



Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)

နိုင်ငံရေးအကျဉ်းသားများ ကူညီစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအသင်း (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ)

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Summary of the Current Situation

As of the end of December, 81 political activists remained in prison, with 78 farmers in jail. 203 people are awaiting trial. As another year passes by the government's promise to release all political prisoners by the end of 2013 is once again left unfulfilled. This failed promise along with recent events such as the death of freelance journalist and protestor Daw Khin Win, and the continuous repression of the rights of activists and human rights workers along with the ongoing charging of land rights activists and farmers show December to have been a continuation of the previous months.



Irrawaddy Media, December 2014, Accessed January 12, 2015

December, 2014

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"There can be no national reconciliation in Burma, as long as there are political prisoners"

MONTH IN REVIEW

This month, 33 political activists were charged, 10 were sentenced and no political prisoners were released.

DawKhin Win, 56, was attending a protest of the Latpadaung Copper Mine, which is being developed by the Chinese company Wanbao Mining Ltd. Along with her death at least 10 other people were injured in the violence that occurred during these clashes.

This month saw the release of a report entitled Who Killed JaSengIng by the JaSengIng Truth Finding Committee, which includes eyewitness testimony of 16 people stating that she was killed by soldiers from the military SutNgai Yang village, Hpakant Township, Kachin State on 13 September 2012. The report urges the government to start an official investigation into her death and urges the cessation of the persecution of Breng Shwang, her father. The police have opened an investigation.

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission this month released its final report into the death of freelance journalist AungKyawNaing, also known as Par Gyi. In the report it was confirmed that he died due to gunshot wounds to several parts of his body, but it also states that there was no evidence of torture on his body, a statement that his lawyer, Robert San Aung, and the family reject. They maintain that an independent, transparent investigation needs to be initiated in order to uncover the full truth behind the events leading up to his death. In an open letter to the president, Par Gyi's wife points out differences in the original statement and the official report by "The original military report said Par Gyi was shot dead after he grabbed the guard's gun and ran away. But, the commission's report says my husband was shot dead as he wrestled with the guard, trying to snatch his gun; these sentences have different meanings".

In a continuation from last month 29 activists have been charged for protesting the National Education Bill. 29 activists have been charged under Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act. The activists claim that they do not accept the charges against them and will not request bail or attend their court hearings. Instead, they call on the government to hold talks with them over the National Education Bill.

Farmers and land rights activists continue to be charged with varying crimes ranging from trespassing to obstruction. 14 land rights activists were arrested and charged under section 341 of the penal code for obstructing the sidewalk near the entrance of Rangoon's city hall. 54 farmers were charged with trespassing on land that had been confiscated by the army in 1992, but had been rented back to them until 2014 when it was once again confiscated.

[\(22 December 2014 - RFA\) \(2 January 2015 - DVB\)](#)[\(22 December 2014 -Irrawaddy\) \(6 December 2014 - Burma Partnership\)](#)[\(December 12 2014 - BNI\)](#)[\(3 December 2014 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)[\(3 December 2014 - DVB\)](#)[\(11 December 2014 - DVB\)](#)[\(15 December 2014 - Myanmar Times\)](#)[\(18 December 2014 - DVB\)](#)[\(17 December 2014 - RFA/Burmese\) \(23 December 2014 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)[\(19 December 2014 - The Irrawaddy/Burmese](#)

DETENTIONS

Myanmar Activist Charged With 'Defamation' Following Arrest

An activist, Wai Lu, was arrested and charged with "defamation of the state" under article 505 (b) of the Penal Code after he provided humanitarian assistance to the protest group who was speaking out against authorities unlawfully confiscating their land.

KhinMaungMyint, who lives at the Migyaungkan protest claims that Wai Lu was not involved in the protest and that he simply provided humanitarian assistance to the elders of the camp. Outraged by his arrest, members of the Minyaungkan protest camp went to the Kyauktada court in support of Wai Lu where they discovered that he had already been sent to Insein Prison to await trial.

