

News on Burma (in English)

The Irrawaddy www.irrawaddy.org

Widely cited by International News media.

Democratic Voice of Burma: www.dvb.no

Source of underground documentary video journalism in Burma. Norway based exiled media station. Broadcasts radio and TV into Burma. Now allowed to operate in Burma.

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre internal-displacement.org/countries/myanmar

See Myanmar section. IDMC keeps online conflict displacement info for UN.

Shan Herald Agency For News english.shannews.org

Shan news on Burma military attacks and the ethnic peace process

Development Media Group (DMG) www.dmediag.com

Reporting on Arakan (Rakhine) State

Campaign Organisations

Burma Campaign UK www.burmacampaign.org.uk

For email petitions, news and events this is the leading Burma focused group for members of the public to subscribe to and support in the UK.

Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) www.aappb.org

Provides food and medicine to prisoners. Main source of prisoner info.

Fortify Rights www.fortifyrights.org

Independently documenting and exposing human rights violations while teaming with activists, we aim to fortify the human rights movement. Major human rights reports.

Earth Rights International www.earthrights.org

Documents and takes legal action against corporate human rights abuses.

Human Rights Watch www.hrw.org

Rigorous, investigations and strategic, targeted advocacy on human rights.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide www.csw.org.uk

Visits refugee camps and lobbies for aid on both Thai and Bangladesh borders.

Amnesty International UK www.amnesty.org.uk

Campaigns for prisoners of conscience and often holds events about Burma.

Alternative Asean Network on Burma www.altsean.org

SE Asia networked advocacy. Has lots of info explaining Burma's election.

Charity

Health & Hope www.healthandhope.org

Dr SaSa's charity bringing primary healthcare & education, to the poor in Chin State.

Partners Relief & Development www.partnersworld.org.uk

Christian charity helping refugees in Burma, often those larger NGO's fail to reach.

Mao Tao Clinic www.maetaoclinic.org

Providing health services to refugees and migrants on Thai/Burma border.

Prospect Burma www.prospectburma.org

Aung San Suu Kyi advocates for this charity which provides scholarships to eligible Burmese students regardless of religious or ethnic background. Dr SaSa who started Health & Hope charity is a former scholarship student.

The Border Consortium www.theborderconsortium.org

UK registered charity, 12 international NGO's supporting refugees on Thai Burma border. IDP Maps on IDMC website are from TBC.

Free Burma Rangers www.freeburmarangers.org

Sends medical/aid teams to villages under attack. Also documents abuses.

Burma's 2008 Constitution:

- The military is above the law & military coups are legalized
- Federalism is denied. The military has control over ethnic states.
- The military is given 25% of the seats in Parliament.
- The military controls 3 key Ministries :
 - defence (control over their budget and military justice)
 - home affairs (domestic repression, police, regional administration)
 - border affairs (cross-border trade, access to illicit rackets such as drugs, logging and smuggling, and license to conduct ongoing offensives against ethnic minorities)
- The military has effective veto power over constitutional amendments
- The National Defence and Security Council further entrenches the military
- Basic human rights are still threatened
- Aung San Suu Kyi is barred from Presidency (under a clause denying spouses or children as foreign citizens).

Who's Who in new Government:

President: U Win Myint widely respected former political prisoner, previously lower house speaker.

State Counsellor: Aung San Suu Kyi "Prime Minister" like created position

Vice President: Myint Swe – chosen by the military, he is a notorious former general who led a brutal crackdown on Buddhist monks in 2007

Vice President: Henry Van Thio an ethnic Chin business man, formerly in military

Speaker of the House of Nationalities (Upper House): Mahn Win Khaing Than, NLD MP Lawyer of Karen descent

Speaker of House of Representatives (Lower House): U T Khun Myat, ethnic Kachin Christian, Along with Shwe Mann, he was sacked from the pro-military USDP party.

Commander of Army: Senior General Min Aung Hlaing. The 2008 Military Constitution makes him unaccountable to Parliament and could allow him to dismiss Parliament. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing was promoted after attacking the ethnic Kokang in 2009.

Chief peace negotiator: Dr Tin Myo Win former political prisoner and Aung San Suu Kyi's long time doctor.

Political Prisoners

At end of March 2019 there were **45** known political prisoners, **94** in prison awaiting trial and **225** on bail awaiting trial. Hundreds of activists and ethnic minorities have also been arrested in Arakan, Kachin and other States, but exact numbers remain unknown.