



Weekly Report

Myanmar (Burma)

Sarah Parkinson

MAY 10-16, 2014

- 1** Both the US and the EU renew limited economic sanctions against Myanmar
- 2** UN concerned about accessing newly displaced civilians
- 3** EU initiates a regular human rights dialogue with Burma

Both the US and the EU renew limited economic sanctions against Myanmar

- While most sanctions against Myanmar had already been removed due to the ongoing democratic reforms in the country, on Thursday May 15, President Obama signed a letter renewing existing US sanctions. This is broadly interpreted as a concern about the existing human rights situation in the country.
- Similarly, in mid-April, the EU also chose to renew its military sanctions for another year, while continuing to encourage Myanmar to continue its reforms.
- Source: Toronto Star

<http://www.thestar.com.my/News/Regional/2014/05/16/Myanmar-brushes-off-limited-US-sanctions-renewal/>

UN concerned about accessing newly displaced civilians

- On May 16, the UN and its humanitarian partners released a statement expressing concern about access to thousands of newly displaced civilians, whose numbers are increasing in and around Kachin state, due to increasing conflict.
- Source: UN News Centre

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=47814#.U3f21CiXikw>

“Given the ethnic diversity of Burma and the serious problems with the census, it’s really unfortunate that the EU neglected to establish a benchmark to address statelessness and citizenship issues. That’s a big oversight that the EU officials in the dialogue will have to make up for.”

Phil Robertson, Human Rights Watch

EU initiates a regular human rights dialogue with Burma

- The EU has plans to provide the state with different forms of support, in combination with an annual dialogue between key EU and Burmese officials.
- The EU will hold Burma accountable to 21 ‘benchmarks’, including cooperation with international humanitarian actors, allowing them access, greater media freedom, and better measures to combat intolerance, communal violence and hate speech.
- Source: DVB

<http://www.dvb.no/news/eu-initiates-human-rights-dialogue-with-burma-myanmar/40789>