



## Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)

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### SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT SITUATION

During October 34 political activists were indicted, of which 2 are human rights defenders who at the time of writing remained in detention. 5 political activists were sentenced; 3 were given prison sentences and 2 paid a fine. The month also saw the release of 56 political prisoners. In addition, 3 political prisoners were in poor health. 79 farmers involved in the “plowing protests” in Pyin- Oo- Lwin Tsp have been indicted under sections 442 and 447 for trespassing.

### MONTH IN REVIEW

AAPP welcomes the release of the 56 political prisoners this month. However it is important to recognize the limitations of this latest release. Despite their supposed freedom, the conditions attached to their release still impose great restrictions on their lives. These conditions make the chances of successful readjustment to civilian life very difficult for them former political prisoners. Although AAPP is supportive of any political prisoners released from jail, the removal of conditions attached to political prisoner releases is an essential step towards national reconciliation and political freedom.

On the 66<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martyr's Day (July 19, 2013) Ko Thein Min Tun left a flower garland in front of the General Aung San statue downtown, in Prome Tsp, Pegu Division. This was deemed against the Regional law, section 188, he was indicted under section 188 on July 31, 2013. Consequently, on October 9, 2013, he was sentenced to 7 days imprisonment or 200 Kyat fine under section 188, at Prome Tsp court. Ko Thein Min Tun paid the 200 Kyat fine but expressed his deep concern towards the outcome of the sentence. This comes as a reminder that while the country looks to its future the practice of using arbitrary laws in curtailing its citizens' civil and political liberties is still very much in place. (October 9, 2013 The Voice Weekly Facebook post)

On October 17, 2013 representatives from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) met with senior AAPP staff to exchange knowledge on the two organizations' work on counseling political prisoners as well as discuss future collaboration between the ICRC and the AAPP under the Mental Health Assistance Program (AAPP-MHAP) on providing mental health counseling to former political prisoners. (October 17, 2013 AAPPB).

The ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) released a statement on October 5 warning against abolishing the 2008 Constitution and drafting a new one as it would severely jeopardize the state and its people. The party's official stance is to amend the existing constitution depending on time and circumstances. The statement was issued a week after Burma's main opposition party the National League for Democracy (NLD) announced its planned collaboration with ethnic parties in seeking the public's opinion on whether to amend or replace the constitution. ([October 7, 2013 Irrawaddy](#)) ([October 7, 2013 Eleven](#))

The newly-formed Public Network for Constitutional Law announced that it will hold open forums and discussions to make the public aware of the proposed amendments to the Constitution ([October 18, 2013 Mizzima](#))

## **INCARCERATIONS**

Kyauktadar Township Court sentenced Ko Htin Kyaw to 6 months in prison on October 21 under Section 18. He still faces trials for 10 other cases of breaching Section 18 in six different townships of Yangon. ([October 22, 2013 Mizzima](#))

Following last month's incarceration of 20 protesters from the Arakan capital Sittwe, another two protesters, Nyo Aye and KyawSoe have been sentenced to three months in jail for staging an unauthorized protest against a Turkish government-backed plan to build housing for displaced Rohingyas. As of October 9, a total of 22 Arakanese locals from Sittwe, Kyaukphyu and Buthidaung townships were charged under Article 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law for their role in leading the protests. ([October 8, 2013 DVB](#))

In Arakan state, the Kyauk Phyu Tsp court reduced ten Arakanese activists' sentence by a month during an appeal hearing October 25. The Maday Island inhabitants were prosecuted in May as a consequence of staging a protest against the controversial Shwe gas project without approval from the authorities. Their original sentence was set to three months' hard labor in prison under Section 18 on September 26, 2013. The activists' lawyer Htein Lin said if the defendants wished to further appeal he would take their case to a higher court. ([October 25, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))

## **DETENTIONS**

Five protesters, U Sein Than, U Soe Min, U KyeeMyin, U Myo Win and Daw Aye Mar who were involved in the Mei-Chaung-Kan demonstrations over land confiscated by the government were indicted under section 18. (AAPPB)

