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DEVELOPMENTS AFTER THE 2013 UNGA RESOLUTION

The Burmese authorities have failed to implement most of the recommendations from previous United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions, in particular Resolution 68/242, adopted in 2013. In some areas, the situation has deteriorated as a result of deliberate actions by the authorities. This brief summarizes developments on the ground with direct reference to key paragraphs of the resolution.

The authorities have either failed or refused to protect vulnerable populations from serious human rights violations, or pursued essential legislative and institutional reforms, effectively blocking Burma's progress towards genuine democracy and national reconciliation. This has been partly due to an assumption that the UNGA resolution will either be canceled or severely watered down as a trade-off for smaller concessions.

So far, 2014 has been marred by an overall climate of impunity that has seen a resurgence of media repression, the ongoing sentencing of human rights defenders, an increase in the number of land ownership disputes, and ongoing attacks on civilians by the Tatmadaw in Kachin and Shan States amid nationwide ceasefire negotiations. The human rights and humanitarian situation in Arakan [Rakhine] State has deteriorated to the extent that agencies are privately describing the situation as "pre-genocidal."

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FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS IN 2015 IN DOUBT

2. "... *urges* the Government to continue constitutional and electoral reform in order to ensure that the elections to be held in 2015 are genuinely credible, inclusive, and transparent;"

Existing constitutional provisions and new regulations are aimed at restricting the ability of the NLD and ethnic parties to fully participate in the 2015 elections. In June, a parliamentary committee tasked with reviewing suggested constitutional amendments voted to retain Article 59(f), which bars Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from running for president.¹

In July, the regime Election Commission approved new regulations seriously restricting the freedom to campaign.² The new rules limit when and where individuals are allowed to campaign and place undue restrictions on candidates' public statements and events.³ The rules restrict the campaign period to 30 days, despite an NLD proposal for an extension.⁴ Party leaders and other party members wishing to campaign on behalf of candidates also require specific permission from the regime Election Commission, which is likely to hinder Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's ability to campaign across Burma in support of the NLD.⁵

In March, the National Assembly approved a bill amending the Political Parties Registration Law, removing the right of temporary ID holders (which include many Rohingya) to form political parties.⁶ In addition, high fees associated with election registration present a serious obstacle to the participation of smaller parties and independent candidates.⁷ Laws enacted in 2010 set a non-refundable 500,000 kyat (approximately US\$500) registration fee for each candidate.⁸

The National Parliament has also proposed changes to the electoral system itself, including a switch to a system of proportional representation, aimed at bolstering the ruling USDP's chances in the 2015 contest.⁹ Many ethnic political parties have objected to such a change since the proposed system would make it difficult for minority parties to win seats.¹⁰

MEDIA FREEDOMS RESTRICTED

3. "... *encourages* the Government of Myanmar to fulfil its commitment to carry out comprehensive media reform and to protect the right to freedom of expression, association and of peaceful assembly, including to allow for free and independent media and to ensure the safety, security and freedom of human rights defenders to pursue their activities;"

Two new press laws, which the National Parliament approved in March, fell short of expectations. Several restrictive clauses remained, relating to the publication of material which insults religion, undermines the rule of law, or threatens ethnic unity or national security.¹¹ Journalists also risk fines or immediate suspension of their publishing licenses based on clauses in the laws.¹²

In 2014, the regime repeatedly denied permission for protests calling for an end to press restrictions, and charged reporters for leading unauthorized demonstrations in support of press freedom.¹³ In many cases, regime authorities also denied reporters access to media briefings and events, and limited visas for foreign journalists covering Burma.¹⁴

From December to July, the regime arrested and/or sentenced at least 14 media professionals to prison terms under oppressive and outdated laws.

