

JANUARY CHRONOLOGY 2018

Summary of the Current Situation:

There are **229** individuals oppressed in Burma due to political activities,

45 political prisoners are serving prison sentences,

51 are awaiting trial inside prison,

133 are awaiting trial outside prison.



Picture from the Irrawaddy © 2018
Accessed January 2018



Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)

နိုင်ငံရေးအကျဉ်းသားများ ကူညီစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအသင်း (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ)

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POLITICAL PRISONERS

▪ ARRESTS

Solo Protester Arrested Demanding Release of Parmaukkha

On January 14, Maung Maung Zin held a solo protest to demand the immediate release of Buddhist Monk Parmaukkha. Police arrested Maung Maung Zin at the Ba Ham Township Police Station, previously known as Tharkayta Township, and charged him under Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly Act and Article 6 of the National Flag Act. During the protest, Maung Maung Zin held the NLD flag in his right hand, a religious flag in his left hand, and tied the Burmese national flag to his waist and wrote “Release U Pa Maw Ka Immediately” on the white star of the flag. He started his protest in Ba Ham Township and planned to go to Mingalar Taungnyunt Township, Pazaundaung, Dawpon. When he arrived at Botahtaung Township, however, the police arrested him because authorities had previously banned citizens from holding demonstrations in the township.

[\(15 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

Police Arrest Two Protesters for Standing on 2008 Constitution

On January 18, the Dagon Seik Kan Police Station arrested protesters Lay Lay (AKA San San Oo), Naung Naung and four others, who remain unidentified, under charges related to Section 505 (b) of the Penal Code. They had been protesting the case of former child soldier Aung Ko Htwe on January 17 after the judge opened the case. In a form of protest, they allegedly stood on a piece of cardboard made to look like a copy of the 2008 Constitution. All six were sent to Insein Prison that day. Police arrested Lay Lay and Naung Naung before

they were able to carry out their planned January 19 protest in Naypyidaw.

[\(18 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(19 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

Police Arrest Youth in Connection With Mrauk-U Protest

Police arrested eight Arakanese youth on January 23 in connection with the Mrauk-U protest held January 16 [see CHARGES section for more details]. At the time of arrest, all eight youth were being treated at People’s Hospital for injuries endured during the protest. They placed in hand and leg cuffs at the hospital and are now being held in the hospital’s ward for prisoners as police investigate. Officers guarding the prison ward have refused to answer questions from the detainees’ families. [\(23 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - DVB\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - Eleven\)](#)

Karen State Protest Leader Arrested Under Peaceful Assembly Act

On January 30, police in Hpa-An, Karen State arrested 88 Generation Development Social Team Chairman Saw Maung Gyi under charges related to Section 19 the Peaceful and Assembly Act. Saw Maung Gyi had been leading about a 50-person protest demanding the Government solve farmland issues, as well as accusing corrupted Government staff. According to police, he did not have permission to hold the protest. However, on January 26, protesters had

submitted a letter to the police about the protest. The station canceled the request due to the close timing with National Day, student exams, and trips from high profile people.

[\(30 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(30 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(30 January 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(31 January 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

▪ CHARGES

Reuters Journalists Charged

The two detained Reuters' Journalists, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, were charged under Article 3(1) of the Official Secrets Act at their second court appearance on January 10. They were arrested in December 2017 for allegedly possessing classified state documents. At their third court hearing on January 23, the reporters' Lawyer, Than Zaw Aung, had asked for their release on bail which was not granted. He has disputed the prosecution's claims that police found the documents after a search when on a routine patrol. According to Wa Lone's wife, he is suffering from a hernia and back pain, and may not be getting the medical treatment needed while in detention. On January 23, the judge postponed a decision on bail until the next hearing on February 1. [\(7 January 2018 - Reuters\)](#) [\(10 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(10 January 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(10 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(10 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(10 January 2018 - Time\)](#) [\(10 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(10 January 2018 - Reuters\)](#) [\(10 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(11 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(12 January 2018 - Frontier\)](#) [\(22 January 2018 - Reuters\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - Washington Post\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - Mizzima\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - Global New Light\)](#) [\(25 January 2018 - Independent\)](#)

Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk U Uprisings

On January 16 peaceful protests condemning authorities for banning the commemoration ceremony of the Arakan

Dynasty anniversary event turned violent in Mrauk U Township, Arakan State, leading to seven civilian deaths and 12 injured. Protesters threw stones and bricks at the administration building and police trucks. After this, the police force open fired on those present, using live ammunition rather than rubber bullets. According to the secretary of the Arakan State Government, Tin Maung Swe, organizers did not seek approval from local authorities for the gathering. The Arakan State Government has offered 500,000 kyat (\$370) in financial assistance to each of the seven families.

Police have charged seven men in Arakan State for their participation in activities during these celebratory events. Five youth were charged on January 26 under Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly Act for staging a protest on January 17 as a response to the police's handling of the protests. Another two prominent Arakanese men were charged on January 29 under Section 17/1 of the Unlawful Associations Act, and Section 505 (b) and (c) of the Penal Code for writing and delivering a January 15 talk that allegedly proposed an armed struggle may be necessary to ensure sovereignty for the Arakan people. They may be charged under Section 121 of the Penal Code for high treason as well; however, these charges may only be brought by Presidential Order.

On January 17, Sittwe Police arrested the five youth and later charged them under Section 19 of the Peaceful Assembly Act because they failed to notify officials 48 hours before demonstrating. According to Sittwe Township Police, Major Than Kyaw, charges will be dropped after each pays a fine of 30,000 kyat (US\$22.50).

On January 16 and 18 respectively, authorities arrested Author Wai Hin Aung and Ann Township MP and former Arakan National Party leader Aye Maung under Section 17/1 of the Unlawful Associations

Act and Section 505 of the Penal Code for public incitement, and Section 121 of the Penal Code for high treason. Police escorted the two defendants from Sittwe Prison, where they are being held, to their January 29 court hearing. According to Wai Hin Aung's brother, relatives and journalists were not allowed to see the two at the hearing. The next court appearance is February 9.

Local Arakanese are concerned that the current police investigations following the Mrauk-U events are further damaging relations, and leading to greater instability, between ethnic Arakanese and ethnic Bamar in the State. The arrests have triggered further protests for the release of Wai Hin Aung and Aye Maung. Following statements from the the Arakan Army (AA), local civil society groups, and international organizations regional and national Governments have opened investigations into the police crackdown. The state investigative committee was formed January 29 and will begin its probe February 3.