A deputy warrant officer of KIA, KoNaw San (aka) La Ban NawSai (Prison No-Ma Ka Na/13/00497/Ka), the son of U Baran Aung, passed away on October 10, 2013 at 4:15 am in ThayetTsp Public Hospital. He was 30 years old. He was sentenced to 19 years of prison and had been detained at Thayet prison. Since AAPP learned of KoNaw San's detainment in Thayet prison, AAPP tried their best to assist Ko Naw San in his release. Regrettably, he passed away in prison. (October 10, 2013 AAPPB)

Twenty miners have been charged after staging a protest against the suspension of the Moehti Moemi gold mine in Mandalay and for resisting security guards who came to remove equipment from the dig sites. Earlier in the month 5 miners were charged on the back of a complaint filed by the mining company, the Myanmar National Prosperity Co. Ltd. An official at Yamethin's Tugon police station said the 20 miners were handed down a variety of charges on October 20 for obscenity, criminal intimidation, causing harm, and assaulting public servants. Sources said around 100 protestors remain at the rally site ([October 22, 2013 DVB](#))

In August 10, 2013, more than 100 Hone-Shin factory workers protested for 26 days in front of the factory, demanding their rights. Consequently, the factory manager sued the two union leaders under section 341, 506 and 427. Subsequently, the two protest leaders from Hone-Shin factory, Dagon-Seik-Kan Tsp, Rangoon, were indicted under the 3 accounts. They were granted bail on parole at South Dagon Tsp court on October 1, 2013. The union leaders have been ordered to appear in court in the near future, where the judge will question them as well as the employer. ([September 30, 2013 MMTimes](#)) ([October 1, 2013 RFA](#)) ,

## **RELEASES**

Fifty-six political prisoners were released on October 8. Early indications suggest that the detainees were released from the following prisons: Bhamo, Myitkyina, Kale, Lashio, Moulmein, Bassein, Thayarwaddy and Insein. Many of the released prisoners are ethnic men affiliated with the Shan State Army-South and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), the military arm of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO). The inclusion of jailed members of the KIA comes amid crucial peace negotiations with the rebels. 18 individuals with connections to the KIO were among the 56 political prisoners granted amnesty. While the release of these political prisoners is welcomed, critical voices say the amnesty is not to be considered "unconditional". It is probable that many of the detainees must sign Article 401 in order to be released. Article 401 allows for their original sentence to be re-imposed if they are deemed to have violated the terms of their bail. The government however continues to prosecute dissidents and many remain behind bars. For some human rights organizations, this move by the current government is viewed as headline-grabbing releases for political gain and leverage with the international community. "These releases need to be accompanied by legislative reforms, including the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act, to ensure that new prisoners of conscience do not take the place of old ones," the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, Tomas Quintana, said in a statement. ([October 8, 2013 DVB](#)) ([October 8, 2013 MMTimes](#)) ([October 8, 2013 DVB](#)) , ([October 11, 2013](#))

## **CONDITIONS OF DETENTIONS**

The death of Ko Naw San sadly echoes the fate of around 130 political prisoners who have died in custody in Burmese prisons since 1988, according to the AAPP. In a feature article The Irrawaddy commemorated Thet Win Aung who suffered from a heart condition and

maltreatment after contracting malaria. He died at the age of 34 while serving his 59 year prison sentence in Obo prison. Thet Win Aung was sentenced in 1988 and passed away in 2006.

Although it has been seven years ago since his death it is vivid and tragic reminder of the cruelty and mistreatment political prisoners were subjected to. AAPPB members send their deepest condolences to the families of Ko Naw San and Thet Win Aung. ([October 16, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))

In Insein prison a prison guard slapped and strangled two former employees of Taw Win timber factory, Thiha Ko Ko and Maung Maung Thet without cause. The two prisoners are currently serving time for offences relating to trespassing, peaceful protest and assembly. They are suing the prison staff Aye Min Aung for the alleged offence. A negotiation was under way, facilitated by National League for Democracy (NLD) party treasurer U Soe Lwin, where they were offered 500,000 kyat as a settlement fee, but they have rejected the offer. During the incident Thiha Ko Ko was wearing a traditional Burmese shirt in Insein prison. The traditional Burmese shirt has been banned in prison since the 88 uprising due to its symbolism of the democratic movement. However, many inmates still wear them in the prisons. Taw Win workers plan on holding a press conference concerning this issue. ([September 30, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))

