



Weekly Report

Burma (Myanmar)

Devin August Ornstein

OCTOBER 8 - 14

- 1** Riots and bomb blasts
- 2** Release of political prisoners
- 3** Myanmar takes ASEAN chair

“Sadly, respect for human rights has never been an important qualification for being ASEAN chair.”

- Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch

Riots and bomb blasts

- 78 people are detained for their involvement in the Sandoway riots as the number of dead rise to seven.
- Bomb blast in Rangoon market injures two teenagers. This was the second of two blasts in Rangoon. The bombs were home made. Police and investigating possible connections between the two bombs.
- An explosion in Taungoo leaves two dead and one injured.
- <http://www.dvb.no/news/police-detain-78-for-sandoway-riots-as-death-toll-hits-seven/33471>
- <http://www.dvb.no/dvb-video/bomb-blast-at-rangoon-market-injures-two-youngsters-burma-myanmar/33451>
- <http://www.dvb.no/news/two-dead-1-injured-in-taungoo-explosion-burma-myanmar/33416>

Release of political prisoners

- 56 political prisoners are set to be released. Many are of Kachin or Shan nationality. The release does not seem to be unconditional as many of the detainees must sign Article 401, which allows their original sentence to be re-imposed if they violate the terms of their release.
- <http://www.dvb.no/news/56-political-activists-to-be-released-from-burmas-prisons-on-tuesday-myanmar/33190>

Myanmar takes ASEAN chair

- Myanmar will now lead Southeast Asia’s regional bloc. Some are saying the move was premature.
- The country has made some significant reforms, however, critics say the military and its allies are still largely in control.
- UN leader Ban Ki-moon insists that the country’s continuous communal violence is still a major concern.
- Some believe granting Myanmar chairmanship is another sign of the region’s widespread disregard for human rights.
- <http://www.mmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/8434-myanmar-takes-asean-chair.html>