[\(16 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(16 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(16 January 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(16 January 2018 - Development Media Group/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - Eleven\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - Development Media Group/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - Development Media Group/Burmese\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - Coconuts\)](#) [\(17 January 2018](#)

[- The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - Reuters\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - Mizzima\)](#) [\(17 January 2018 - Frontier\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - Eleven\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - Frontier\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - Global New Light\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - DVB\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(19 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(19 January 2018 - Mizzima\)](#) [\(19 January 2018 - DVB\)](#) [\(20 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(21 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(21 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(21 January 2018 - Eleven\)](#) [\(22 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 January 2018 - Mizzima\)](#) [\(22 January 2018 - RFA\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - RFA\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(26 January 2018 - DVB\)](#) [\(26 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(26 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(29 January 2018 - DVB\)](#) [\(29 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(29 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(29 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(29 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(29 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(30 January 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#) [\(30 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(29 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(30 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(30 January 2018 - DVB\)](#) [\(30 January 2018 - DVB\)](#) [\(31 January 2018 - Mizzima\)](#) [\(31 January 2018 - BNI\)](#)

▪ TRIALS

Bail Granted to Editor-In-Charge at *Tanitharyi Journal*

On January 2, the Dawei Township judge granted bail at two million kyat (US\$1,480) to *Tanitharyi Journal* editor-in-charge, Myo Aung. Tanitharyi Division Prime Minister, Dr. Lae Lae Maw, sued *Tanitharyi Journal* following a satire article on November 20. According to Dr. Lae Lae Maw, the article insulted her and her family members. On December 5, the journal group released a statement that they ensure Myo Aung will receive a fair trial. On December 6, the court began to review Myo Aung's case in the Dawei police station, with the lawsuit filed on December 21 under Article 25(B) of the News Media Law. The second hearing took place January 16. ([3 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese](#)) ([9 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese](#))

City Sues Development Committee Staff Member Under Article 10 of Privacy Law

On January 7, the Deputy Department Head of the City Development Committee in Magway Township, Aung Myo Thein, sued Magwa Township City Development Committee staff member Myo Aung under charges relating to Article 10 of A Law Protecting the Privacy and Personal Security of Citizens. On November 13, 2017, Myo Aung wrote letters criticizing the City Development Committee on both the Magway Division Common News Facebook page and the Hit Taint's Facebook page. The letter claimed that some staff from the Committee sold previously recognized land for new houses. The letter indicated that this makes Committee members dishonest. This is not the first time Myo Aung has been critical of the Committee. On July 17, 2017, Myo Aung wrote on the abovementioned Facebook pages about corruption on the Committee, and money the Committee allegedly stole. According to the Magway Police, this is the first time they have filed charges under Article 10 at the station. On

January 30, Myo Aung had a court hearing at Magway Township. ([11 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese](#)) ([31 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese](#))

Trial Against Former Child Soldier, Aung Ko Htwe, Will Continue

The judge presiding over former child soldier, Aung Ko Htwe's case, decided to allow prosecution to proceed in a controversial decision on January 17. Arrested August 18, 2017, the former child soldier was charged under section 505(b) of the Penal Code after he gave an interview to *Radio Free Asia (RFA)* recounting his experiences as a minor conscripted into the military. After his January 31 hearing, Aung Ko Htwe declared he would boycott future hearings because he has lost faith in the judicial system's ability to give him a fair trial. If convicted, he faces up to three years imprisonment, a fine, or both. The next hearing is scheduled for February 14. ([17 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese](#)) ([17 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese](#)) ([18 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese](#)) ([18 January 2018 - DVB](#)) ([18 January 2018 - Myanmar Times](#)) ([31 January 2018 - DVB](#)) ([31 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese](#))

■ RELEASES

Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24

Five Karenni youths were sentenced on January 12 by a local court to 20 days in prison for leading a 15-person protest without a permit on December 22, 2017. According to Loikaw Township Police Captain, Win Htay, they violated Article 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Act by failing to inform police of their plans 48 hours before the demonstration. The five had a choice between jail time or a fine of up to 30,000 kyats (US\$22.20). Members of the Union of Karenni State Youth (UKSY) and the Karenni State Farmers Union stated the five were protesting against the Military's alleged execution of four people in December 2017. On January 15, during Karenni National Day, authorities banned sharing pamphlets and information regarding the law used to arrest the five. All five youth were released January 24 after serving their sentences.

[\(2 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(3 January 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(3 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(5 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(5 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(6 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(6 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(6 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(8 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(10 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(10 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(10 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(11 January 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#) [\(11 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(12 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(12 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(12 January 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(13 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(15 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(15 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

[\(24 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - DVB\)](#) [\(25 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

Three Inn Din Villagers Allegedly Connected with Reuters Journalists Released, One Facing Charges

On January 5, Tun Tun Naing (teacher), Maung Thein Phyu, and Maung Win Phyu (villagers) were released from Maung Daw State Police, where they were being held since their arrest in December 2017. Between December 15 and 18 Military Affairs Security Forces arrested seven villagers and educators, including these three, whom villagers believed were connected to the arrests of Reuters Journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo. Three of the seven were released in December 2017, but one final villager, Tun Aye, remains in detention. On January 12, Tun Aye appeared at Maung Daw Court under charges related to Article 302 of the Penal Code.

[\(6 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(7 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(13 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(14 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection with Karanni State Protests

Karanni State police sued and detained three men who led a January 5 protest against the prosecution of five other protesters - all eight faced charges under Article 19 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act. The five youth protesters carried out their 20-day prison sentence for protesting the alleged murder of a civilian and three soldiers of the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) in December 2017. The three who faced a suit are Chairman of the Kayan National Party, Khun Bee Du, Chairman of the Karenni State Farmers Union, Khu Tu Reh, and Central Committee Member of the

Kayan New Generation Youth, Khun A-Than. They led hundreds in a demonstration in Loikaw Township, Karenni State, but did not inform authorities 48 hours beforehand, leading to a violation of Article 19. The court dismissed charges against them on January 23, and released them from Loikaw Prison.

[\(18 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(19 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(19 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(19 January 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(19 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(25 January 2018 - BNI\)](#)

Five Members of NMSP Released Before Completing Sentences

On January 31, five members from the New Mon State Party (NMSP) were released from Kyaikmayaw Prison before their release date. They were arrested and sentenced in 2017, under Section 17/1 of the Unlawful Association Act. According to a member of the the Central Committee of the NMSP, Naing Aung Ma Gaze, the Party requested the release and before signing the National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), which built trust between the NMSP and Government. The Party will review cases of local people who were arrested under the Unlawful Association Act, as well as those who are connected with the NMSP to be released early.

[\(31 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(31 January 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

▪ FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS

Artist and Former Political Prisoner, San Zaw Htway, Passes Away

On December 31, former political prisoner and former AAPP Counselor, San Zaw Htway, passed away from advanced liver cancer. He was sentenced to 36 years in jail but was released under presidential amnesty in 2012. Following his release, he became known for creating collages from recycled goods, a self-taught art technique he honed while serving out his prison sentence. In addition to creating these pieces, a large part of his time was spent teaching orphans and children living with HIV about his technique. ([4 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy](#))

Former Political Prisoner and Generation 88 Activist, Zaw Min, Passes Away

On January 21, former political prisoner and AAPP ally, Zaw Min AKA Ko Baung Baung, passed away from liver cancer. He was imprisoned three times for his democracy activism after the 8/8/88 uprising and was deeply involved with National League for Democracy (NLD) victory in the 1990 elections. After his presidential amnesty release in 2012, he led the 88 Generation Peace and Open Society.