The National Human Rights Commission issued a statement saying that the use of torture during the September 13, 2013 prison riot in Kawthaung prison was a violation of human rights. The commission conducted an inspection tour of the prison last month where a riot broke out following a quarrel between 3 inmates in which 1 prisoner was killed and 7 injured. The statement said that prison guards had ignored prison rules and manuals in their handling of the inmates in subjecting them to torture. The commission also noted on the outdated usage of the 1894 Prison Act by the Correctional Department in its conduct with prisoners ([October 18, 2013 Eleven](#))

## **DEMONSTRATIONS AND RELATED RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL AND CIVIL LIBERTIES**

A group of 600 protesters from Mi-Kyaung Kan Wards 1, 2 and 3 in Thin Gan Kyun Township have established a sit-in camp at Maha Bandoola Park in downtown Yangon. The protesters are demanding that the government return the land, which they believe was unlawfully taken from their ancestors by former government officials. On previous occasions Mi-Kyaung Kan landowners have staged peaceful protests, however this is the first attempt utilizing a sit-in to try and win back the disputed land. ([October 3, 2013 Mizzima](#))

Mei-Chaung-Kan residents, in Thingangyun Tsp, had begun a boycott, a sit-in camp for 4 days near city hall downtown and went on strike in order to take back their lands. After negotiations with the Land Grab Investigation Commission (Rangoon Division), they stopped their sit-in demonstration on October 5, 2013. Members of parliament articulated that the Land Grab Investigation Commission would attempt to negotiate with the government in order to give back the lands to the original owners from Mei-Chaung-Kan ward No-1, 2 and 3. Several arrests have been made under section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law. ([September 30, 2013 DVB](#))([October 5, 2013 RFA](#))

Nyan Win, a lawyer for democracy leader Suu Kyi was given a choice of paying 1,000 kyats (about a dollar) or spending a month in prison for Section 182 of the penal code. The opposition spokesman chose the fine and is planning on appealing the case. He was fined for a statement he made to the Election Commission, claiming that ballot sheets were tampered with in landmark by-elections that saw Aung San Suu Kyi's party enter parliament last year. The 2010 general election, which saw a landslide victory for the military's political proxies, was marred by widespread complaints of cheating and the exclusion of Suu Kyi. ([October 11, 2013 DVB](#))

In Ramree Tsp, Arakan state, a youth capacity-building training, held by Wan-Lett Regional Development Foundation, was banned. On October 25, Tsp Director U Kyaw Oo informed Wan-Lett coordinator and former political prisoner, Ko Khaing Khaung San that section 144, which imposes curfews on going out at night time, had been passed in the region and therefore the training was prohibited from proceeding. Wan-Lett Development Foundation had informed the authorities of the six-day training but after the first day the training was shut down. The foundation's capacity-building trainings include themes such as human rights and democracy. Wan-Lett Development Foundation has conducted capacity building training to youths in a total of eleven Tsps including Mrauk-U, Sittwe, Ramree, and Kyaukpyu Tsps in Arakan State. ([October 26, 2013 RFA](#))

In Sagaing division around 150 villagers from the Latpadaung area staged a protest on October 11 as activities at a much disputed copper mine project resumed earlier this month. Demonstrators, which included Buddhist monks, said to *DVB* that gunpowder explosions had accompanied the reopening of the Chinese-backed project. Opposing farmers said they would continue their protests against the project despite a visit on October 18 by President's Office Minister Hla Htun who met around 100 villagers in Salingyi Township, near Monywa. The minister's visit has done little to ease tensions over the project, as around 300 protesters and an equal number of armed security officers hired by China's state-owned Wanbao Mining Company confronted each other on October 17. The police have warned the protesters that if they touch the fence they will be shot down. Some farmers claimed they shot sling shots at the protesters. The government has also erected fences around the disputed land that bars farmers and their flocks of animals from entering. ([October 12, 2013 DVB](#)), ([October 14, 2013 Irrawaddy](#)) ([October 18, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))([October 18, 2013 Mizzima](#))

## **RESTRICTIONS ON FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS**

Former political prisoner Tin Htut Paing, who was released in January 2012 after serving nearly 3 years in prison, continues to be on the run from the authorities as reported by *The Diplomat* on October 7, 2013. The political activist is being persecuted for his work with Generation Youth, a loosely organized advocacy organization working to promote human rights and democracy. Since his release in 2012, Tin Htut Paing has participated in and spearheaded a number of protests, among them a one-man demonstration for the shut-down of the controversial Letpadaung copper mine, and a march in Rangoon on August 27, 2013 to push for the repeal of Section 18 of The Law on Peaceful Assembly and Procession. ([October 7, 2013 The Diplomat](#))