- On 17 December, a court in Loikaw Township, Karenni State, sentenced Eleven Media Group (EMG) reporter Ma Khine to three months in prison on charges of trespassing, defamation, and use of abusive language after she tried to investigate a corruption case.¹⁵
- On 10 July, a court in Pakokku Township, Magwe Division, sentenced four Unity Weekly reporters, Lu Maw Naing, Yarzar Oo, Paing Thet Kyaw, and Sithu Soe, and Unity Weekly CEO Tint San to ten years in prison with hard labor under the 1923 Official Secrets Act.¹⁶ On 31 January and 1 February, police arrested them for the publication of an article on 25 January, which claimed that the military had a secret chemical weapons factory in Pauk Township, Magwe Division.¹⁷
- On 7 April, a court in Magwe, Magwe Division, sentenced DVB video journalist Zaw Pe on charges of trespassing and disturbing a civil servant who he had tried to interview about a scholarship program.¹⁸
- On 8 July, Special Branch police in Rangoon arrested three editors and one reporter from the Bi Mon Te Nay weekly news journal under the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act for the publication of an article on 7 July, which claimed that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and ethnic minority leaders had been appointed to an interim government.¹⁹ On 16 July, police arrested the journal's owner, Kyaw Min Khine, his wife, Ei Ei San, and office manager Yin Min Htun on the same charges.²⁰ On 4 August, a court in Rangoon's Pabedan Township discharged one of the editors and Ei Ei San, citing a lack of evidence, and reduced the remaining prisoners' charges to Article 505(b) of the Criminal Code.²¹

ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND IMPRISONMENTS OF HRDs

4. "... *urges* the Government of Myanmar to continue the process [of releasing prisoners of conscience] and to fulfil its commitment to release them by the end of 2013, without conditions, and to ensure the full restoration of their rights and freedoms;"

5. "*Expresses concern* about remaining human rights violations, including arbitrary arrests and detentions of political activists and human rights defenders [...] and urges the Government of Myanmar to step up its efforts to put an end to such violations;"

The regime failed to fulfill its promise to release all political prisoners by the end of 2013, and during 2014, the number detained has increased.

At the start of 2014, approximately 40 political prisoners remained behind bars.²² From January to August 2014, regime authorities arrested and/or sentenced at least 50 activists, including at least six human rights defenders.²³ According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), as of 31 August, there were still 84 political prisoners behind bars and approximately 122 activists still awaiting trial on various charges.²⁴

In 2014, the regime repeatedly arrested and sentenced HRDs for peaceful protests. [See *Appendix I* for full list of political prisoners]

- Authorities have repeatedly charged **Htin Kyaw**, a human rights defender who leads the community-based Movement for Democracy Current Force (MDCF), for peaceful political activism. Within a four-month period, he has received a total of 12 sentences under Article 18 of the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law and Article 505(b) of the Criminal Code in connection with peaceful protest activities, so far totaling 11 years and four months in prison with almost eight years hard labor. He still faces trials in two courts in Rangoon and is currently being held in Rangoon's Insein prison.²⁵
- On 11 February, plain-clothed police officers arrested **Thaw Zin**, a member of the Yangon People's Support Network, under Articles 505(b) and 447 of the Criminal Code for helping local protesters who were affected by land seizures linked to the Letpadaung (Monywa) copper mine in Salingyi Township, Sagaing Division.²⁶ On 24 March, a court in Monywa, Sagaing Division, sentenced him to 15 months in prison.²⁷
- On 19 and 20 August, two separate courts in Rangoon sentenced land rights activist **Sein Than** to a total of eight months in prison under Article 18 of the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law for leading a protest in central Rangoon against land confiscation earlier in the year.²⁸ On 10 September, Rangoon's Kyauktada Township Court sentenced Sein Than to an additional four months in prison with hard labor.²⁹
- On 23 May, a court in Chan Mya Thazi Township, Mandalay Division, sentenced **Aye Thein**, an activist who provided support to child soldiers and forced labor victims seeking assistance from the International Labor Organization (ILO), to six months in prison with hard labor under Article 353 of the Criminal Code for assaulting a civil servant during his intervention in a March 2013 land dispute between community members and authorities.³⁰
- On 23 July, Matupi Township Court, Chin State, convicted eight Chin women's rights activists (six women and two men) under Article 18 of the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law. The activists had organized protests on 23 and 24 June in Matupi Township, against Tatmadaw impunity for sexual violence.³¹ The court ordered each of the activists to either pay a 30,000 kyat (approximately US\$30) fine or serve one-month prison sentences.³²

ONGOING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

5. “Expresses concern about remaining human rights violations, including [...] forced displacement, land confiscations, rape and other forms of sexual violence and torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, as well as violations of international humanitarian law, and urges the Government of Myanmar to step up its efforts to put an end to such violations;”

Sexual violence and torture

Sexual assault has continued with impunity in Burma. Between November 2013 and August 2014, security forces committed at least ten incidents of rape or sexual assault against women and girls in Shan, Mon, Kachin, Arakan, and Chin States.³³ [See box, *Sexual assault by security forces: November 2013-August 2014*]