[\(December 19, 2014 - RFA\)](#)

Former NLD Member Detained

On 17 December former NLD member Htin Lin Oo, who was faces charges under Article 295(a) prohibiting deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings, and Article 298 which forbids uttering words with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings, was denied bail by the Chaung-U Township Court after being told that he would be able to apply for it. His lawyer said "The court said he can apply for bail and he prepared the application, but when he submitted it, the court refused it suddenly and told him he would be detained." His charges stem from a speech he gave on October 23 during which he spoke out about Buddhist nationalism and extremism. He is currently in Monywa Prison awaiting his next court date on 24 December.

[\(17 December 2014 - Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(17 December 2014 - Eleven\)](#)

14 Land Rights Protestors Arrested and Charged

14 protesters living in an encampment outside Rangoon City Hall who have been demonstrating against the confiscation of Michaungkan land were evicted, arrested and charged early morning of December 23. The military confiscated these lands in the 1990's and then rented them out for industrial agricultural projects. The protesters had been protesting in the encampment since December 12. They were arrested and charged for unlawful assembly under Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly Law and an additional charge for obstruction of a public walkway under Article 341 of Burma's Penal Code because the encampment blocked a sidewalk near the entrance to Rangoon's City Hall. The accused were released on bail and are due back in court on January 6, 2015.

[\(23 December 2014 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)

Seven Charged In Anti-Mine Protest

Four people who took part in a protest against the China backed Latpadaung Copper Mine were arrested and charged under articles 353 and 505(b) of the Penal Code for interfering with public servants in discharge of their duties and for inciting offences against the state. Naw Ohn Hla, Nay Myo Zin, and Sein Htwe were arrested by the Dagon Township police for staging a protest near the Chinese Embassy in Rangoon. They have been taken to Dagon Township court and sent to Insein Prison. A fourth protester, Tin Htut Pai was arrested and put under investigation then also taken to Insein Prison. According to an AAPP source three others have also been indicted under the same charges. Mya Nyunt, That Zin, and San San Win have been indicted, but have yet to be arrested.

[\(31 December 2014 - RFA\)](#)

INCARCERATIONS

Activist Who Organized Protest with 5000 Farmers Imprisoned

Tin Tun Aung, an activist who planned a protest with over 5,000 farmers in order to take back land in Sinbaungwe Township in Magwe Division, was sentenced to pay a 10,000 kyat fine (or) spend one month in prison under section 19 of Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law at Sinbaungwe township court on December 31, 2014. However, he chose the prison sentence.

“I led the protest and work for the farmers’ benefit. I guess I am not guilty. If I paid fine to the court, it would be like I've admitted that I have guilt. I assumed that I am working on the right thing for over 5,000 farmers; so, my choice is one month in prison sentence. If I work for people’s benefit, it is no more than being detained in prison, I guess,” said Tin TunAung.

The farmers were demanding the return of about 21,750.81 acres of land from 11 villages in Sinbaungwe Township, Magwe District. Since September 25 Sinbaungwe Township police did not allow Tin TunAung to protest. Magwe Township court decided to sentence him under section 19 of Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law. Magwe Township police station commander, police lieutenant Shwe Htay was a plaintiff to sue Tin Tun Aung. ([31 December 2014 - Mizzima/Burmese](#))

Social Worker Faces Charges For Helping Peasants

According to an AAPP source, Aung Soe, a member of the Rangoon People Support Network was charged on November 3 under sections 427 and 447 of the Penal code for trespassing and vandalism. His sentence was given on December 31st. According to a resident of Madaya Township “Aung Soe has

been charged a second time with trespassing and Vandalism. He is charged under article 447 by Madaya Tsp court regarding the vandalism of a fish farming area located in Thapyae-Thar village.”