([22 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese](#)) ([22 January 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese](#)) ([23 January 2018 - Myanmar Times](#))

RESTRICTIONS ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS

Protesters Call for Complete Repeal of 2008 Constitution

In a January 2 protest, 60 demonstrators gathered in South Dagon Myothit, Rangoon, to call for the repeal of the 2008 Constitution. According to protest organizer, Naung Naung, activists staged the demonstration because the 2008 Constitution denies citizens of their justice and fundamental rights. [\(2 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(3 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(3 January 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#) [\(3 January 2017 - Mizzima\)](#)

21 Century Union Peace Conference Postponed

The Government's third 21st Century Panglong Union Peace Conference was officially postponed until February. On January 9, the Government and ethnic group leaders postponed the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee meeting, where they would have set a date for the upcoming Peace Conference. According to a member of the Government's Peace Commission, Aung Soe, failure to hold national-level dialogues (NDs), and failure of non-NCA groups to sign the accord before the conference are the reasons for the delay. The new date has been tentatively set for February 12.

Throughout the month, ethnic groups pushed for a delay to the Conference, citing a need to continue discussions on multiple political negotiations before participating in an effective conference. This announcement comes after the cancellation of pre-meetings for the Shan ND due to Military

interference, and difficulties holding NDs in other areas of the country as well. According to organizers in Shan State, the reasons behind the Military interference is because the Committee for Shan State Unity (CSSU) is leading the meetings rather than the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS). Although the RCSS chairs the CSSU, the Military opposes their leadership on NDs as some members of CSSU are not National Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signatories. The Military calls this leadership illegitimate as there is no provision for the CSSU in the NCA. [\(5 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(5 January 2018 - BNI\)](#) [\(8 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(8 January 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(8 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(8 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(8 January 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 January 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(16 January 2018 - Mizzima\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(20 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(21 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 January 2018 - DVB\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - Mizzima\)](#) [\(25 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#)

Youth Rights Policy Elicits Response From CSOs

Burma's youth, which makes up more than a third of the country's population, helped draft a policy focused on issues related to education, health, drug hazards, job opportunities, economics, political research, literature, arts, and culture. Following the release of this policy, 133 civil

society organizations issued a statement on youth arrests throughout 2017, including recent cases of Karenni youth arrested after a peaceful protest, and Reuters journalists charged under the Official Secrets Act. The statement called for their release, along with highlighting three more youth cases throughout the year. According to a member of the Karenni Youth Union, this is the first time many of these organizations have come together to defend the rights of youths.

[\(5 January 2018 - Global New Light of Myanmar\)](#) [\(14 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(14 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(15 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(15 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#)

Karen State Farmers Block Road to Protest Rock Mining Operation

Farmers have blocked the road leading to Lon Nya Mountain, Hpa-an Township, Karen State in an effort to stop the building process of Eindu-Kawkareik Highway. 900 farmers signed a petition to stop highway production, but never received a response from authorities. Displeased with the rock production nearby, according to farmers the road to Lon Nya Mountain has been destroyed by the trucks that transport rocks and pollute the area. Rock production has taken place on the mountain since 2007 for various projects, and authorities have failed to consult farmers on a number of these projects before starting production. According to the Administrative Officer of Hpa-an Township, Myo Min Tun, officials will take legal action against the farmers in February if they do not remove road barriers.

[\(6 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(8 January 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#)

Ministry of Home Affairs Submits the Most Corruption Cases

At a January 6 press conference, Anti-Corruption Committee member Lae Lae

Mae said the Ministry of Home Affairs submitted the most cases to the Committee since its founding in November 2017. On January 22 and 23, the Anti-Corruption Committee and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime held a literature reading meeting on how to promote integrity in order to counter corruption. The Anti-Corruption Law was written in 2013; however, it has gone through multiple rounds of reform. The fourth draft law will be submitted to related organizations to continue the reform process. The Anti-Corruption Committee is led by former information minister Aung Kyi. [\(6 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(6 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)

Tennesserim Government Will Sue Those Who Criticize Open Tender Application Process for Local Electric Company

On December 2, 2017 the Tennesserim Government released a statement announcing tender competitors who criticize the application process for the electric service business on social media will be sued. Currently, the Dawei Development Public Company (DDPC) Company and Tanitharyi Government are providing electric services to Dawei District.

[\(7 January 2018 - 7 Daily/Burmese\)](#)

Man Accused of Unlawful Association for Launching Balloon for Arakan Army Colonel's Birthday

On January 5, a resident from Late Kha Maw Village in Kyaukphyu Township, Arakan State, Hla Tun Kyaw, was investigated by police for the fifth time in connection to charges under Section 17(1) of the Unlawful Association Act. On November 11, Hla Tun was arrested by Kaut Phyu Police for launching balloon that said, "Happy Birthday General" with his photo on it. This was the fifth time he has been brought in for questioning.

[\(7 January 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

Man Sued for Criticizing Mon State Chief Minister

On January 6, Aung Ko Ko Lwin, from Thaton Township, Mon State, was sued by a member of the Mon State Ethnic Affairs Committee, Saw Kyaw Moe, for Facebook posts criticizing Mon State Chief Minister, Aye Zaw. On January 3, Aye Zaw commented that people in Thaton Township should self-ration to lower food prices. Aung Ko Ko Lwin's posts related to those comments, as well as criticizing Aye Zaw's lack of response when asked to install a stop light at an accident-prone intersection during a community dialogue.

Aung Ko Ko Lwin was sued under Article 8(f) of the Privacy Law, enacted in March 2017. The law protects the privacy and personal security of citizens. If charged, he could be incarcerated for up to three years, and fined up to 1,500,000 kyats (US\$1,100). Rights groups have called on the authorities to not pursue charges, and promptly amend the law. [\(8 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(8 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 January 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(9 January 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#) [\(12 January 2018 - Mizzima\)](#)

Journalists Restricted from Reporting On High-Profile Arms Case

Although journalists had previously registered and been given access cards, reporters covering an ongoing arms case involving son of the sports minister from the previous administration, Phyo Ko Ko Tint San, were denied entry to the trial. According to Section 4(d) of the 2014 Media Law, as well as the Supreme Court's handbook for the media, journalists are given access to courts and legally allowed to cover cases. Further, journalists have previously been granted access to high-profile cases in the past, such as the abuse of housemaids by the Ava tailoring factory case, and, most recently, the detention of Reuters' journalists.

[\(10 January 2018- The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(11 January 2018 - Coconuts\)](#)

Farmers Request Return of More Than 200 Acres of Land

43 farmers submitted a petition to vice president Henry Van Thio to return more than 200 acres of farmland that the Prison department confiscated from Myauk Kjein Village Tract, Mye Pon Township, Arakan State. According to a local farmer from Tan Dar Ni, farmers are finding it difficult to survive without their land, which is why they have requested it to be returned. 25 villagers are from Myauk Kjein Village, 12 from Ta dar Ni village and six are from Lawn Loe Poit Village. In 2004, the Prison Department took 200 acres of farmland to grow rice, and expand shrimp and salt businesses in Myauk Kjein Village Tract. In 2010, the Prison Department stopped the businesses, but leased the land out instead of returning it.

[\(10 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

ICJ Report Finds Government Must Address Impunity

According to a recent report by the International Commission of Jurists, the Government must take action to counteract decades of Military impunity for human rights violations. The report identifies eight cases across Kachin, Karen, Mon, and Arakan states in which victims have been unable to access justice, and in some cases, have been harassed for attempting to do so. Due to provisions in the 2008 Constitution, the 1959 Defence Services Act and the 1995 Police Force Maintenance of Discipline Law, the Military are rarely held accountable for rights violations. This protective status has led to decades of widespread human rights violations and has deteriorated the rule of law. The report calls on the Government to address issues of impunity and help restore justice and the rule of law for individual victims, rights defenders, and journalists.

