



# Weekly Report

## Myanmar (Burma)

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MAY 31 – JUNE 6,  
2014

- 1 Observers voice concerns about 'pall of silence' in the face of ongoing human rights abuses
- 2 Squatters displaced, land rights activist murdered
- 3 Kachin peace activists say that government forces target civilians, rape women

### ***Observers voice concerns about the 'pall of silence' in the face of ongoing human rights abuses***

- Two opinion pieces by close observers, published in a number of major papers, raise concerns that international governments are not doing enough to speak up about continuing abuses against the Rohingya, many of whom are in camps without access to doctors.
- An article in the Jakarta Globe (link below), further reports that a major English newspaper in Burma instructed its journalists to stop reporting on any issues related to the Rohingya, or Buddhist/Muslim relations, due to high level political pressure.
- Sources: New York Times, Jakarta Globe

<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/05/opinion/kristof-theres-a-kind-of-hush.html>

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/international/pall-silence-around-myanmars-fictitious-democracy/>

### ***Squatters displaced, land rights activist murdered***

- A lands right activist is reported murdered, following a similar incident last month. He was organizing opposition of land seizures.
- In related news, there are several accounts of squatters having their housing destroyed and ordered to move by the government, which claims they are occupying municipal land. They have nowhere to go.
- Sources: Voice of America, DVB

<http://www.voanews.com/content/land-rights-activist-murdered-in-burma/1930551.html>

<http://www.dvb.no/dvb-video/demolition-of-riverside-squats-leaves-families-homeless-burma-myanmar/41278>

### ***Kachin peace activists say that government forces target civilians, rape women***

- Kachin women peace activists, from different groups, report that the ceasefire in Kachin ended because government forces attacked areas mutually agreed as Kachin military bases. Now, Kachin civilians are displaced and are being targeted for a variety of abuses by government forces.

- Source: The Irrawaddy

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/interview/one-sided-offensive.html>

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*"The international community is covering the army in more positive tones. I can't accept that, unless this engagement is meant to push the army to do policy reform. I can't accept that, if the army is taking advantage of this engagement and going on committing atrocities."*

- Ma Khon Ja, coordinator,  
Kachin Peace Network

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