

GLOBAL DAY OF  
PRAYER FOR

**BURMA**

— 2022 —



KAREN VILLAGER HOLDS HIS DAUGHTER DURING A BURMA ARMY ATTACK



# FROM THE DIRECTOR

Thank you for praying for  
Burma.

In 2021, the Burma military took power in a coup, attacked its own people, and increased attacks on the ethnic people of Burma. The Burma Army is killing protesters in the cities and plains and killing and displacing thousands of ethnic people in the mountains. In spite of this, there is a feeling of solidarity, commitment, and hope amongst both the Burman and the ethnic people of Burma. The Burmese of the cities and plains have banded together to resist the tyranny in ways never seen before.

The ethnic people in the mountains, chased from their homes, refuse to give up and continue loving and helping each other. Our FBR Ranger teams and other groups move amongst the ethnic people providing medical aid, food support, and being with them in love. The Burma military is more powerful than anyone here but we believe God is still more powerful and is giving us

ways to help. There is a new humility and mutual respect among the Burmans and ethnic minorities. We were told by many Burmans: "We ask forgiveness that we did not care about or stand with the ethnic people who have been under attack all these years. We know now the suffering they face. We ask for forgiveness and are sorry. We are so thankful that, when we flee to their areas, they help us and risk their lives to save us. We all need to work together for freedom, and all people's value and rights must be upheld. We are committed to that."

In Karen State, a leader who has helped many Burmans escape and find shelter told me, "We have to remember God's grace and mercy. Without God's mercy we Karen would not exist. And we do not deserve this, as we make many mistakes and sins. It is not just the dictators who do wrong, so do we. But we confess this and thank God for His forgiveness and grace. We may have to flee and suffer much but we will not lose even though the military is stronger. They are stronger than any of us, but not stronger than all of us and not stronger than God." The ethnic people with us, as well as the Burmans, believe that the dictators cannot win.

We know that behind the deadly attacks of the military and police against the people of Burma is a deep and formidable evil. This is first of all a spiritual battle. We pray against this evil in the powerful name of Jesus.

God bless you,

Three handwritten signatures.

David Eubank, family, and Christians Concerned for Burma.



# PRAYER FOR BURMA

Please pray with us that the dictators change their hearts or step down, Aung San Suu Kyi and all the political prisoners are released, the National Unity Government is able to function, and there is a new start for everyone. Pray that, together, the people can build a democratic and truly representative Burma for all people—but also that, until that time, the people under attack get the help they need to survive. Please also pray that, even now, a message of forgiveness and reconciliation will be extended to the dictators, Burma military, and police.

Thank you for praying with us.

## MAP KEY



ETHNIC NATIONALITIES  
HOMELAND AREAS



BURMAN ETHNIC  
MAJORITY AREA



THE GLOBAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR BURMA HAPPENS EVERY YEAR ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF MARCH. PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR BURMA.

For more information, email [info@prayforburma.org](mailto:info@prayforburma.org).