[\(10 January 2018 - ICJ\)](#) [\(18 January 2018 - BNI\)](#)

ABSDF Pre-Public Meeting Has Been Banned

The All Burma Student Democratic Front (ABSDF) held a pre-public Panglong meeting in seven different cities. Multiple civil society organizations are involved in helping the meetings take place, but authorities banned some of the public meetings. Meeting attendees said the Bago Border Ministry and Security Ministry stopped the public meetings at Bago city, Bago Division on January 12. Even though ABSDF did not get permission for the two-day public meeting, they went ahead with plans until authorities broke up the meeting January 13.

Bago City is the first to hold this type of public meeting. In 2017, public meeting was held in Bago Division, Pyay City, and Taung Ngoo City but event organizers did not need permission to hold the event. [\(12 January 2018 - RBA/Burmese\)](#) [\(13 January 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#)

Most Farmers in Ann Township Have Not Yet Accepted Land Returns

Most farmers in Ann Township, Arakan State have not received their land, returned from the Army, because the Ann Township Land Committee has done anything to address the return of land. On January 8, farmers held a public meeting to urge the Government to return land to its original owners. They also plan to have a discussion with the Arakan State Government to resolve this matter. Since 1990, the army took more than 10,000 acres from more than 300 farmers. In January 2016, 1,600 acres were returned; while some farmers have received land, others have not. When the army confiscated farmland, it made it very difficult for the farmers' survival, which is why they are now demanding that the land be returned, or for fair compensation. Former farmers, as well as current farmers are encouraged to report confiscated land to the Committee, in order

to help quicken the process. [\(13 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

Mining Effect on Crops and Farmland in Kyaukse Industrial Zone

On January 13, local people held a press conference about the loss of farmland and crops due to Rhinoceros Cement Company rock mining in Kyaukse Industrial Zone, Madalay Division, a project carried out by the Than Daw Myat Company. Due to falling pieces of rock and rock powder on the crop areas, the mining process destroyed more than 100 acres of farmland in Kalay Village, Yay Kyi Village, and Mine Pan Village. According to local farmer Kyaw Naing Win, farmers asked for land compensation, or for the committee to buy the land. At the press conference, farmers said that since it has become difficult to grow on the land, Rhinoceros management does not want to have a meeting with the farmers on discussing compensation; however, Rhinoceros Cement Company manager Win Aung will meet with the local people about the problem. [\(13 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(15 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

Kachin State Villagers Worry About Land-Grabbing

According to village elders in Tarlawgyi Village, Myitkyina Township, Kachin State, residents will stage a protest due to lack of Government action in solving land disputes among villagers. Further, internally displaced people (IDPs) from Waingmaw Township, Kachin State, worry about land-grabbing from Burmese companies, allegedly financed by Chinese investors. They fear no one will be able to help them protect their land from the expansion of banana plantations that have already started to appear. [\(17 January 2018 - Eleven\)](#) [\(19 January 2018 - Frontier\)](#)

Farmers from Mandalay Hold Press Conference on Confiscated Lands

On January 17, farmers from Yae Kyi Village, Naung Pin Village and Youe Su Village, Pathein Gyi Township, Mandalay Division held a press conference on the topic of confiscated land. The farmers said, if their land is not returned, in one month they will begin working on it again. In 1997, more than 173 acres land from 28 farmers was confiscated to build a Fire Department Training Center, and then passed to a Former Military Serviceman Training School. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation said they will give back only 100 acres of land, but that did not happen. Farmer Khin Oo said since the local farmers have not had land for the past 20 years, they have been doing any work they can find. Since 2012, the farmers have sent letters to different Departments, including the President's Office, but there has been no response.

[\(19 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#)

Police Banned Members of Latpadaung Mine Protecting Committee From Sending a Complaint Letter To Authorities

The Letpadaung Mine Protecting Committee planned on submitting a complaint letter to the Chinese Embassy for investing in Wanbao Mining Copper Company projects because the Company has neither listened to nor implemented the changes from the 2013 Latpadaung Investigation Committee Report. On January 19, Protecting Committee members began peacefully walking from City Hall, Kyauktada, Pabedan, Latha, Lanmadaw, Ahlon and Dogon Township, Yangon Division to the Chinese Embassy without shouting, but police blocked their path. This is not the first time Committee members have attempted to get other parties involved in regulating the Company's projects.

On December 13, 2017, Committee members attempted to file a complaint with the State Counsellor, but the security group banned their efforts as well.

Committee leader Ohne Hla is trying ensuring that both the Union of Myanmar Economic Holding Ltd and the Wanbao Company follow recommendations from the Letpadaung Investigation Commission report.

[\(19 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(19 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(19 February 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(19 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(20 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

Farmers Request Return of Ancestral Land, Including Mae-U Mountain Protected Area

Residents from Gan Na Mar Village and Inn Kyel Village, Pathein Gyi Township have requested that the Government revoke the protected area status of Mae-U Mountain and the 200 acres of land surrounding it in Pathein Gyi Township, Mandalay Division. According to locals, many farmers have been working on the same land identified as their ancestors by the 1907 the Department of Land records. However, in 2013, the Department of Land recognized Mae-U mountain as a Government protected area, and farmers are worried the Government will confiscate their land in the future.

According to resident Than Wai, if the Government does not give back this land people will not know where to work, as they have been working this land for many generations. During the last Parliament meeting, Member of Parliament (MP) Yae Min Oo from Pathein Gyi Township asked if there is any plan for the Mae-U Mountain protected forest area. Minister Myo Thit from Mandalay Division Government Group Ministry of Resource and Environment answered that at this time the

Government has no plans to cancel the protected status of Mae-U Mountain. On January 23, the local people said they will submit a petition paper to Mandalay Division Government to cancel the protected land status. Residents held a

press conference January 30 where they requested land ownership titles, and reiterated the need to cancel the protected forest area. January 30, residents held a press conference.

[\(20 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(30 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(31 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

Journalists Facing Difficulties Getting News from Chin State

According to Chin State based media, journalists are finding it very difficult to get a news from the Chin State Government as well as local people. According to *Ha-Kha Post* editor Pa Bway, reporters are not allowed to enter the Chin State Parliament compound to get news, and the sessions are not available through streaming devices, which makes it difficult for journalists to know what has happened.

