



Weekly Report

MAY 17-23, 2014

- 1 UN Envoy calls for changes to the Myanmar Constitution
- 2 Victims of land grabs fail to gain restitution
- 3 Rumours of border police killed by Rohingya militia reported in Burmese media

"Many victims of land grabs had hoped new government would help them, but evictions have continued."

Some who have challenged the system have been charged with disrupting public tranquility or violating a new law on peaceful assemblies, offenses punishable by up to two years in prison."
-Aye Aye Win, AP

Myanmar (Burma)

Sarah Parkinson

UN Envoy calls for changes to the Myanmar Constitution

- The current constitution, drafted in 2008, is flawed and needs to be changed before the 2015 election, according to the UN Human Rights Envoy to Myanmar, Tomas Quintana. Currently, it guarantees the military 25% of parliamentary seats and could ban the opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, from becoming president.
- Source: Hindustan Times

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/myanmar-needs-constitution-change-says-un-envoy/article1-1222409.aspx>

Victims of land grabs fail to gain restitution

- Despite the restitution of political freedoms and end of military dictatorship in 2011, people who were displaced by land grabs by the military junta have been unable to get restitution from the government.
- Rather, reports of illegal displacement continue, and frustrated victims have turned to animist 'black magic' practices to seek justice.
- Source: Houston Chronicle

<http://www.chron.com/news/world/article/Myanmar-land-grab-victims-turn-to-black-magic-5502201.php>

Rumours of border police killed by Rohingya militia reported in Burmese media

- Two border police were recently killed and two more captured and then released in what is being reported as an attack by an obscure 20-year-old Rohingya militia group. Commentators are divided as to whether the group still exists and has the capacity to carry out such an attack, or whether allegations are a 'smokescreen' to justify oppressive treatment of the Rohingya.
- Source: Anadolu Agency

<http://www.aa.com.tr/en/rss/331343--myanmar-police-deaths-raise-accusation-of-rohingya-militia>