## **AAPP IN THE MEDIA**

Ko Bo Kyi highlighted the issues attached to political prisoner releases following the 56 freed this month. “What we have called for time and time again is for these detainees to be recognized as political prisoners and for them to be released unconditionally,” Bo Kyi told *DVB* soon after the news came through on Tuesday. “But we have not yet seen that happen today – they were not officially released as political prisoners nor were they released unconditionally – which is very disappointing. “I assume most of them have been made to sign Article 401,” he added. “We appreciate that this is a necessary procedure, but nevertheless our demand for the unconditional release of political prisoners has not been met.” According to the data compiled by the AAPP-B and other organizations, 167 political prisoners were behind bars in Burma prior to Tuesday’s amnesty. Bo Kyi said that around 232 individuals have been detained or are still facing charges under Article 18 [protest law] and Article 505(b) for waging plowing campaigns against land seizures. ([October 8, 2013 DVB](#))

The AAPP highlighted cases of abuse of section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law, and urged immediate judicial reform. “The law allows the continued harassment and restriction of human rights activists and is contrary to both international standards on freedom of expression and the standards laid out in Burma’s own Constitution. [...] The lack of consistency when applying this law demonstrates how the government is able to use the legal system to their own ends. It can be used to attack protesters and discriminate against political activists, while allowing others to hold assemblies freely.” ([October 8, 2013 Karen News](#))

The number of political prisoners in Burma rose last month, with 33 activists and protestors put behind bars in September while more than 200 others are facing trials, as reported by the AAPP. The number marked a “significant increase,” said the Thailand-based AAPP, despite President Thein Sein’s vow to release all of Burma’s remaining political prisoners by the end of this year. ([October 18, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))

Bo Kyi of the Assistance Association of Political Prisoners (AAPP) told VOA he doubts President Thein Sein will fulfill his pledge to release all political prisoners by the end of 2013. . "It is unlikely to happen, because, according to our list, about 133 political prisoners remain and another 232 detainees are facing trials. Those trials need to be closed down and arbitrary detentions have to be stopped. Only then, the issue of political prisoners will end. Otherwise, as long as there are political prisoners and arrests, efforts to secure their release will continue." ([October 8, 2013 VOA](#))

Association for Political Prisoners– Burma (AAPP-B) is providing job training such as English, graphic design and computer courses as a part of the career development project. In addition, AAPP-B is also providing mental consulting and driving lessons to formal political prisoners across Burma. Approximately 100 attendants participate in the various training programs in Yangon and around 30 participants are enrolled in a basic computer course in Mandalay, of which AAPP-B is covering their training fees in addition to transportation fees. ([October 10, 2013 Mizzima](#))

## KEY INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

In further steps towards improving its standing with the international community Burma took over the rotating chairmanship of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) at a ceremony in Brunei on October 10, 2013. Burma's ascension to the chairmanship post comes as the country has made a number of political reforms leading to many international sanctions being lifted. Critics however believe that the government has not yet made enough changes, citing amongst other issues the spread of sectarian violence and the continual existence of political prisoners. ([October 10, 2013 VOA](#))

In Rangoon, The Interim Press Council of Myanmar has called for the Ministry of Information to abandon a section of the Public Service Media bill which would continue government support for state-run newspapers. The council stated that these publications should be privatized instead to secure private print media freedom from government control. ([October 8, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))

On October 2, the lower house of parliament approved a bill amending the 1954 State Insignia (Restricting Ornaments) Act resulting in the adaption of a clause that includes a punishment for using images of Gen Aung San in public protests. Individuals caught using such pictures or paraphernalia during a public demonstration may now be imprisoned for a year or issued fines up to 50,000 kyat (US\$50) or both ([October 4, 2013 DVB](#))

Amendments related to the country's repressive Electronic Transactions Law were made in Rangoon during the end of the month. New National Democratic Party MP Thein Nyunt won consent among the Lower House to revise punishments under the law by replacing the current system of prison sentences with one of fines. The law dates back to 2004 and allows for up to 15 years' incarceration for "acts using electronic transactions technology" deemed to jeopardize and undermine "the security of the State, prevalence of law and order [...]". Thein Nyunt, who has brought the law up before Parliament on four previous occasions, stated that these steps were not far-reaching enough and that the law needed to be removed or amended. ([October 24, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))

