

Conflicts and Migration

Burma Situation



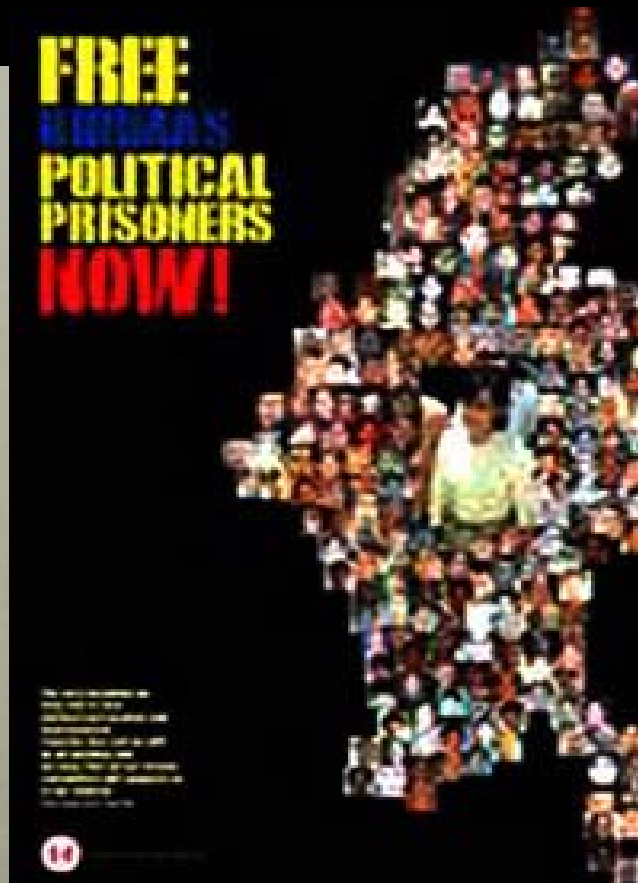
Root causes

- Economic hardship
- Political repression
- Arbitrary and corrupt taxation
- Forced labor, land confiscation and forced relocation related to development projects
- Natural disaster
- Armed conflict and militarization
 - Extra-judiciary killing, village and property destructions, portering, rape, arbitrary taxation, land confiscation, and forced relocation...
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Political repression – since democracy uprising in 1988

To the time of September 2007

2,150 Political prisoners



Development project related....

- Forced labor
- Land confiscation
- Forced relocation

Arbitrary & corrupt taxation

- Various forms of fees demanded
- Tatmadaw and other armed groups involve in the collection and taking of revenue and resources also enhances the regime's control and suppression of the population.

NATURAL DISASTER & COMPLEXITY OF THE POLITICS

Nargis: The World Witnessed in Horror in 2008 how the junta blocked aid to the victims who desperately needed assistance.

Potential increase migration from nargis area

- " ...Our lives are difficult before Nargis. We lost all properties and now we feel like even worse as we all are asked to move here and there and ask to do this and that.

But, yes, there are some people who benefited from Nargis assistance. They are from Yayaka and Mayaka. They make good link with businessmen to get commissions and businessmen also link with authorities to get permissions."

- *Local survivor, Dedayae, July 30, 2010*

Post disaster challenges

- Lack of access by locals to information and participation
- TCG's and INGOs activities are very limited at village level.
- As respondents are recipients of assistants, they said good about the activities and have no courage to express the true feelings..
- There are criteria that left the most vulnerable groups such as those who do not house hold registration or who are not in the list in initial data collection.

Authorities – major challenge

- Local authorities focus more on the visits of the officials. not really interested in helping the villagers.
- Fewer local and INGOs in the areas, the movement of locals are more visible and thus are quite exposed to the local authorities.
- Interrogation on local groups for their assistance is very common. The question frequently asked are
 - - who are you? why are you doing this? where do you get support? do you have any link with foreign organization? do you have permission to do this?
 - - interrogation of the residence who help the outside volunteers is also common, that makes local residence uncomfortable and scared.

60 Years of Conflict and Counting

The ethnic nationalities of Burma, that make up more than 30% of the population have been fighting for self-determination, equality, and freedom for decades.

3,506 Villages Displaced Since 1996

Part of SPDC's "4 cuts" policy to target civilians in order to suppress ethnic armed groups.

SPDC wants control over all territories, natural resources, and peoples.

Has caused millions to flee within the country and across borders.

CurRent Non-CeaseFire Armed Groups

- Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA)
- The Arakan Liberation Party(ALP),
- The Lahu Democratic Union (LDU)
- All Burma Student Democratic Front (ABSDF)
- Wa National Army (WNO)
- Pa-O National Liberation Army (PLNA)
- Chin National Army (CAN)
- Shan State Army-South (SSA-S)
- Kachin National Army (KNA)
- Karenni Army (KA)

Militarization in Eastern Burma

MEANS AN INCREASE
IN:

INCREASE FLOW OF MIGRATION
in the run-up to elections

Threats of new conflict build as SPDC increases pressure against ceasefire groups to become part of their “Border Guard Force”

Ceasefire Groups Who haven't agreed to Border Guard Force

The Kachin Independence Army (KIA)

Shan State Army-North (SSA-N)

United Wa State Army (UWSA)

New Mon State Party (NMSP)

Kayan New Land Party (KNLP)

National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA)

“If the SPDC is stubborn in forcing the ceasefire groups to transform into Border Guard Force, then war is inevitable.”

– Yawd Serk, chairman of Shan State Army

2010 & 2011 outlook -

- New refugees started to arrive on border
- Increase in migrant workers population
- Vulnerability and risks are likely to get higher
- Fear and fleeing from some forms of persecutions.
- But if you ask the Burmese in such vulnerable and high risk situation why don't they stay in or go back to Burma, they would tell you one common answer:

“.. Life here is better than in Burma....”

Effects on ASEAN

Create greater regional instability. More conflict, more refugees, more health problems, more drug trafficking.

Threaten credibility of the region and damage integration