup>

**29 March:** President Thein Sein's spokesperson Ye Htut rejected UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana's comments about possible regime involvement in the religious violence in Central Burma as "based on second hand information."<sup>87</sup>

**30 March:** President Thein Sein appointed five regime ministers and five deputy ministers to a 10-member committee responsible for tackling the ongoing violence.<sup>88</sup>

**3 April:** Regime FM Wunna Maung Lwin said that regime authorities had arrested 142 people for their alleged involvement in the violence.<sup>89</sup>

**10 April:** UN OCHA reported that, according to the regime, as of 9 April, 44 people had been killed and 61 people injured during the violence.<sup>90</sup> UN OCHA also said that over 8,400 people remained displaced and that 1,174 houses had been destroyed and 420 houses damaged in and around Meikhtila.<sup>91</sup>

**11 April:** A court in Meikhtila sentenced a Muslim shop owner, his wife, and an employee to 14 years in jail each for assault and theft after an altercation at their gold shop in Meikhtila on 20 March sparked anti-Muslim riots.<sup>92</sup>

<sup>77</sup> AP (27 Mar 13) Myanmar security forces fire warning shots to break up new religious violence; RFA (27 Mar 13) Warning Shots Fired in Bago Clashes; EMG (27 Mar 13) Simultaneous riots break out in western Bago; Mizzima News (28 Mar 13) Mob violence spreads in Bago

<sup>78</sup> DVB (27 Mar 13) Mob assaults mosque, houses in Pegu division; Irrawaddy (27 Mar 13) More Anti-Muslim Riots Reported Overnight; RFA (27 Mar 13) Warning Shots Fired in Bago Clashes; EMG (27 Mar 13) Simultaneous riots break out in western Bago

<sup>79</sup> Irrawaddy (28 Mar 13) Anti-Muslim Attacks Hit Two More Pegu Division Towns; DVB (28 Mar 13) Two more Burma towns under curfew as violence spreads; RFA (28 Mar 13) Burmese Security Forces Fire on Rioters

<sup>80</sup> Irrawaddy (28 Mar 13) Anti-Muslim Attacks Hit Two More Pegu Division Towns; DVB (28 Mar 13) Two more Burma towns under curfew as violence spreads

<sup>81</sup> Xinhua (27 Mar 13) Myanmar imposes curfew on two more towns as violence spreads

<sup>82</sup> OCHA (27 Mar 13) Myanmar: Meikhtila inter-communal violence Situation Report No. 2 (as of 27 Mar 2013)

<sup>83</sup> RFA (28 Mar 13) Burmese Security Forces Fire on Rioters

<sup>84</sup> NLM (29 Mar 13) Strict security measures taken in Minhla, Moenyio; Xinhua (29 Mar 13) Riot intensifies in 3 areas in Myanmar central part

<sup>85</sup> OHCHR (28 Mar 13) Religious violence in Myanmar, the consequences of Government inaction in tackling prejudice and discrimination – UN expert

<sup>86</sup> AP (28 Mar 13) Myanmar's president says force could be used to end unrest; NLM (29 Mar 13) As a nation it is our firm belief that only an inclusive democratic society based on equality for all citizens will ensure peace and stability, especially in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic and multi-faith country such as ours

<sup>87</sup> AFP (29 Mar 13) Myanmar rebukes UN over religious violence claim

<sup>88</sup> NLM (31 Mar 13) Formation of Central Management Committee for Emergency Period

<sup>89</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar (03 Apr 13) Briefing by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin to the diplomatic corps on record incidents

<sup>90</sup> OCHA (10 Apr 13) Myanmar: Meikhtila inter-communal violence Situation Report No. 4 (as of 9 Apr 2013)

<sup>91</sup> OCHA (10 Apr 13) Myanmar: Meikhtila inter-communal violence Situation Report No. 4 (as of 9 Apr 2013)

<sup>92</sup> Reuters (12 Apr 13) Myanmar court jails Muslim shop owners after anti-Muslim riots