[\(20 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

U Ko Ni Murder Trial Updates

Though it has been a year since the murder of prominent Constitutional Lawyer U Ko Ni, there have been minimal substantial developments in the case. On January 19, Yangon's Northern District Court decided to accept coverage from *Myanmar Alinn* of the Home Affairs Ministry's February 25, 2017 press conference outlining the Ministry's investigation, which included the alleged perpetrators and their motives, as new evidence from the prosecution. After this hearing, one of the four defendants, Aung Win Zaw, announced he would sue two of the prosecution's lawyers, Robert San Aung and Aung Soe, under Section 8(f) of the 2017 Law Protecting the Privacy and Security of Citizens as they allegedly claimed Aung Win Zaw said words he did not during the January 12 hearing. During the trial's 40th hearing on January 25, Aung Win Zaw claimed his brother, Aung Win Khaing, had nothing to do with the murder. Aung Win Khaing is the alleged mastermind behind the January 2017 assassination, and is still at-large. Lawyer U Ko Ni was assassinated outside Yangon

International Airport January 29, 2017. [\(20 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(20 January 2018 - Mizzima\)](#) [\(25 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(26 January 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(26 January 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(26 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(26 January 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(27 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(29 January 2018 - DVB\)](#) [\(29 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#)

Concerned Residents Protest for Return of Confiscated Land in Ngwe Saung Hotel Project

On January 20, residents protested for the return of unused land, and for fair compensation of land confiscated for the Ngwe Saung Hotel Project at Ngwe Saung Town, Irrawaddy Division. The protesters held V9 signs and called on the land committee to review this case and respect the requests of the people. In 2000, Ngwe Saung Beach Committee, Township and District Authority confiscated 315 acres of land from 248 farmers. They didn't give compensation for the land, only for the coconut trees found on the land at 4500 kyat (US\$3.38) per tree. Demonstrators said in 2015 the Government announced the return of land to the owners, but the hotel continued to build. According to resident Tin Htoo, they are protesting because the loss of land has led to joblessness, and lack of money to support their children's education. The local people have been requesting the return of land and compensation for trees since 2011.

[\(20 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(20 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(21 January 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

Farmers Have Lost Work Due to Lack of Exact Land Measurement from Department of Land Record

In Kwin Tha Village, Pa Dat Village Tract, Nattalinn Township, West Pago Division, farmers have lost work because the Department of Land Records has not carried out exact measurements for the

land. According to one of the local farmers, in 2013 the Department of Land Record gave Ownership Title Documents, but they didn't come to do exact land measurements. According to this farmer, he has submitted letters to the Township to give an exact measurement of the land.

[\(22 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#)

Draft Land Acquisition Act in Line with International Standards, According to Farmers Affairs Committee

On January 21, the Chairman of the Upper House Farmers Affairs Committee, Ba Myo Thein, said that the 2017 Draft Land Acquisition Act was in accordance with the international standards for those who have had their land confiscated. The draft law states that citizens will receive compensation for confiscated lands. Further, Ba Myo Thein reiterated that the draft law was written according to international standards and will help farmers who have been suffering due to previous Government policies.

[\(22 January 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)

Students Protest for Larger Education Budget

In a demonstration to increase the education budget by 15 percent, university students, led by All Burma Federation of Students' Union (ABFSU), have gathered at Yadanabon University, Mandalay since January 22. Students called for more funding, as well as the construction of school buildings and more adequate teaching materials. The Defense Department's request for a budget increase, which is already larger than the education budget and health budgets combined, sparked the protest. According to student leaders, they will continue to protest until negotiations between authorities and the students take place. Though meetings took place between the Education Ministry and ABFSU, no agreement has been reached, and students threatened a hunger strike if

demands were not met.

On January 25, 72 students were briefly detained, but then released and escorted back to their homes by security officials. Officers attempted to force detained students to sign a form promising to stop the protest, but many did not sign. They have vowed to resume protests. Thus far, 36 students have been expelled from university in the aftermath of the protests, and student leaders believe all 72 detained students will be expelled in the coming days.

On January 30, more than 100 Sagaing University Students staged a protest in response. The students demanded the reinstatement of dismissed students and for a raise to the education budget. Although student leaders and faculty members are in negotiations with the University, students will continue to gather until these demands have been met. These are the first student protests since the National League for Democracy's (NLD) 2016 victory. [\(22 January 2018 - Eleven\)](#) [\(22 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(25 January 2018 - Asia Correspondent\)](#) [\(25 January 2018 - Eleven\)](#) [\(25 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 January 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 January 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(25 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(26 January 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#) [\(26 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(26 January 2018 - VOA/Burmese\)](#) [\(26 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(26 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(26 January 2018 - The Irrawaddy\)](#) [\(27 January 2018 - BBC/Burmese\)](#) [\(27 January 2018 -](#)

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Land “Squatters” Sued

Taunggyi Township City Development Committee Officials have compiled a list of squatters on Shwe Maung Mountain, Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State in order to file a suit. According to the Deputy Director of Taunggyi Township’s City Development Committee, Aye Ko, the Committee will not hold negotiations with those on the land. According to the Taunggyi township administrator, there are 120 households on the list, and the city is planning to bring charges.

Although a certain amount of land was allocated to Taunggyi University and the Road Transport Administration Department in 1993, according to people squatting on the area in question, they have

lived there for more than 20 years and fences are encroaching on their land. They have have complained to multiple Government departments. [\(23 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(25 January 2018 - Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)

Residents Protest Crude Oil Drilling In Pan Taung Township

On January 24, residents of Pan Daung Township, Pyay District, Bago Division held a protest on crude oil drilling. After the protest finished, farmers sent a letter stating they are against oil drilling to the Minister of Bago Division, Win Thein. In November 2017, the Bago Minister had come to negotiate with local people about their concerns with the nearby oil drilling. [\(24 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

No Plan to Return Land Confiscated for Kyauk Pywar New City Project

On January 24, Tanitharyi Government’s Planning and Finance Mlinister Phyo Win Tun said there is no plan to return land, and building plans for the New City Project will continue. According to Article 39 of the Land Nationalisation Act (1953). According to Phyo Win Tun the Government has “recognized” more than five thousand acres of land from more than one thousand farmers for the project since 2004. However, the previous Government was unable to begin the project. According to Tanitharyi Divison Member of Parliment (MP) Yae Myint Shwe, the Government had paid some compensation but did not return the land. According to Phyo Win Tun, In November 2016, the National League for Democracy (NLD) created a committee, which included business people, to implement the project. [\(24 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

Pyithu Hluttaw to Give Compensation for Some Farmlands

According to the Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, Kyaw Myo, compensation

will be given to farmers whose lands were disrupted by the Pakkoku-Kyangin and Minbu-An railroads. Farmers will receive 3.24 billion kyat (US\$2,430,187.50) for 2,292.16 acres in Minbu Township, Magway Region. The regional farmland management group made an assessment of compensation for land in the Kanyay Village Tract in the 2016-2017 fiscal year and are currently assessing the four other affected village tracks.

[\(24 January 2018 - Global New Light\)](#)

Kachin Land Activists Request to Reform 2017 Land Acquisition Act

On January 23, Kachin land activists held a meeting about the 2017 Land Acquisition Draft Law with 17 civil society groups working with internally displaced people (IDPs), farmers and land activists to reform the law. Meeting leader Sai Li said the draft acquisition law is not fair, and there are no opportunities for people to have their land returned, which is the main reason for reforming the law. Attendees discussed that the law should include indigenous peoples and be based on human rights. Further, they discussed that this current draft law is negatively affecting the peace process.

[\(25 January 2018 - BNI/Burmese\)](#)

Police Beat and Detain Young Man

At at January 28 press conference, a young man accused Kyauktadar Township, Rangoon police of beating him up January 18. Political Science Student Than Toe Aung held the press conference because his complaint against police forces has not been investigated, and he would like to bring light to the problem of police brutality around Burma. He showed attendees his bruises, which he also posted on social media following the police encounter.