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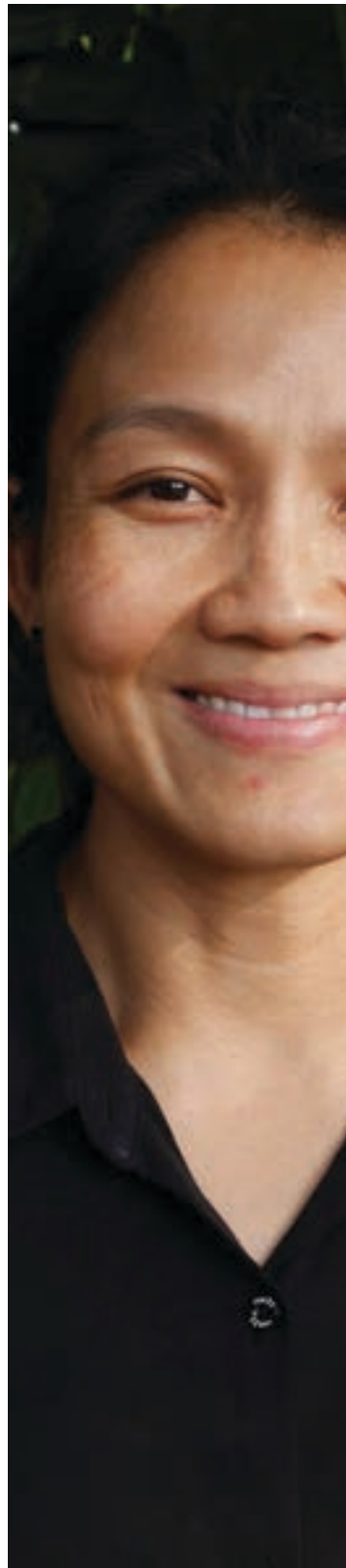
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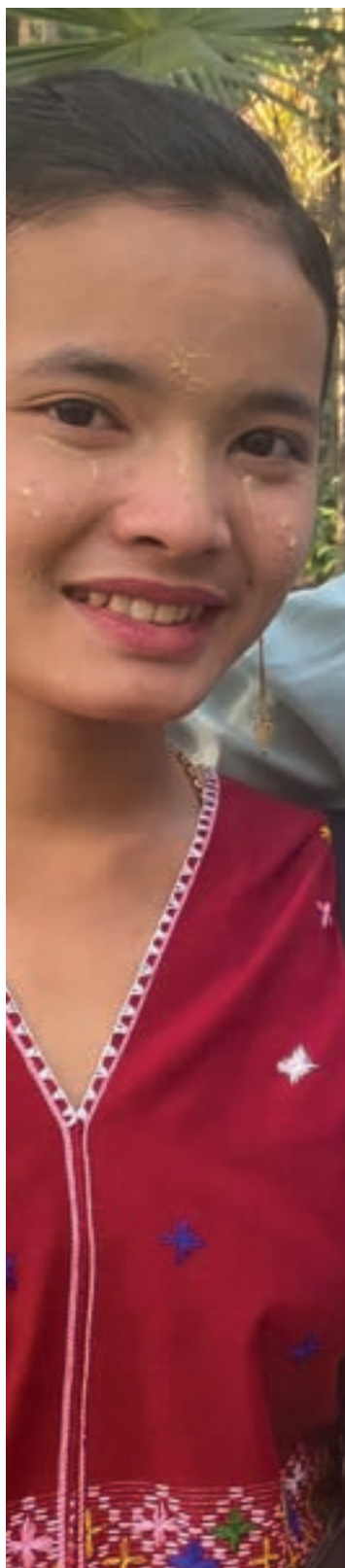
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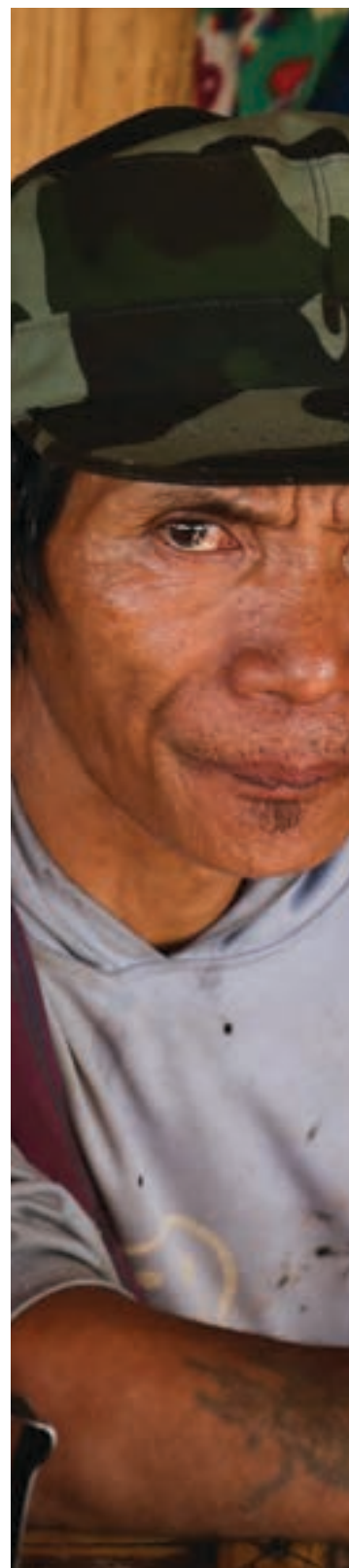
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# CENTRAL BURMA

## BURMA IN CRISIS

On February 1, 2021, the military overthrew the civilian government and the people rose up in protest.

AUTHOR: ASHLEY SOUTH

In 2021 Burma faced two extraordinary and inter-linked crises: the Covid pandemic, and the February 1 coup. This 'critical juncture' provides an opportunity to re-imagine the type of country Burma could be.

For the first time in generations—at least since the 1988 democracy uprising—young people from the towns and cities have been exposed to the full violence of the Tatmadaw. Many members of the Bama ethnic community, particularly young people who previously had little chance to understand the suffering of Burma's ethnic nationalities, have come to better appreciate the

struggles and aspirations of minority communities. This has led to a renewed solidarity and commitment to ending the Myanmar Army's brutal rule, and insisting that in the future the military should be under civilian rule.