Four Farmers Sentenced to One Year

AAPP received information on Four Farmers, Ye Yin tAung, Ko Ko Aung, Zaw Win, and Nay Win, who were sentenced to one year in prison under section 505(b) of the Penal Code for taking part in a plough protest where they re-plowed land that was confiscated by the authorities. The men participated in the protest and were indicted in March, but were not given their sentence until December 31. Ye Yint Aung, Ko Ko Aung, and Zaw Win were charged Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act and were sentenced to three months in prison.

Three Protesters Fined 10,000 Kyat

Two members of All Burma Federation of Student Union and one former political prisoner Laurence Kyaw Kyaw, Tun Aung Kyaw, and Aung Than Htay, were sentenced under Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act on December 30 for their participation in a protest against the National Education Bill.

According to Aung Htet a member of ABSFU “We protested against the National Education Bill on September 4, 2014. ABFSU, Taungoo District, chairman, Laurence Kyaw Kyaw and member Tun Aung Kyaw were charged under Section 18 and Aung Than Htay was arrested.” The three men were each given a fine of 10,000 kyat.

Army Officer Jailed for Endorsing Constitutional Reform

Major Kyaw Zwar Win, an officer in the military, has been sentenced to two years imprisonment following his support of the National League for Democracy (NLD) for whom he signed a petition which was calling for amendments to be made to the 2008 Constitution. He has been in detention since April during which time he was denied visitation rights. He was charged under Article 65 of the Military Code for violating military rules and Article 41(E) for disobeying a military order. According to KyawZwar Win there is an order in the army restricting anyone from being involved with amending Article 436 which gives the army veto power over constitutional amendments. By signing the petition he broke this rule and was, as a result, incarcerated.

[\(5 December 2014 - RFA\)](#)[\(8 December 2014 - DVB\)](#)

RELEASES

AAPP received no information on releases for
December 2014

CONDITIONS OF DETENTIONS

AAPP received no information on conditions of detentions for December 2014

DEMONSTRATIONS AND RELATED RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

HtinKyaw Charged Again

HtinKyaw, a leader of the Myanmar Democratic Current Force, who is currently serving a 13 year and 4 month sentence was charged again under sections 18 and 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act on December 17. The charge stems from March 2014 when HtinKyaw led the opening of a protest camp in front of Taw-Win Cherry Building, Ward Number-6, Mayangone Township. He and two others were indicted. HtinKyaw said “I requested the permission from Tsp Police Force Officer, and we protested against; however, we are now charged under section 18 and 19 as we were accused of opening the protest camp and protesting beyond the permission. When I asked the police at the court hearing that whether there is a law to sue the person who opens the protest camp, he answered no.”

[\(18 December 2014 - Facebook\)](#)

Police Killer Protester in Mine Standoff

During a protest over the controversial Latpadaung copper mine a woman, DawKhin Win was killed and at least 10 others were injured. The incident happened when a group of 60 farmers from Moekyopyin, Sete and Tonywa villages came together to try and stop contractors who were hired by Wanbao Mining Copper Ltd, which owns the mine, from putting up a fence around a piece of land that the farmers say they have not been compensated for.. According to ZawMyint Than, a farmer from Moekyopyin village, DawKhin Win was killed by a bullet wound to the head.

Government-backed Myanmar National Human Rights Commission has also joined a separate investigation on January 1, 2015 into the shooting. Seven eye-witnesses were summoned by officials to recount what had happened. On January 1, 2015 local farmers staged another rally calling for justice for DawKhin Win’s family.

[\(22 December 2014 - RFA\)](#)[\(22 December 2014 - Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(22 December 2014 - DVB\)](#)

[\(2 January 2015 - DVB\)](#)

Activist Charged after Honoring Anniversary of General Aung San’s Birthday

Approximately 200 activists, including Win Htike Hein, marched from Kemmedine Township to City Hall in Kyauktada Township, Rangoon, on December 8, 2014 in honor of the 100 year birthday anniversary of General Aung San. The activists were permitted by the General Director of Kemmedine Township to assemble and march on Kyikekasan Kwin on western Myin-Pyaing-Kwin road, Tamwe Township. However, the marchers redirected to City Hall which resulted in Win Htike Hein, the leader of the demonstration, being charged under section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act.