On the night of the attack, Than Toe Aung was released from police custody after his father gave police K200,000 (US\$150) and, according to police, signed a letter saying his son was mentally ill. The Myanmar

National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) has been notified of this issue and the police force issued a statement that policemen involved will be investigated and punished if found guilty.

[\(27 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(27 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(27 January 2018 - Mizzima/Burmese\)](#) [\(28 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(29 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(29 January 2018 - Eleven\)](#)

Freedom House Reports No Freedom of Press in Burma

According to Freedom House's 2018 Freedom of the World Report, which analyzes the 2017 calendar year, Burma does not have freedom of press. However, on its scale of 1 (most free) to 7 (least free), Burma received a five on both political rights and civil liberties. . Burma received the same score in the 2017 World Report. Between 2016 and 2017, Burma's political rights score changed from six to five due to the National League for Democracy's electoral win.

[\(27 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

Shan State Journalists Find It Difficult to Get News

On January 28, the Myanmar News Council and more than 50 journalists from South, East, and North Shan State held the first 'Four-Pillar meeting'. Attendees discussed freedom of the press, challenges of getting news concerned with executive, judicial and legislative matters, and how to reduce barriers to getting news from the Government. In reference to the Executive branch, there are no Government departments established to take care of issues arising with threats to journalists. Recently, drug users and gamblers have been threatening Shan State journalists, which has made it difficult for them to continue their jobs. In reference to the Legislative branch, Journalist must obtain a permission card every time the Parliament meets in order to attend sessions. Further, journalists are not always admitted to

parliamentary sessions, and related Township Members of Parliament not always allowed to answer questions from journalists. In terms of challenges with the Judicial branch, journalists find it difficult to get court news as authorities rarely answer questions.

[\(28 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#) [\(31 January 2018 - BNI\)](#)

Government Will Return More Than Six Acres of Farmland

According to Kalay Township Agriculture Department Township Officer U Aung, the Ministry of Agriculture will give back more than six acres of confiscated farmland to local farmers. In 2011, the Ministry of Agriculture confiscated more than 7.39 acres of land from three farmers to plant a tree in Tharyargone Village, Toe Mar Village Tract, Kalay Township, Sagaing Division. On January 28, the Ministry returned 6.702 acres. Farmers had send a letter to the Ministry requesting the return of land since 2014. The Farmland and Virgin Land Committee found there were more than 100 cases of land confiscation in Kalay Township after its review of cases in Sagaing Division. According to 88 Generation Peace and Open Society member Aung Shwe, 99 cases have already been completed.

[\(29 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

Thanithary Division Asks About Army Confiscated Land at Recent Parliament Meeting

On January 30, Thanithary Division Member of Parliament Ye Myint Shwe asked whether there were plans to return unused land confiscated by the army to farmers. According to Ye Myint Shwe, the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation did not answer. The army confiscated 1000 acres of land and in 2010, BUT returned 205 acres to 25 farmers, in addition to giving 6.6 million Kyat (US\$ 4,950) in compensation. According to Ye Myint Shwe, farmers have submitted 54 cases to the

Central Committee for Re-scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands; however, the Group has not yet reviewed the cases even though they were submitted eight months ago.

[\(30 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#)

50 Farmers Request Meeting with Mandalay Division Minister

On January 30, 50 farmers gathered in front of the Madalay Division Government Office, to request a meeting with Mandalay Division Minister about solving farmland issues and cases where police arrested farmers for protesting, and held them in custody. Although, they were unable to meet with the Division Minister, the Mandalay Division Electric Minister, Zarni Aung, met with them. According to Zarni Aung, he will send a letter to the Division Minister and will send back the date for meeting with him. This is not the first-time farmers have tried to meet with the Minister. In December 2017, many of these same farmers sent a letter requesting a meeting with the Minister, however, they were not allowed to meet with him.

[\(30 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(30 January 2018 - Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

LEGISLATION AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Draft Law Will Give More Power to Anti-Corruption Committee

The Anti-Corruption Commission has drafted an updated law that will help streamline procedures and create easier mechanisms for the public to submit complaints. At a seminar held January 22-23, the Commission staff, along with representatives from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, have revised the law to give the Commission more autonomy to investigate cases whether a complaint has been filed. Formed in November, the Commission has already received 4516 complaints, and investigated 63 of them.

[\(26 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#)

INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Prison Reforms Necessary, But Not Legislative Priority

Although the National League for Democracy (NLD) began its administration with amnesties for hundreds of political prisoners, prison reform has been stalled due to other legislative priorities. According to NLD Party spokesman, Aung Shin, prisons should be part of a broader examination of legal and judicial reform, which is a priority for the Government. Burmese prisons have received small reforms over the years, but overcrowding remains a large issue, an issue the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) will highlight in an upcoming report on prison conditions.

In 2017, the Commission carried out visits to 30 prisons across Burma to evaluate their standards and will submit a report on to the President. The report identifies that overcrowding is at more than 40 percent, lowers living standards, and is as a human rights violation. While the capacity of most prisons is 30,000, there are more than 40,000 prisoners in the 30 Burmese prisons outlined in the report, with more than 10,000 detainees in the prison system. To address this, the MNHRC urges the Government to give amnesty to some prisoners. According to the MNHRC Chair, Win Mya, much of the overcrowding is due to pre-trial detentions and drug-related offenses. Currently, 46 percent of drug prisoners should have reduced sentencing and amnesty should be given to the old, as well as the unhealthy. The report states that if the Correctional Department reduces the population of prisoners through amnesties, this will reduce the national budget. The report includes recommendations from a January 15 visit to Pyay Prison as well. During the visit,

Committee members checked whether the prison was in line with international human rights standards and found that the prison has many sanitation issues. According to Commission member Yu Lwin, there are not enough toilets, nor is there enough drinking and bathing water. After the visit, the Commission submitted 34 points of advice to the related departments, as well as the Ministry of Home Affairs. [\(16 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(20 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(21 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(20 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(21 January 2018 - DVB\)](#) [\(21 January 2018 - DVB/Burmese\)](#) [\(22 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#) [\(23 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(24 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#)

Judiciary to Follow New Five-Year Plan In Effort To Be More Independent and Accessible

The Union Supreme Court announced a new five-year strategic plan to assess its independence. Released January 29, the plan was drafted with the help of international organizations. Between 2018 and 2022, the Court hopes to make the judicial system more accessible, provide public education opportunities for the community, and address concerns that the court is used as a political tool to silence dissidents.