Following months of discussions Burmese civil society organizations (CSO) and lawmakers have reached a consensus on a draft Association Registration Law. The law, if passed, will replace the Law Relating to Forming of Organizations No.6/88, which has been widely criticized for effectively banning any CSO from having independence from the government. It includes a number of broad and vaguely phrased clauses which impose severe prison sentences and restrictions on CSOs, should their conduct be deemed to "disrupt law and order, peace and tranquility". Representatives of Burmese CSOs expressed satisfaction with the new draft law on association as registration will be completely voluntary and as no clauses are included that may arbitrarily dismantle CSOs. ([October 21, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))

Myitkyina, Kachin state hosted three days of high-level peace talks between the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) and the Burma government from October 8-10. The parties signed a seven-point agreement which includes the establishment of a joint team to monitor

troops' movements on the border, developing a pilot plan for the voluntary return and resettlement of IDPs and the reduction of fighting. ([October 10, 2013 Irrawaddy](#)) ([October 10, 2013 RFA](#))

## **CONCLUSION/ANALYSIS**

Burma continues on a path of social and economic reform as October saw the country's ascension to the chairmanship of ASEAN, three-day peace talks conducted between government officials and the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) and the release of 56 political prisoners which drew widespread media attention.

In stark contrast to the seemingly progressive steps towards change taken by the Burmese government is the continued arbitrary use of the law to restrict and deny activists' civil and political liberties. In addition the increase in arrests, make a realization of Thein Sein's pledge that all political prisoners will be released by the end of the year, extremely unlikely. Dissent is instantaneously curtailed by the use of sections 17 (1), 18 and other laws leading to disproportionate sentences being doled out to dissuade the population from challenging the status quo and power of the nominally quasi-civilian government.

It is vital to not allow the highly publicized changes made by the government to divert attention from the challenges the country still faces on its road towards becoming a full-fledged democracy and establishing a true rule of law. The seven-year anniversary of the death in custody of well-known student activist Thet Win Aung on October 16 serves as a tragic reminder of one such challenge; the inhumane conditions and cruel treatment of political prisoners which persists to this day in Burmese prisons and the lack of acknowledgement of, and willingness to remedy such atrocities on the part of the government.

Reforms must go beyond short-term objectives and address underlying causes of the country's ailments. Amending the 2008 Constitution is crucial to a genuine political transition, as the constitution supports and perpetuates the power of the military whilst allowing present and continued human rights abuse alongside transgressions of the past to go on with impunity.

AAPP (B) reaffirms its commitment to support all political prisoners, as these numbers continue to rise despite recent releases. The Burmese government must immediately initiate a process to repeal all restrictive provisions of section 18 and the penal code, and release all political prisoners unconditionally.

### **October 26<sup>th</sup>**

[Capacity-building Training for Youth in Ramree Township Banned \(RFA\)](#)

### **October 24<sup>th</sup>**

[Punishments Reduced, But Burma's Harsh Online Law Remains \(Irrawaddy\)](#)



**October 22<sup>nd</sup>**

[Twenty more miners arrested over Moehti Moemi protest \(DVB\)](#)

[Activist jailed for protesting restriction on peaceful demonstrations \(Mizzima\)](#)

**October 21<sup>st</sup>**

[Shwedagon Pagoda on Bombing Suspect's Target List: KNU \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Civil Society and MPs Draft "Progressive" Association Registration Law \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

**October 19<sup>th</sup>**

[Multiple false alarms as fear rises \(MM Times\)](#)

**October 18<sup>th</sup>**

[Minister's Visit Fails to Ease Letpadaung Tensions \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Latpadaung residents protest seizure of land \(Mizzima\)](#)

[Political Prisoners in Burma Increase in September: AAPP \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Open discussions will educate public on Constitution \(Mizzima\)](#)

[Political Prisoners in Burma Increase in September: AAPP \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Rights Commission Says Use of Torture in Prison Riot Breached Human Rights \(Eleven\)](#)

**October 17<sup>th</sup>**

[One Killed in Shan State Explosions: Police \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Western military engagement with Burma 'deeply' concerning \(DVB\)](#)

