



# Weekly Report

## Myanmar (Burma)

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**MAY 24-30, 2014**

- 1** Widespread concern over draft religion law
- 2** 96,000 IDPs in Kachin face uncertain future
- 3** Rohingya refugees are illegal and vulnerable in Thailand

### ***Widespread concern over draft religion law***

- A draft religion law would ban interfaith marriage and make it illegal for a person to change religion without state permission.
- The group behind the law are fundamentalist Buddhist monks who are also associated with the 969 anti-Muslim campaign. Christian minorities and women's rights groups have also expressed concern about the draft law.
- Source: Anadolu Agency

<http://www.aa.com.tr/en/rss/337737--dismay-at-myanmar-draft-law-banning-religion-change>

### ***96,000 IDPs in Kachin face uncertain future***

- In 2011, a 17-year ceasefire agreement ended with a new outbreak of violence, which has persisted. Now 96,000 Kachin are in camps, some have been there for 3 years.
- Camps were designed to be short-term, now there are problems with sanitation and hygiene, as reported by the UN.
- Source: IRIN News

<http://www.irinnews.org/report/100138/bleak-outlook-for-96-000-kachin-idps-three-years-on>

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*"We knew all about the dangers. We knew how expensive it is, how (the brokers) torture you when you cannot pay and that women are sometimes raped,"*

*-Hasina, a stateless Rohingya in Thailand, on her family's struggle to survive*

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### ***Rohingya refugees are illegal and vulnerable in Thailand***

- Because the Burmese government claims the Rohingya are 'illegal refugees' from Bangladesh, those forced to flee do not have official papers. Under Thai law, the thousands of Rohingya who have taken refuge there are illegal immigrants, and will face deportation if caught. With no recognition or protection from any state, they are prey to exploitative and often violent practices of traffickers.
- Human rights groups call on the Thai government to grant recognition to the Rohingya.
- Source: Trust

<http://www.trust.org/item/20140523165404-xdg9c/>