In July 2014, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reported that over 2,000 women and girls sought help at 14 sexual assault victim support centers in Arakan and Kachin States.³⁴ UNFPA also found that the threat of sexual assault by Tatmadaw soldiers, local officials, or police was cited as the chief reason for women in Kachin and Arakan States to flee their homes or seek asylum abroad.³⁵

Tatmadaw soldiers have forcibly displaced villagers by opening fire on villages and torturing those who remain.³⁶ The Tatmadaw has also systematically tortured civilians, particularly in Kachin and Shan States, often with the excuse of searching for links to ethnic armed groups.³⁷ [See *Appendix IV* for details of incidents]

Laphai Gam and **Brang Yung**, two Kachin farmers who previously lived with their families in a camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs), have been serving seven-year prison terms under the Explosives Act and the Unlawful Associations Act since 2013 for alleged ties to the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and have been subjected to torture.³⁸ On 5 June, Myitkyina District Court, Kachin State, sentenced them to another 13 and 14 years in prison respectively for alleged links to a bomb plot.³⁹ The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention determined their detention was arbitrary and urged the regime to immediately release them.⁴⁰

The police have also continued with the practice of torture. In July, police arrested a rickshaw driver without a warrant and tortured him, causing his death. After a family member filed a complaint, police threatened the family with arrest.⁴¹ In September, the Asian Legal Resource Centre (ALRC) submitted a report to the 27th session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC), stating that the practice of police torture in Burma was “standard operating procedure.”⁴²

Sexual assault by security forces: November 2013-August 2014

1. **2 November:** Three Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 286 gang-raped a 29-year-old Kachin woman in Sawng Hka Village, between Mogaung and Hpakant Townships, Kachin State.⁹³
2. **11 November:** A Tatmadaw soldier raped an eight-year-old Kachin girl in Hka Lum Village, Hsenwi Township, Shan State.⁹⁴
3. **24 December:** A Tatmadaw soldier raped a 13-year-old Mon girl from Kyun-nye Village, Ye Township, Mon State.⁹⁵
4. **8 January:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 298 gang-raped a Kachin woman traveling by bus on Myitkyina-Sumpra Bum Road, near Myitkyina, Kachin State.⁹⁶
5. **25 January:** A Tatmadaw soldier from Battalion 315 beat and attempted to rape a 43-year-old Mon woman, near Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State.⁹⁷
6. **6 February:** Police attempted to rape a woman in Pa Din Village, Maungdaw Township, Arakan State.⁹⁸
7. **6 April:** Tatmadaw soldiers in Nyoung Chaung Village, Buthidaung Township, Arakan State, gang-raped a 40-year-old Rohingya woman.⁹⁹
8. **10 April:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 320 gang-raped a 17-year-old girl in Ka Gam Village, Momauk Township, Kachin State.¹⁰⁰
9. **16 May:** Tatmadaw soldiers from LIB 568 raped a 15-year-old Kachin girl in Nam Gut Village, Kutkai Township, Shan State.¹⁰¹
10. **10 June:** A soldier from LIB 269 attempted to rape and severely beat a 40-year-old Chin woman in Matupi Township, Chin State.¹⁰²

Land confiscation

The regime has failed to adequately address decades of land confiscation by the regime and the military, despite claims to the contrary.⁴³ In July, Parliament agreed to return land or pay compensation for less than 25% of the total acres confiscated by the military, while allowing the Tatmadaw to hold onto the rest.⁴⁴

The 2008 constitution identifies the state as the ultimate owner of all property and authorizes it to claim and make all decisions surrounding natural resources. No safeguards for compensation or consultation exist.⁴⁵ Consequent legislation such as the Farmland Law (2012) provides additional legal justification to confiscate land.⁴⁶

In 2013 and 2014, the regime fast-tracked the development of three Special Economic Zones (SEZs), which have displaced communities, particularly those near resource-rich areas.⁴⁷ In the case of the Thilawa SEZ in Rangoon, the regime and its development partner, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), resettled several families to land unsuitable for sustaining their livelihoods and, despite formal complaints from residents, failed to provide proper compensation.⁴⁸

