



Weekly Report

Burma/Myanmar

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**NOVEMBER 12-18
2013**

- 1** Clashes in Shan State continue
- 2** Nearly 70 political prisoners released
- 3** OIC arrives in Burma

“We welcome that the OIC is willing to help everyone without any racist or religious prejudices [...] however, I wonder whether the Rakhine people would welcome their help. If they refuse [to accept the aid], then there’s nothing we can do.”

- U Shwe Maung,
Lower House MP
Democratic Voice of
Burma

Clashes in Shan State continue

- Clashes between the Burma Army and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) hit its third week.
- The fighting has forced thousands to flee to the Bhamo Township.
- Fighting began after Myanmar troops encroached upon the area, claiming to be investigating reports of illegal timber activity. The KIA believes this is an excuse to begin warfare.
- <http://www.bnionline.net/index.php/news/phophtaw/16477-clashes-in-shan-state-hits-third-week.html>

Nearly 70 political prisoners released

- 69 political prisoners have been released; many belonging to ethnic minorities and some with links to Burma’s armed rebel groups.
- Many of the released prisoners do not believe they should feel grateful for being released from prison when they should never have been arrested to begin with.
- There are still 265 cases awaiting trial.
- <https://www.dvb.no/news/nearly-70-political-prisoners-freed-in-burma-myanmar/34443>

OIC arrives in Burma

- Parliament ignored support from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).
- The OIC offered to help improve Myanmar’s social and transportation sectors.
- Over 5,000 Buddhists gathered to protest the arrival of the OIC.
- <http://www.mizzima.com/mizzima-news/myanmar/item/10579-parliament-ignores-support-from-the-oic>
- <https://www.dvb.no/news/buddhists-take-to-the-streets-of-sittwe-to-protest-oic-visit-burma-myanmar/34457>