



Weekly Report

Burma/Myanmar

Devin August Ornstein

Series of bomb blasts throughout Burma

**OCTOBER 15-21
2013**

- 1** Series of bomb blasts throughout Burma
- 2** The state of migrant workers
- 3** Wa ethnic group to sign ceasefire?

- Series of bomb attacks have spread throughout the country. One American woman was injured from the blast at Traders Hotel in Yangon. Another man was killed in Namkhan. The suspect is currently detained. It is believed that his motives were to deter foreign investment and tourism. The government is now drafting a new anti-terror law.
- <http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/8501-alleged-bombers-sought-to-deter-investors-tourism.html>
- <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/terrorism-10212013172911.html>

The state of migrant workers

- Migrant workers will start receiving standard passports that will replace the temporary passports they have that are only valid in Thailand.
- <http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/migrants-start-receiving-regular-passports.html>
- The Malaysian government has also announced a new plan to provide legal work permits for undocumented migrant workers.
- <http://www.dvb.no/news/burmese-migrants-given-work-permit-lifeline-in-malaysia-burma-myanmar/33722>
- A recent report places Myanmar as one of a group of 11 countries that account for 75% of the world's 30 million people living in modern-day slavery.
- <http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/8548-hundreds-of-thousands-enslaved-in-myanmar-report.html>

*"The inaugural Global Slavery Index 2013 released last week said between 360,000 and 400,000 of Myanmar's estimated 52.8 million residents are hostage to slave-like conditions, placing it ninth out of 162 countries surveyed."
-Myanmar Times*

Wa ethnic group to sign ceasefire?

- Senior United Wa State Army official states that the chances of signing a ceasefire are 50-50. The Wa make up the nation's strongest armed ethnic group.
- <http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/uwsa-signing-nationwide-ceasefire-accord-50-50.html>