According to Win Htike Hein, the protestors will be indicted under section 19 for walking through six other townships, which authorities did not approve. These townships include Kemmedine, Ahlon, Latha, Lanmadaw, Pabedan and Kyauktada. “Because we staged a protest without permission, we were prosecuted under section 19. We have received the letter from two Township courts: Kemmedine and Ahlon. I was granted one million Kyat bail at Kemmedine Township court on December 19,” said Win Htike Hein. The second court hearing will be in Kemmedine Township court on December 31.

[\(December 19, 2014 - The Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

Ko Ko Gyi and Group of Activists Charged under Section 19

A 100 square foot sport ground in South Okkalapa Township has been appropriated for a construction project by the Minister of Rangoon Division of Government, however the construction plan was postponed after people in the area submitted a complaint. On December 21, 2014, a group of activists staged a protest against the construction project since the construction plan was re-started.

five leaders including Ko Ko Gyi (88 Generation Peace and Open Society) and among two hundred other activists were charged under section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law by the South Okkalapa Township Police Commander. Mone Khat, one of the protest leaders, as well as a former political prisoner, said they were charged under section 19 because they staged a protest in a prohibited area. They were granted permission to stage a protest at Hit Tai, but decided to move their protest to a prohibited area as they would not be seen in Hit Tai. Because of that they were charged under section 19

[\(December 21, 2014 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)[\(22](#)

[December 2014 - DVB\)](#)

[\(22 December 2014 - Irrawaddy\)](#)

Twenty Nine Activists Charged for Staging a Protest Against the National Education Bill

The number of activists, charged under Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act or staging a protest against the education bill, is 29 at the moment. Min Thway Thit, a joint secretary of All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) said nineteen ABFSU members and ten supporters were charged under section 18 in Taungoo, Monywa, Myingyun and Prome Townships. As student activists said they do not accept the section 18, they do not plan to request bail or appear at the court hearing, but they decided to follow the authorities if they were arrested. Students pointed out nine primary facts to amend in the National Education Bill and they also requested the government to talk for this issue.

[\(17 December 2014 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

MDCF Stage Protest in Mandalay

On December 15, 2014, Myanmar Democratic Current Force (MDCF) members staged a protest against the wrongful charge of MDCF member Thein Aung Myint at Aung Myae Tharzan Township court. Thein Aung Myint was charged under Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Act for participating in an October 23 protest regarding the death of freelance journalist Par Gyi.

During the time of the protest Thein Aung Myint was being held and questioned at Aung Myae Tharzan Township Police Station and was freed from custody around the time that the protest ended. Despite his alibi, he was indicted on October 28 under Section 18 by the station commander of Aung Myae Tharzan Township Police Station. As a result of these false accusations, Thein Aung Myint and other MDCF members staged the December 15 protest in front of the court. "While facing charges at court, I realized that the judge was biased and was in favor of the prosecuting police officer. I have yet to be convicted; therefore I am not an offender. I have been falsely accused. I staged a protest, and I demand that I am not tried under this judge" said Thein Aung Myint. He has appeared eight times before the township court regarding this case.

[\(15 December 2014 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

Legal Dispute Between Teachers Over Student Union Movement

Htay Htay Wai, a primary school teacher from Basic Education Primary School, Sagaing Township, Sagiang Division, claims that her headmaster issued an order for her transfer to a different school on the premise of it being a requirement of the school, however she believes that it is due to her involvement in the student union movements. People questioned whether she was a member of any student union, but when witnesses began to be questioned she realized that the order had come from a higher authority, namely the