In addition, regime security forces have often responded to protests related to land confiscation with disproportionate force.⁴⁹ Those protesting land confiscation and large-scale development projects have frequently been arrested or imprisoned. In 2014, the regime sentenced at least 120 farmers for peaceful protests, most related to land confiscation.⁵⁰ [See *Appendix I* for full list of political prisoners]

CIVIL WAR AMID CEASEFIRE NEGOTIATIONS IN KACHIN AND SHAN STATES

8. "... *urges* full implementation of [...] ceasefire agreements between other groups and the Government, including for all parties to protect the civilian population against ongoing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law and for safe, timely, full and unhindered humanitarian access to be granted to all areas, also *welcomes* the commitment by the Government to reach a nationwide ceasefire with ethnic armed groups, and encourages an all-inclusive political dialogue with the objective of achieving lasting peace;"

Between November 2013 and August 2014, the regime formally met five times with a coalition of 16 ethnic armed groups for a new round of peace talks.⁵¹ The talks frequently stalled due to disagreement over key demands. [See *Appendix II* for more information on peace talks] The regime's actions have been inconsistent with its claimed commitment to peace, including its unwillingness to allow for genuine political dialogue prior to the signing of a ceasefire agreement.⁵²

During the same ten-month period, Tatmadaw troops clashed at least 122 times with ethnic armed groups in Kachin and Shan States, including the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the Shan State Army-North (SSA-N), the Shan State Army-South (SSA-S), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA). [See *Appendix III* for details of clashes] Tatmadaw troops also attacked the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) twice in 2014, in violation of a 2012 ceasefire agreement.⁵³

The Tatmadaw also shelled Kachin and Shan villages, resulting in the displacement of thousands of villagers; looted homes; destroyed crops and livestock; and killed, tortured, and sexually assaulted civilians – including children.⁵⁴ [See *Appendix IV* for details of incidents] The Tatmadaw also continued to use rape as a weapon of war in ethnic minority areas, with at least ten reports of rape and sexual assault of women and girls by security forces taking place in the period from November 2013 to August 2014.⁵⁵ [See box above, *Sexual assault by security forces: November 2013-August 2014*]

During late March and early April, the Tatmadaw heavily increased military presence in Southern Kachin State under the guise of preparing to help conduct the census in KIA-controlled areas.⁵⁶ In July 2014, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Yanghee Lee said that access to KIA-controlled areas remained limited for aid agencies.⁵⁷

DISCRIMINATION AND PERSECUTION AGAINST ROHINGYA CONTINUE

9. “*Urges* the Government of Myanmar to accelerate its efforts to address discrimination, human rights violations, violence, displacement and economic deprivation affecting various ethnic and religious minorities;”

10. “*Reiterates its serious concern* about the situation of the Rohingya minority in Rakhine State, including repeated instances of communal violence and other abuses in the past year, and about attacks against Muslim minorities elsewhere in the country, calls upon the Government of Myanmar to protect the civilian population from ongoing violence, to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including full access to humanitarian assistance without discrimination, unhindered access across Rakhine State and the voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees to their communities of origin, to allow freedom of movement, equal access to full citizenship for the Rohingya minority and to address issues of land ownership and restitution of property, and, while welcoming some measures taken by the Government in this regard, encourages the Government to facilitate intercommunity dialogue and address the root causes of the issue, to undertake full, transparent and independent investigations into all reports of human rights violations and to ensure accountability and bring about reconciliation;”

12. “*Calls upon* the Government of Myanmar to step up its efforts to promote tolerance and peaceful coexistence in all sectors of society by, inter alia, encouraging interfaith dialogue and understanding and supporting community leaders in this direction;”

New and proposed discriminatory legislation

In February, President Thein Sein expedited a package of four discriminatory bills aimed at restricting the rights of Rohingya and other Muslims. The bills, which make up the ‘**National Race and Religion Protection**’ package, are: the Religious Conversion Bill; the Interfaith Marriage Bill; the Population Control Bill; and the Monogamy Bill.