[Fresh bomb blasts rattle Myanmar, one dead - 2ndlead \(Mizzima\)](#)

**October 16<sup>th</sup>**

[From Prison Cell to Cemetery \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Seven Years on, Student's Family Hopes History Will Not Be Repeated \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

**October 15<sup>th</sup>**

[Bomb Blast Hits Traders Hotel in Yangon \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Traders Hotel in Rangoon, Burma, hit by bomb blasts \(BBC News\)](#)

[Six Suspects Confess to Thandwe Murders: Home Affairs Ministry \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

**October 14<sup>th</sup>**

[Authorities detain 78 people in relation to recent violence in Thandwe, while the official death toll has risen to seven \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Letpadaung Mine Project Resumes but Fails to Meet Lawmakers' Requirements \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

**October 12<sup>th</sup>**

[Locals protest Latpadaung mine resumption \(DVB\)](#)

[Talk over for the release of activists, sentenced under section 18 \(RFA\)](#)

**October 11<sup>th</sup>**

[NLD lawyer fined for ballot tampering allegations \(DVB\)](#)

[A way to go on political prisoners \(Myanmar Times\)](#)

**October 10<sup>th</sup>**

[Former political prisoners offered a helping hand \(Mizzima\)](#)

[Police hold 66 suspects for recent riots in Rakhine State \(Eleven\)](#)  
[Former Pariah State Burma Takes Over ASEAN Chair \(VOA\)](#)

[KIO Signs New Peace Deal, But Still No Ceasefire \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Kachin Peace Talks Close Without Cease-Fire Pact \(RFA\)](#)

### **October 8<sup>th</sup>**

[Govt Should Change Bill, Privatize State Newspapers: Press Council \(Irrawaddy\)](#)  
[56 political activists to be released from Burma's prisons on Tuesday \(Irrawaddy\)](#)  
[Two Arakan locals jailed for protesting Rohingya resettlement \(DVB\)](#)  
[Burma's Protest Laws Used To Jail Peaceful Protestors \(Karen News\)](#)  
[56 political prisoners freed \(MMTimes\)](#)  
[Peace talks commence in Myitkyina \(DVB\)](#)  
[Burma Pardons 56 Political Prisoners \(VOA\)](#)

### **October 7<sup>th</sup>**

[45 detained in connection with Sandoway riots \(DVB\)](#)

[Tin HtutPaing: On The Run in Myanmar \(The Diplomat\)](#)

[Burma's Ruling Party Says Constitutional Change Could Mean 'Serious Danger' \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Abolishing 2008 Constitution Is 'Very Dangerous' For the People - USDP \(Eleven\)](#)

### **October 5<sup>th</sup>**

[Mei-Chaung-Kan residents' downtown demonstration, finished \(RFA\)](#)

### **October 4<sup>th</sup>**

[Parliament approves farmers' bill \(DVB\)](#)  
[Authorities urged to relist imprisoned political activists \(Mizzima\)](#)

### **October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

[Thandwe Tense But Calm, As Police Detain Arakan Leaders \(Irrawaddy\)](#)  
[Arakan Muslims Hide Amid Deadly Sectarian Clashes in Thandwe \(Irrawaddy\)](#)  
[Protesters demand return of ancestral land \(Mizzima\)](#)  
[Political party leader detained in connection with Sandoway riots \(DVB\)](#)

[Six Held in Connection With Deadly Myanmar Riots \(RFA\)](#)

[Burma army kills Kachin civilians in Putao district as others barred from fleeing \(Kachin News\)](#)

### **October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

[Violence Continues in Southern Arakan State, 6 Reported Killed, 60 Homes Destroyed \(Irrawaddy\)](#)  
[Fresh Fighting Reported in Kachin State, Ahead of Ceasefire Talks \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

### **October 1<sup>st</sup>**

[Update: 1 Muslim Killed, 35 Houses Torched After Violence Erupts in Southern Arakan State \(Irrawaddy\)](#)  
[Hone-Shin Factory protest leaders, granted bail \(RFA\)](#)

### **September 30**

[To resolve the prosecution on prison staff, bargained \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Government says it's working to return confiscated land to farmers \(DVB\)](#)  
[Ministry secures end to strike \(MMTimes\)](#)