



Weekly Report

Myanmar (Burma)

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**MARCH 15 - 21,
2014**

- 1** Myanmar's Peace Process requires incorporation of 16 armed ethnic groups into national army
- 2** Upcoming national census will not recognize the Rohingya as a valid ethnic group
- 3** Trafficking of Rohingyas shifts into Malaysia

Myanmar's Peace Process Requires a Way of Incorporating 16 Armed Ethnic Groups into National Army

- Peace talks in Myanmar between the central government and various armed ethnic groups are ongoing, but questions of trust remain. Particularly crucial is the issue of how ethnic minorities can share power with the central military.
- There are a combined 100,000 soldiers amongst armed ethnic groups, and 400,000 soldiers in the Burmese Army.
- Source: The Irrawaddy

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/question-federal-army-looms-burmas-peace-process.html>

Upcoming national census will not recognize the Rohingya as a valid ethnic group

- Observers fear that Burma's upcoming national census, the first since 1983, may fuel state repression against political activists, and increase tension between Buddhists and Muslims.
- While the census includes a section where people are asked to identify themselves as one of 135 ethnicities, Rohingyas are not included.
- Source: Bloomberg Businessweek

<http://www.businessweek.com/articles/2014-03-20/myanmars-census-sparks-controversy-fears-of-ethnic-unrest>

Trafficking of Rohingyas shifts into Malaysia

- Rohingyas fleeing repression in Burma are being held captive for ransom, chained and beaten. Trafficking rings are bigger than authorities had previously realized.
- Source: The Guardian

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2014/mar/06/trafficking-myanmar-rohingya-malaysia>

“This could be exploited by nationalist extremists who are inciting hatred and violence against Muslims,” the European Burma Network said in a statement calling for the census to be postponed.

Burma Campaign UK said the census is “not worth dying for,” and a coalition of 28 international groups representing ethnic Karen people in Burma have warned that it could undermine the peace process.”