In July, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Yanghee Lee said the bills were “incompatible with international human rights standards.”⁵⁸

In June, over 80 international and local human rights groups called for the withdrawal of the Religious Conversion Bill, and 97 local and regional NGOs and CSOs called for the withdrawal of the Interfaith Marriage Bill. Following the 97 organizations’ statement, many activists received death threats as a result of their public support for the withdrawal of the bill.⁵⁹

In addition, in March, the National Assembly approved a bill amending the Political Parties Registration Law, removing the right of temporary ID holders (which include many Rohingya) to form political parties.⁶⁰

Pre-existing discriminatory laws and policies

Other discriminatory laws and policies remain in effect, depriving Rohingya of many of their human rights. Rohingya are still denied citizenship. Under the provisions of the 1982 Citizenship Law, only the eight ethnic groups who settled in Burma prior to 1823 qualify for full citizenship. Individuals whose families were living in Arakan State prior to 4 January 1948 are eligible to apply for naturalized citizenship.⁶¹ However, when the military regime enacted the 1982 Citizenship Law, state officials seized many Rohingya families’ existing

Religious Conversion Bill

The regime has published the Religious Conversion Bill draft. Drafts of the other three bills are yet to be published. The Religious Conversion Bill will require anyone wishing to convert to another religion to submit a detailed application giving reasons for conversion, then submit to an interview by four members of a township registration board, who will make a decision in 90 days.¹⁰³ Anyone found guilty of violating the law will be subject to a maximum of two years’ imprisonment and a fine of 200,000 kyat (US\$200).¹⁰⁴

Interfaith Marriage Bill

Although not officially published, the Interfaith Marriage Bill would require women to seek permission from the state before marrying outside their faith. The initial draft proposed by the extremist Buddhist Organization for the Protection of National Race and Religion (OPNRR) stipulated that Muslim men who married Buddhist women would be required to convert to Buddhism, and that violators could face up to 10 years in prison.¹⁰⁵

Population Control Bill

The Population Control Bill is anticipated to apply on a national level for all Muslims and other religious minorities, effectively extending the existing Rohingya two-child policy currently being implemented in Arakan State. The bills target the Muslim population, but will consequently affect other religious minorities.¹⁰⁶

documentation, depriving them of evidence that they lived in Arakan State prior to 1948.⁶² Naturalized citizenship has been revoked by the state based on arbitrary accusations of “disturbing” other nationals or having ties outside of Burma.⁶³ The regime recognizes 135 ethnicities, deliberately excluding Rohingya, Panthay, Gurkha, and other minorities that have lived in Burma for generations.⁶⁴

In addition, Arakan State authorities continued to strictly enforce anti-Rohingya policies, including requiring permission for marriage and travel (Regional Order 1/2009) and restricting Rohingya to two children (Regional Order 1/2005).⁶⁵

Failure to prevent or respond to inter-communal violence

Since inter-communal violence erupted in Arakan State in June 2012, recurring outbreaks have continued to occur across Burma. Between December 2013 and August 2014, there were repeated incidents of anti-Muslim violence. Authorities failed to take effective measures to protect Rohingya and other Muslims, and have been slow to respond to attacks, including those which have resulted in multiple deaths.⁶⁶

According to the UN, between 9-13 January, Buddhist Rakhine and local police killed at least 48 Muslim Rohingya men, women, and children in an instance of anti-Muslim violence in Du Chee Yar Tan Village, Maungdaw Township, Arakan State.⁶⁷ The regime’s subsequent probe failed to adequately investigate the killings, according to then-UN Special Rapporteur Tomás Ojea Quintana.⁶⁸

In early July, extremist Buddhist mobs attacked Muslim shops, homes, and other buildings in Mandalay Division, killing two and injuring 14, after extremist Buddhist monk U Wirathu shared a post on Facebook that falsely accused two Muslim teashop owners in Mandalay of raping a Buddhist woman.⁶⁹ Riot police failed to stop the targeting of Muslims.⁷⁰ [See *Appendix V* for details of additional instances]

Following widespread anti-Muslim violence in 2012, at least 137,000 people, mostly Rohingya, remain displaced.⁷¹ In addition, there are currently at least 1.3 million Rohingya refugees living in other countries.⁷²

Hate speech and incitement to violence

Through its failure to adequately respond to instances of hate speech and inter-communal violence, the regime has perpetuated an environment that fosters such behavior. This environment has led to anti-Muslim violence, as well as the targeting of moderates and international NGOs, including an attack by Buddhist Rakhine on international aid workers in March.⁷³ [See *Appendix V* for details of additional instances]

In July, Minority Rights Group International ranked Burma 8th in a list of the world’s most dangerous nations for minorities, noting that hate speech was on the rise and that hate crimes against Rohingya had reached the scale of “mass atrocities.” It linked U Wirathu and the ‘969’ movement to violence and a “coordinated anti-Muslim campaign.”⁷⁴ UN Special Rapporteur Yanghee Lee also expressed concern about the spread of hate speech and incitement to violence.⁷⁵