Divisional Director of Education. Htay Htay Wai refused to transfer and as a result the headmaster removed seats from her class. Subsequently 27 second grade students had to sit on a concrete floor during her class. A photo of the incident is now circulating social networks. In response, the headmaster requested the Sagaing Township Police to open a case against Htay Htay Wai under section 447/500. Two female and two male students were questioned by the police without parental consent. The parents of the students were reportedly dissatisfied with the questioning of their children. Deputy Police Chief, Theinkha Winfrom, from Police Sagaing Township, said they did not inform students' parents because they were questioned during the class hour. Htay Htay Wai said she plans to sue the headmaster Htike San for providing the wrong information to the police and she will sue local media and journalists who quoted the headmaster's complaint.

[\(12 December 2014 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

Myanmar Herald Reporter Sued

Than Myat Soe a Pegu based reporter from The Myanmar herald has had a case filed against him by Pegu Division's Letpandan Township Police Colonel Bhone Myint. The lawsuit was a result of an opinion piece written by Than Myat Soe claiming that the local police force and Special Branch were taking bribes from illegal gambling rings. He is being sued under the Media Law Article 9 and Article 25(b), and is accused of producing an article that 'deliberately affects the reputation of a specific person or organization.

[\(8 December 2014 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)

NLD Member Prosecuted For Violating Penal Code

Htin Lin Oo a columnist and National League for Democracy (NLD) member has has a lawsuit filed against him on November 20 by Tun Khaing, an officer from the Department of Immigration in Sagaing Division's Chaung-U Township under Article 295(a) prohibiting deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings, and Article 298 which forbids uttering words with deliberate intent to wound religious feelings. Htin Lin Oo conducted a speech in November which caused outrage from Buddhist groups. Tun Khaing stated 'The Township Sangha Nayaka (Buddhist Clergy) requested me to sue him since his speech disgraced their religion.'

[\(8 December 2014 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)

Independent Media Outlets Barred from Norwegian Kings Visit to Mandalay

With the arrival of King Harald of Norway on December 5, 2014, local Special Branch police refused independent media outlets, such as The Voice, Seven Day News, and Democratic Voice of Burma coverage of the event claiming that only "legal" media was permitted. After several hours of exclusion from the event, the journalists were finally allowed access to cover his arrival. Frustrated over the inequity of access and favoritism for state and army-owned media, most of the independent press decided to not cover the event. The Norwegian Kings arrival caused contention as the Mandalay authorities abruptly ordered families living along the Irrawaddy River to vacate the area in order to bulldoze their homes replacing them with flower pots in order to present a more aesthetic image of the landscape. After the Kings visit, the squatters returned to the bank and began to rebuild their homes.

[\(5 December 2014 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)[\(3 December 2014 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)[\(10 December 2014 - DVB\)](#)

RESTRICTIONS ON FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS

Committee for Scrutinizing Remaining Political Prisoners Raises Issue With Government Inaction

The Committee for Scrutinizing Remaining Political Prisoners has raised the issue that their work has stalled and gaining access to the case files of political prisoners has become very difficult as the government refuses to cooperate. Ye Aung, a member of the committee, stated “we are doing our job, making a list of inmates who we consider political prisoners, but the problem is the government doesn’t call meetings.” When the committee was first established they would meet once a month, the last meeting was held six months ago in July.

[\(16 December 2014 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)

Permanent Residence Policy Restricts and Exiles Activists

The Ministry of Immigration and Population has announced that starting December 29 former citizens of Burma will be able to return after they have completed the required five-year period under the Permanent Residence (PR) program. However, the PR program comes with numerous restraints such as terms forbidding any returnee to participate in elections, organize political events, and visit certain “rural areas”. In addition to this, those who have been granted political asylum or refugee status in a foreign country are not eligible to return; clearly forming barriers to anyone deemed a “political threat”. The program has an additional rule which states that in order to be eligible one must be able to assist in the development of the country’s business, education, or social sector. In addition to