[\(30 January 2018 - Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#) [\(31 January 2018 - Myanmar Times\)](#) [\(31 January 2018 - Global New Light\)](#) [\(31 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

Questions Concerning Political Prisoner Support Cancelled in Rangoon

On January 30, Mingala Taung Nyunt Township, Division Member of Parliament (MP) Hla Htay said the question of whether

there was any plan for the Rangoon Division Government to help support political prisoner's families with education, health and other forms of support had been cancelled. According to Hla Htay, the representative MP had to submit questions to the Parliament Chairperson 10 days before the meeting so that the Question and Proposal Scrutinizes Committee had time to research and address the question. [\(30 January 2018 - RFA/Burmese\)](#) [\(31 January 2018 - The Voice/Burmese\)](#) [\(31 January 2018 - 7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

Survey Finds Drop in Trust for NLD in 2017

A public opinion survey carried out by the People's Alliance for Credible Elections (PACE) found that interpersonal trust in the National League for Democracy (NLD) fell from 37 percent to 17 percent in 2017. According to PACE executive director Sai Ye Kyaw Swar Myint, the reason for this drop could be due to the changing political climate as the first survey was conducted just after the NLD electoral victory. Of the 2,808 interviewed, 1 percent of respondents described constitutional reform as the most important national issue, while much higher percentages listed the peace process, economy and infrastructure as priorities. Sixty percent of respondents thought the peace process was on track. However, analyzing the numbers by geographic region leads to more varied answers. Fifty percent of residents in the Bamar-dominated regions said the peace process was progressing at the right pace while 32 percent reportedly said it was too slow. In ethnic minority-dominated states, 47 percent said the process was too slow, and 30 percent said it was at the right pace. Only those aware of the peace process were asked this question; 45 percent of those interviewed were either unaware or

refused to answer.
[\(31 January 2018 - Frontier\)](#)

REFERENCES

January 2

[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Protesters Call for Complete Repeal of 2008 Constitution \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)

January 3

[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(BNI/Burmese\)](#)
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[Protesters Call for Complete Repeal of 2008 Constitution \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Protesters Call for Complete Repeal of 2008 Constitution \(Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)
[Protesters Call for Complete Repeal of 2008 Constitution \(Mizzima\)](#)
[Bail Granted to Editor-In-Charge At Tanitharyi Journal \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

January 4

[Artist and Former Political Prisoner, San Zaw Htway, Passes Away \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

January 5

[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
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January 6

[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
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[Three Inn Din Villagers Allegedly Connected With Reuters Journalists Released, One Facing Charges \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Ministry of Home Affairs Submits the Most Corruption Cases \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Ministry of Home Affairs Submits the Most Corruption Cases \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)

January 7

[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Reuters\)](#)
[Man Accused of Unlawful Association for Launching Balloon for Arakan Army Colonel's Birthday \(BNI/Burmese\)](#)
[Three Inn Din Villagers Allegedly Connected With Reuters Journalists Released, One Facing Charges \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Tennesserim Government Will Sue Those Who Criticize Open Tender Application Process for Local Electric Company \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

January 8

[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(BNI/Burmese\)](#)
[Man Sued for Criticizing Mon State Chief Minister \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Man Sued for Criticizing Mon State Chief Minister \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[Karen State Farmers Block Road To Protest Rock Mining Operation \(BNI/Burmese\)](#)

January 9

[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Man Sued for Criticizing Mon State Chief Minister \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)
[Man Sued for Criticizing Mon State Chief Minister \(Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)

[Bail Granted to Editor-In-Charge At Tanitharyi Journal \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

January 10

[Reuters Journalists Charged \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Time\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Reuters\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Journalists Restricted from Reporting On High-Profile Arms Case \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[ICJ Report Finds Government Must Address Impunity \(ICJ\)](#)
[Farmers Request Return of More Than 200 Acres of Land \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

January 11

[Reuters Journalists Charged \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)
[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Journalists Restricted from Reporting On High-Profile Arms Case \(Coconuts\)](#)
[City Sues Development Committee Staff Member Under Article 10 of Privacy Law \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)

January 12

[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Frontier\)](#)
[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
[Man Sued for Criticizing Mon State Chief Minister \(Mizzima\)](#)
[ABSDF Pre-Public Meeting Has Been Banned \(RBA/Burmese\)](#)

January 13

[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Mining Effect On Crops and Farmland in Kyaukse](#)

[Industrial Zone \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[Most Farmers in Ann Township Have Not Yet Accepted Land Returns \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)
[ABSDF Pre-Public Meeting Has Been Banned \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)
[Three Inn Din Villagers Allegedly Connected With Reuters Journalists Released, One Facing Charges \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)

January 14

[Youth Rights Policy Elicits Response from CSOs \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[Youth Rights Policy Elicits Response from CSOs \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[Three Inn Din Villagers Allegedly Connected With Reuters Journalists Released, One Facing Charges \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

January 15

[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Youth Policy Elicits Response from CSOs \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Youth Rights Policy Elicits Response from CSOs \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[Mining Effect On Crops and Farmland in Kyaukse Industrial Zone \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

[Solo Protester Arrested Demanding Release of Parmaukkha \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

January 16

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Development Media Group/Burmese\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(Mizzima\)](#)
[Prison Reforms Necessary, But Not Legislative Priority \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

January 17

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-](#)

[U Uprisings \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Eleven\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Development Media Group/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(BNI/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Development Media Group/Burmese\)](#)

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Coconuts\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Reuters\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Mizzima\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Frontier\)](#)
[Trial Against Former Child Soldier, Aung Ko Htwe, Will Continue \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Trial Against Former Child Soldier, Aung Ko Htwe, Will Continue \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[Kachin State Villagers Worry About Land-Grabbing \(Eleven\)](#)

January 18

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Eleven\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Frontier\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Global New Light\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(DVB\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-](#)

[U Uprisings \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Trial Against Former Child Soldier, Aung Ko Htwe, Will Continue \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

[Trial Against Former Child Soldier, Aung Ko Htwe, Will Continue \(DVB\)](#)
[Trial Against Former Child Soldier, Aung Ko Htwe, Will Continue \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection With Karanni State Protests \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection With Karanni State Protests \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)
[Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection With Karanni State Protests \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection With Karanni State Protests \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[ICJ Report Finds Government Must Address Impunity \(BNI\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

January 19

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Mizzima\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Mizzima\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(DVB\)](#)
[Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection With Karanni](#)

[State Protests \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection With Karanni State Protests \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection With Karanni State Protests \(Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
[Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection With Karanni State Protests \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[Kachin State Villagers Worry About Land-Grabbing \(Frontier\)](#)
[Farmers from Mandalay Hold Press Conference On Confiscated Lands \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[Police Banned Members of Latpadaung Mine Protecting Committee From Sending a Complaint Letter To Authorities \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Banned Members of Latpadaung Mine Protecting Committee From Sending a Complaint Letter To Authorities \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Banned Members of Latpadaung Mine Protecting Committee From Sending a Complaint Letter To Authorities \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Banned Members of Latpadaung Mine Protecting Committee From Sending a Complaint Letter To](#)

[Authorities \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

January 20

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[Journalists Facing Difficulties Getting News From Chin State \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[U Ko Ni Murder Trial Updates \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[U Ko Ni Murder Trial Updates \(Mizzima\)](#)
[Prison Reforms Necessary, But Not Legislative Priority \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Prison Reforms Necessary, But Not Legislative Priority \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Banned Members of Latpadaung Mine Protecting Committee From Sending a Complaint Letter To Authorities \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Farmers Request Return Of Ancestral Land, Including Mae-U Mountain Protected Area \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[Concerned Residents Protest for Return of Confiscated Land In Ngwe Saung Hotel Project \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Concerned Residents Protest for Return of Confiscated Land In Ngwe Saung Hotel Project \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