1.2 MILLION PEOPLE EXCLUDED FROM 2014 CENSUS

From 30 March to 10 April, Burma conducted its first nationwide census in more than 30 years. In August, the regime Immigration and Population Ministry announced that Burma’s population stood at 51 million people, nearly 10 million fewer than previously estimated.⁷⁶ The census left out 1.2 million people from Arakan, Kachin, and Karen States, including an estimated 1.09 million Rohingya, as well as Burma’s migrant labor population abroad.⁷⁷

There were several incidents of violence surrounding the census data collection and its aftermath; the Tatmadaw heavily increased militarization in Kachin State during March and April, under the guise of preparing to help conduct the census in Kachin Independence Organization (KIO)-controlled areas.⁷⁸

Regime actions since the conclusion of the official census have further threatened the right of Rohingya to self-identify. In June, the regime began a ‘citizenship assessment’ in Myebon Township, Arakan State, with the stated intention of allowing those individuals who identified as ‘Bengali’ in the census to apply for citizenship, while excluding those who identified as Rohingya.⁷⁹

In August, Arakan State’s Emergency Coordination Centre – a body that monitors the activities of aid organizations in the state – submitted a proposal to President Thein Sein to urge the internment of all Rohingya in detention camps, if the results of the ‘citizenship assessment’ process proved that they were “illegal settlers.”⁸⁰ The proposal was backed by 40 Rakhine civil society groups.⁸¹

Additionally, a ‘data collection’ exercise in Maungdaw Township that originally began in June appeared to be linked with a form of ‘citizenship assessment.’⁸² In August, this resulted in several incidents of arbitrary arrest, sexual assault, torture, and violence in Rohingya villages of Maungdaw Township, perpetrated by local authorities, regime border police, and Tatmadaw troops, resulting in the death of one Rohingya man.⁸³

AID SITUATION REMAINS DIRE IN ARAKAN STATE

13. “...Welcomes the steps taken by the Government of Myanmar to improve engagement and cooperation with the United Nations and other international actors [...]”

In February 2014, the regime suspended the activities of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Holland, in apparent retaliation for an MSF-Holland report related to the treatment of 22 patients following violence in January in which Buddhist Rakhine and local police killed at least 48 Muslim Rohingya in Arakan State.⁸⁴ While the regime subsequently allowed MSF-Holland to resume some of its activities in Burma, negotiations with MSF-Holland have not led to a return of the organization to Arakan State.⁸⁵

More foreign aid agencies ceased operations in Arakan State in March after extremist Buddhist Rakhine mobs attacked the offices and homes of international aid workers.⁸⁶ The majority of the aid organizations have returned with reduced staff.⁸⁷ However, the absence of MSF-Holland, the largest aid organization that operated in Arakan State, has resulted in an overall reduction in healthcare services.⁸⁸

In April, the regime authorized the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) to take charge of monitoring aid operations.⁸⁹ Since then, the ECC (which consists of regime authorities, local Arakan State authorities, and Rakhine community members) has required that an ECC member accompany aid workers during any activities and has stipulated that aid organizations must apply one week in advance for any movement within the state.⁹⁰

The aid suspension and restrictions have produced a dire situation for more than 800,000 people in Arakan State, including 137,000 displaced Muslim Rohingya.⁹¹ The lack of access to aid has already led to an increase in deaths from treatable diseases, particularly among children, and has heightened the risk of additional outbreaks.⁹² [See *Appendix VI* for details]

¹ 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

² Irrawaddy (14 Jul 14) Burma’s Election Commission Approves Campaign Rules; EMG (11 Jul 14) Commission approves drafted election campaign rules ignoring political parties’ request

³ Irrawaddy (15 May 14) Election Campaign Rules Spark Concern Among Opposition Parties; RFA (15 May 14) Myanmar Opposition Concerned Over Proposed Campaign Rules; Mizzima News (14 May 14) Election campaign laws spark debate

⁴ DVB (02 Aug 14) Election Commission backtracks on new campaign rules

⁵ Mizzima News (14 May 14) Election campaign laws spark debate

⁶ Irrawaddy (20 Mar 14) Upper House Approves Ban on Politics for Non-Citizens; EMG (21 Mar 14) Myanmar politics for citizens only: New law