these hindrances, the programs length, costly application and annual fees, as well as restrictive eligibility criteria have also been criticized. Political activists and human rights groups in Burma have accused the government of creating unclear policies regarding repatriation that go against President Thein Sein’s objective of national reconciliation. President Thein Sein specifically said during the UN General Assembly that “the coming back with dignity of the exiled political forces was evidence of the country’s progress towards democracy.” However this is not reflective of the current issues that many exiles are facing when applying for visas, permanent residency, and the reinstatement of citizenship. AAPP’s Joint Secretary, Bo Kyi, was quoted in The Irrawaddy regarding the controversial permanent residency system for Burmese exiles which has promised return but created many hurdles for those seeking to come back to Burma. Bo Kyi told the media via telephone from Thailand that “In the past, it took a day or a few days to get it (entry visa). When I contacted the President’s Office, I didn’t get a proper reply.”

[\(15 December 2014 - Myanmar](#)

[Times\)\(December 18, 2014 - The Irrawaddy](#)

LAND ISSUES

54 Farmers Prosecuted in Shwe-Daung Township

On October 24, 54 farmers were prosecuted for trespassing under Section 447 by Khin Maung Win, a Sergeant from Light Battalion 14, Shwe Daung Township, Pegu Division. Police Sergeant Aung Myint Htay from Myo Ma Police Station, Shwe Daung Township said that police from Shwe Daung Township have abided by the police manual when they questioned the accused farmers. "Because the case is a non-cognizable offense, the court has been directly informed. Abiding by the judge's instructions and Article 202 of the police manual, the farmers were separated and questioned by the police second lieutenants at the Village Director Offices. After they were questioned their case was handed over to the court," said police sergeant Aung Myint Htay. Until 2011 farmers had to pay a yearly fee in order to use the land which was confiscated in 1992, but that fee was lifted in 2012. In 2014 the fee was still waived, but when it came time to plant rice paddies they were told they were not allowed to use the land anymore. The initial court hearing was cancelled because several farmers did not show up. They say they will appear before the court in regards to trespassing and will attempt to regain their confiscated land.

[\(19 December 2014 – The Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

Vice President Nyan Tun Speech at National Land Resource Management Central Committee Meeting

On December 9 The National Land Resource Management Central Committee held its first collaboration meeting in Nay Pyi Taw with Vice President Nyan Tun giving the opening speech. In this speech he suggested that the committee should ensure legal protection of land ownership rights.

[\(10 December 2014 - Global New Light Of Myanmar\)](#)

Farmers in Nay Pyi Taw tried for trespassing

Thirty one farmers, residents of Kalar-Gyi-Kone village, Dekhina Thiri Tsp, Nay Pyi Taw Council area, were charged under Municipal Act Section 26 for trespassing. Eight were tried at Municipal Court in Zabuthiri Tsp, on December 8, 2014. These particular eight served previous prison sentences for trespassing on land owned by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forest. They were indicted again on December 8 for trespassing in the Nay Pyi Taw Council project area. One of the accused farmers Win Aung stated "At the moment, we are charged again by the City Development Committee and facing trial at the court. We, who have already been convicted, were only indicted again once some people built a big house and lived just near my fence were not charged by anyone." The defendants have lived in Kalar-Gyi-Kone village for about 20 years.

Since this area has been recognized as Nay Pyi Taw Council's Special Project Area, the transfer order was later issued there.

[\(8 December 2014 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

KEY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Burma In Top 10 List Of Journalist Jailers

Burma has made the list of the top 10 list of worst jailers of journalists according to a report released by the Committee to Protect Journalists. According to the report, Burma had 10 Journalists in prison at the time of the release. This number puts Burma at number 8 in the top ten list. All of the journalists who are currently in prison are charged on anti-state charges. Of the ten journalists imprisoned the five employees of the Unity Weekly are the most high profile as they each received a sentence of 10 years under the state secrets act. According to CTPJ “Rather than reforming draconian and outdated security laws, President U Thein Sein’s government is using the laws to imprison journalists”.

