



EURO - BURMA OFFICE
Square Gutenberg 11/2, Brussels, B-1000, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 280 0691 Fax: +32 2 280 0310
Email: ebo@euro-burma.be

BURMA - World weekly news round-up 22 July – 28 July 2007

Inside Burma

Justice issues

Six human rights defenders who were severely beaten by a member of the military created and backed, Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) have been sentenced to long imprisonments for inciting unrest. All were members of the local Human Rights Defenders and Promoters Network. Myint Naing was sentenced to eight years in prison while the other five were sentenced to four years each. (Date: July 25, 2007. Source: <http://www.mizzima.com/MizzimaNews/News/2007/July/59-July-2007.html>)

National League for Democracy (NLD) member, U Than Lwin, was brutally beaten by a man wearing a knuckle duster on 15 June 2007. Conversely, four of his family members and five other NLD members faced court on Tuesday (24 July) after being charged with 'intimidation' by the USDA. U Kyaw Min of the USDA has charged them with threatening to attack the USDA offices if the man who committed the attack on U Than Lwin (reported to have fled to a local USDA office) was not handed over. (Date: 26 July 2007. Source: <http://english.dvb.no/news.php?id=282>)

UN

Gambari continues his tour with Russia and European Capitals

The UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, continued his tour of capitals this week. On Monday he arrived in Moscow and spent the rest of the week visiting government and EU counterparts in Paris, Brussels and London. (Date: 23 July 2007. Source: UN Press Centre: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=23309&Cr=myanmar&Cr1=>)

UNFPA to expand HIV prevention project

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will expand its mother to child prevention project to more areas of Burma with the support of Three-Disease (3-D) Fund. (Date: 23 July 2007. Source: <http://www.mmtimes.com/no376/n017.htm>)

UK

British MPs from the International Development Committee in the House of Commons published a report on the UK government's assistance to internally displaced people (IDPs) and refugees on the Thai-Burma border. The report urges for UK aid to Burma to be quadrupled by 2013. While supporting the UK's role as a lead donor in the Three Diseases Fund, it also called for the expanded UK aid to include specific funding for cross-border aid to reach those in conflict zones, and to be more engaged with refugee needs, particularly on the Thai-Burma border.

(Date: 26 July 2007 Source: The Independent <http://independent.co.uk/>)

The full version of the report can be downloaded from the International Development Committee's website at: <http://www.parliament.uk/indcom>.)

In the same week the Thai Burma border consortium (NGOs working together with displaced people in Burma) published a report called 'Planning for the Future: The Impact of Resettlement on the Remaining Camp Population'. Nearly 20 000 refugees are expected to be resettled by the end of 2007, and even larger numbers are expected to leave in 2008. The consultants give recommendations to all stakeholders on how to face the challenges this huge resettlement will cause. (Date 23 July 2007.

<http://www.tbcc.org/resources/2007-07-ccsdpt-resettlement-impact-study.pdf>)

France

Freedom for Aung San Suu Kyi

Riding on the success of the French brokered release of six Bulgarian medics from a Libyan jail, France's junior minister for human rights announced her desire to gain freedom for the NLD leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. (Date: 24 July 2007. Source: http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=8007)

USA

Renewed Sanctions

The US Congress voted to renew import sanctions on Burma for another year.

(Date: 23 July 2007 Source: Associated Press)