January 21

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Eleven\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Prison Reforms Necessary, But Not Legislative Priority \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Prison Reforms Necessary, But Not Legislative Priority \(DVB\)](#)
[Prison Reforms Necessary, But Not Legislative Priority \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Concerned Residents Protest for Return of Confiscated Land In Ngwe Saung Hotel Project \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)

January 22

[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Reuters\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Mizzima\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(RFA\)](#)

[Former Political Prisoner and Generation 88 Activist, Zaw Min, Passes Away \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Former Political Prisoner and Generation 88 Activist, Zaw Min, Passes Away \(Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(DVB\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Eleven\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[Draft Land Acquisition Act In Line With International Standards, According to Farmers Affairs Committee \(Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)
[Farmers Have Lost Work Due To Lack Of Exact Land Measurement from Department of Land Record \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Concerned Residents Protest for Return of](#)

[Confiscated Land In Ngwe Saung Hotel Project \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[Prison Reforms Necessary, But Not Legislative Priority \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

January 23

[Reuters Journalists Charged \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Washington Post\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Arrest Youth In Connection With Mrauk-U Protest \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Police Arrest Youth In Connection With Mrauk-U Protest \(DVB\)](#)
[Police Arrest Youth In Connection With Mrauk-U Protest \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

[Police Arrest Youth In Connection With Mrauk-U Protest \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Arrest Youth In Connection With Mrauk-U Protest \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Arrest Youth In Connection With Mrauk-U Protest \(Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Arrest Youth In Connection With Mrauk-U Protest \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection With Karanni State Protests \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection With Karanni State Protests \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection With Karanni State Protests \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Former Political Prisoner and Generation 88 Activist, Zaw Min, Passes Away \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(Mizzima\)](#)
[Land "Squatters" Sued \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Prison Reforms Necessary, But Not Legislative Priority \(Myanmar Times\)](#)

January 24

[Reuters Journalists Charged \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Mizzima\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Global New Light\)](#)
[Reuters Journalists Charged \(Independent\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(RFA\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Police Arrest Youth In Connection With Mrauk-U Protest \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Arrest Youth In Connection With Mrauk-U Protest \(Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Arrest Youth In Connection With Mrauk-U Protest \(BNI/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Arrest Youth In Connection With Mrauk-U Protest \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Arrest Youth In Connection With Mrauk-U Protest \(Eleven\)](#)
[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(DVB\)](#)

[Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection With Karanni State Protests \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)
[Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection With Karanni State Protests \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection With Karanni State Protests \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(The Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[Pyithu Hluttaw to Give Compensation for Some Farmlands \(Global New Light\)](#)
[Prison Reforms Necessary, But Not Legislative Priority \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[No Plan to Return Land Confiscated For Kyauk Pywar New City Project \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Prison Reforms Necessary, But Not Legislative Priority \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[Residents Protest Crude Oil Drilling In Pan Taung Township \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

January 25

[Five Youths Sentenced for Leading December Protest, Released January 24 \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Court Drops Charges on Three Men Detained in Connection With Karanni State Protests \(BNI\)](#)
[21st Century Union Peace Conference Postponed \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[U Ko Ni Murder Trial Updates \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Land "Squatters" Sued \(Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Asia Correspondent\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Eleven\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Karen State Farmers Block Road To Protest Rock Mining Operation \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[Kachin Land Activists Request to Reform 2017](#)

[Land Acquisition Act \(BNI/Burmese\)](#)

January 26

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(DVB\)](#)

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

[U Ko Ni Murder Trial Updates \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)

[U Ko Ni Murder Trial Updates \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)

[U Ko Ni Murder Trial Updates \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)

[U Ko Ni Murder Trial Updates \(Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Myanmar Times\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Government Publicizes List of 'Terrorists,' Violates Human Rights According to ICJ \(Mizzima\)](#)

[Draft Law Will Give More Power To Anti-Corruption Committee \(Myanmar Times\)](#)

January 27

[U Ko Ni Murder Trial Updates \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Mizzima\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(BBC/Burmese\)](#)

[Police Beat and Detain Young Man \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

[Police Beat and Detain Young Man \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)

[Police Beat and Detain Young Man \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)

January 28

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)

[Police Beat and Detain Young Man \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

[Shan State Journalists Find It Difficult to Get News \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

January 29

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(DVB\)](#)

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)

[U Ko Ni Murder Trial Updates \(DVB\)](#)

[U Ko Ni Murder Trial Updates \(Myanmar Times\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(VOA/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Bangkok Post\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(RFA\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Eleven\)](#)
[Police Beat and Detain Young Man \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[Police Beat and Detain Young Man \(Eleven\)](#)
[Government Will Return More Than Six Acres of Farmland \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

January 30

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Myanmar Times/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Myanmar Times\)](#)

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(DVB\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(DVB\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Myanmar Times\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(DVB\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(RFA\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[Government Publicizes List of 'Terrorists,' Violates Human Rights According to ICJ \(Irrawaddy\)](#)
[Judiciary To Follow New Five Year Plan In Effort To Be More Independent and Accessible \(Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
[Karen State Protest Leader Arrested Under Peaceful Assembly Act \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Karen State Protest Leader Arrested Under Peaceful Assembly Act \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)

[Karen State Protest Leader Arrested Under Peaceful Assembly Act \(Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)
[Farmers Request Return Of Ancestral Land, Including Mae-U Mountain Protected Area \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)
[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)
[Thanithary Division Asks About Army Confiscated Land at Recent Parliament Meeting \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[50 Farmers Request Meeting With Madalay Division Minister \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[50 Farmers Request Meeting With Madalay Division Minister \(Eleven/Burmese\)](#)
[Questions Concerning Political Prisoner Support Cancelled In Rangoon \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)

January 31

[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(Mizzima\)](#)
[Police Charge Individuals in Association with Mrauk-U Uprisings \(BNI\)](#)
[Trial Against Former Child Soldier, Aung Ko Htwe, Will Continue \(DVB\)](#)
[Trial Against Former Child Soldier, Aung Ko Htwe, Will Continue \(RFA/Burmese\)](#)
[Judiciary To Follow New Five Year Plan In Effort To Be More Independent and Accessible \(Myanmar Times\)](#)

[Judiciary To Follow New Five Year Plan In Effort To Be More Independent and Accessible \(Global New Light\)](#)

[Survey Finds Drop in Trust for NLD in 2017 \(Frontier\)](#)
[Five Members of NMSP Released Before Completing Sentences \(DVB/Burmese\)](#)

[Five Members of NMSP Released Before Completing Sentences \(Irrawaddy/Burmese\)](#)

[City Sues Development Committee Staff Member Under Article 10 of Privacy Law \(Mizzima/Burmese\)](#)

[Farmers Request Return Of Ancestral Land, Including Mae-U Mountain Protected Area \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

[Students Protest for Larger Education Budget \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

[Shan State Journalists Find It Difficult to Get News \(BNI\)](#)

[Questions Concerning Political Prisoner Support Cancelled In Rangoon \(The Voice/Burmese\)](#)

[Questions Concerning Political Prisoner Support Cancelled In Rangoon \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

[Judiciary To Follow New Five Year Plan In Effort To Be More Independent and Accessible \(7 Day Daily/Burmese\)](#)

[Karen State Protest Leader Arrested Under Peaceful Assembly Act \(BNI/Burmese\)](#)

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