[\(19 December 2014 - Mizzima\)](#)

Conclusion / Analysis

The Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act continues to be used as a tool for the government to stifle the activities of its opponents. As of December 24 people including 14 land rights activists were charged under the law.

Land rights or lack thereof also played a large part in the month of December. 54 farmers faced charges for trespassing onto land that they had been paying to work on for years only for the right to work on it to be taken away at one of the most important agricultural times of the year. 14 other land rights activists were charged with Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act as well as section 341 of the Penal Code for creating and maintaining an encampment that blocked the entrance to city hall in Rangoon. It is obvious through the lack of peaceful response to multiple protests that the government cares little for the land rights of the people and plans on continuing to do what it sees fit with the land without considering the needs of the people.

The death of Daw Kin Win demonstrates both the lack of regard for basic civil liberties with regards to land confiscation, and how the extrajudicial killings of Burma's citizens must end. The need for independent and transparent investigation has been evidenced before, and this latest killing reiterates this desperate need.

The Permanent Residency Program allows those who have left to come back, but there are several caveats. Firstly, those who were grant asylum or refugee status will not be able to take part in the program. In addition, people who take part in the program are forbidden to have any doings in politics and anyone who is deemed a political threat will not be allowed to take part. This program is a thinly veiled attempt to keep any of the former political activists and opponents from being able to have any influence over the future of the country while making Burma seem like it is moving forward in its efforts towards national reconciliation all the while.

The extrajudicial killings highlighted in December and the ongoing arrests of activists demonstrate the lack of respect for the human rights and civil liberties of the people is continuing at the end of 2014. 2015 is expected to be an important year for Burma and the need for accountability and transparency has never been greater. The government must make a strong commitment to ending the abuse of its people and bring a measure of openness to the investigations and accountability to the perpetrators.

Links / Resources

December 3

[MNHRC Report On Death of Aung Kyaw Naing \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)

[MNHRC Report on Death of Aung Kyaw Naing \(DVB\)](#)

December 5

[Army Officer Incarcerated For Endorsing Constitutional Reform \(RFA\)](#)

December 8

[Army Officer Incarcerated for Endorsing Constitutional Reform \(DVB\)](#)

[NLD Member Prosecuted for Violating Penal Code \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Myanmar Herald Reporter Sued \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Farmers in Nay Pyi Taw Tried for Trespassing \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

December 10

[Vice President Nyan Tun Speech at National Land Resource Management Central Committee Meeting \(Global New Light Of Myanmar\)](#)

December 12

[Legal Dispute Between Teachers Over Student Union Movement \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

December 15

[Accusations Fly Over Rights Commission Investigation \(Myanmar Times\)](#)

December 16

[Committee For Scrutinizing Remaining Political Prisoners Raises Issue With Government Inaction \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)

December 17

[Former NLD Member Detained \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Former NLD Member Detained \(Eleven\)](#)

[Twenty Nine activists charged for staging a protest against the education bill \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

December 18

[Htin Kyaw Charged Again \(Facebook\)](#)

December 19

[Burma In Top 10 List Of Journalist Jailers \(Mizzima\)](#)

[Activist Charged after Honoring Anniversary of General Aung San's Birthday \(Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

[54 Farmers Prosecuted in Shwe-Daung Township \(Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

December 22

[Ko Ko Gyi and Group of Activists Charged Under Section 19 \(DVB\)](#)

[Ko Ko Gyi and Group of Activists Charged Under Section 19](#)

[\(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

[Ko Ko Gyi and Group of Activists Charged Under Section 19 \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Police Kill Villager in Copper Mine Standoff \(RFA\)](#)

[Police Kill Villager in Copper Mine Standoff \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Riot Police Open Fire On Latpadaung Protesters \(DVB\)](#)

December 31

[Seven Charged In Anti-Mine Protest Activist Who Organized Protest with 5000 Farmers Imprisoned](#)

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