⁷ Irrawaddy (15 Jun 10) Political Parties Can’t Afford Campaign Material; Mizzima News (17 Aug 10) Political parties face old foes of time and money; Narinjara News (17 Aug 10) RNDP to Contest in 15 Townships in Arakan; Irrawaddy (20 Aug 10) Chin Party Struggling to Pay Candidates’ Fees; Khonumthung News (06 Sep 10) CNP hemmed in by fund constraints and time; Myanmar Times (13 Sep 10) Democracy Congress ‘finished’: founder

⁸ Irrawaddy (18 Mar 10) Newly-registered Parties Face Financing Problems; Reuters (10 Mar 10) Western sanctions fuel rare strikes in Myanmar; NLM (18 Mar 10) Meeting (6/2010) of Union Election Commission takes place

⁹ Irrawaddy (13 Jun 14) Burma's Upper House Votes to Change Electoral System; Myanmar Times (25 Jul 14) Free and fair? Opposition says no; Myanmar Times (23 Jun 14) Electoral change motion reveals true political colours; Myanmar Times (25 Aug 14) Parliamentary commission proposes open list PR system

¹⁰ 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

¹¹ Irrawaddy (19 Mar 14) President Signs New Media Laws, to Mixed Reaction From Journalists; Myanmar Times (24 Mar 14) Confusion and apprehension over new media laws

¹² Irrawaddy (19 Mar 14) President Signs New Media Laws, to Mixed Reaction From Journalists; Myanmar Times (24 Mar 14) Confusion and apprehension over new media laws

¹³ DVB (06 Jan 14) Permit denied for journalists seeking justice for Ma Khine; EMG (27 Apr 14) Protesting Journalists from Pyay and Aunglan Call for Press Freedom; DVB (28 Apr 14) Mizzima reporter arrested for protesting media suppression; Irrawaddy (12 Jul 14) Journalists Protesting Sentencing Barred From Their Sein Event

¹⁴ Irrawaddy (28 Jan 14) Govt Rejects Call for Int'l Investigation Into Alleged Rohingya Killings; UN News Centre (23 Jan 14) Top UN officials call for probe into latest violence in Myanmar's Rakhine state; Irrawaddy (11 Mar 14) Foreign Press Visa Curbs Not Tied to Rohingya Reporting; Mizzima News (14 Feb 14) Foreign journalists to get one-month visas

¹⁵ Irrawaddy (23 Dec 13) Prison Term for Reporter Leads to Outcry Over Media Freedom

¹⁶ RFA (10 Jul 14) Myanmar Hands Journalists Ten Years Hard Labor Over Chemical Weapons Report; DVB (10 Jul 14) Journalists sentenced to 10 years for revealing 'state secrets'

¹⁷ DVB (03 Feb 14) Journalists arrested after publication of Chemical Weapons story; Irrawaddy (02 Feb 14) Journalists Detained for Reporting Alleged Burmese Chemical Weapons Factory

¹⁸ AP (08 Apr 14) Myanmar journalist gets jail time for trespassing

¹⁹ DVB (08 Jul 14) Editors detained after Suu Kyi takeover report; DVB (19 Jul 14) Burmese newspaper publisher arrested in Thailand; Irrawaddy (21 Jul 14) Thailand Arrests 3 in Burma Newspaper Trial; RSF (25 Jul 14) Four detained newspaper journalists appear in court on Emergency Provisions Act charges; EMG (22 Aug 14) Trial of three editors from Bi Mon Te Nay Journal postponed to August

²⁰ DVB (19 Jul 14) Burmese newspaper publisher arrested in Thailand; Irrawaddy (21 Jul 14) Thailand Arrests 3 in Burma Newspaper Trial; RSF (25 Jul 14) Four detained newspaper journalists appear in court on Emergency Provisions Act charges

²¹ DVB (04 Aug 14) Charges reduced in Bi Mon Te Nay trial; Irrawaddy (15 Aug 14) Bi Mon Te Nay Journalists Denied Bail; EMG (07 Aug 14) Journalists face 'lesser charge' over false article

²² FIDH (10 Jan 14) Burma: President Thein Sein fails to keep his promise to release all political prisoners by year-end

²³ AAPP (Feb 14-Sep 14) Monthly Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for January-August 2014

²⁴ AAPP (Sep 14) Monthly Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for August 2014

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