Since the coup, the Tatmadaw has been rampaging across Burma, including in states and regions previously largely unaffected by armed conflict, such as Chin, Sagaing and Magwe. The Myanmar Army often behaves like a violently occupying and murderous colonizing force. In response, local communities have joined together in People's Defence Forces (PDFs), to resist the junta's violent assaults. Many PDFs have aligned themselves with the National Unity Government (NUG). Others work more closely with Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs), which provided many of these groups with basic training.

Although not entirely caused by the State Administrative Council (SAC), the junta's mishandling of the Covid crisis, including numerous well-documented attacks on health workers, has massively exacerbated the impacts of the pandemic. Many thousands have died, and livelihoods have been massively impacted. The economy has shrunk by up to a third since the coup, in part due to the pandemic but mostly because of the military regime's mismanagement and violent attacks on citizens.

By mid-October, 1,178 people had been killed by the junta forces, with over 3,500 still detained. Many of these people have been subjected to torture. In the meantime, food security has plummeted, with the U.N. World Food Program estimating that an additional 3.4 million people in Burma will go hungry after the coup.

In this context, EAOs, such as the Karen National Union and Kachin Independence Organization, have played key roles in combating the pandemic and opposing the junta. Following the coup, Burma's EAOs and partner Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are providing some of the few credible and successful service delivery systems in the country. For example, at least 300,000 of Burma's





most vulnerable children go to EAO schools, and many EAOs have provided health and other services to their people, where the junta has failed—albeit with only limited international support.

The services and governance administration provided by EAOs point towards the possibility of a transformed and more just and equitable Burma. Many EAOs enjoy high levels of political legitimacy among local populations. Their governance and administration roles, combined with the locally owned and delivered health, education, and other services often provided in partnership with CSOs, can be seen as the building blocks of a new type of federalism. This 'emergent federalism', based on locally owned and delivered practices and structures, draws on the resilience of communities, civil society actors, and EAOs.

Arguably, the present crisis offers the best opportunity since the 1947 Panglong Conference to achieve a federal union based on agreements between sovereign states. Federalism in Burma should proceed on the understanding that emergent ethnic states, and the EAOs which govern them, are sovereign entities, which may join together in forming a federal union.

Community and EAO resilience is central to absorbing, coping with and adapting to shocks and crisis. Nevertheless, local coping capacities may be stretched beyond a 'tipping point', making positive responses harder to achieve. The increasing likelihood of devastating future impacts from climate change make it all the more important to work with and support local actors in adapting to rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns.

Furthermore, some of the world's best remaining forests and biodiversity hotspots are located in EAO-controlled areas. These are key resources for mitigating climate change. In this sense, EAOs play globally important roles, beyond the boundaries of Burma.

According to the economist Milton Friedman, "Only a crisis ... produces real change. When that crisis occurs, the actions that are taken depend on the ideas that are lying around." Burma has in the past two years experienced two massive crises: the Covid pandemic, followed and exacerbated by the coup. These violent disruptions have made it possible to think about the country's future in new and creative ways. With the SAC junta widely regarded as illegitimate and ineffective, the roles of EAOs are more than ever relevant.





# EASTERN BURMA

## KAREN STATE

School under Burma Army  
Fire: Taking Exams In  
Hiding



TEACHER IN FRONT OF HER STUDENTS AT CHILDREN'S PROGRAM.



KAREN STUDENTS STUDYING FOR SCHOOL.





We walked into a small jungle clearing to see children sitting under the trees reading their lessons. They were intensely focused on their books and learning their subjects. One little boy was reading an English lesson and one girl looked up from her reading and gave us a big smile. The headmaster said, "This is our school, under the trees in the jungle where we are hiding from Burma Army attacks. We sleep here on the ground by this small stream. Tomorrow we have examinations and so the children are preparing right now for them. We have another little clearing up on that hill that will be the examination room."

Greeting the children, we explained that we had come to give help in the form of food and medicine, to remind them that God loves them, and to get the news out. We want to tell people around the world what is happening and we want the people here to know that people all over the world care about them, are praying for them, and are sending help.

A young teacher, 20 years old, told us with tears in her eyes that in 2010 her father had been gunned down by the Burma Army and that she missed him all the time. Now she desires to teach and help the children. As we talked, the Burma Army began to shell; six mortar rounds were fired. The head teacher, holding his young son, radioed the resistance stationed between the hiding place and the Burma







FATHER ON RADIO DETERMINING LOCATION OF BURMA ARMY.

Army. They told him the Burma Army was not advancing, just shelling.

The teachers and students are from Ler Cho Ko Village, in Ler Doh, Nyaunglebin District, northwestern Karen State.

We did a Good Life Club (GLC) program with the children, singing songs and playing together, and then handed out GLC shirts and snacks. The displaced children gave a short tribute to Graeme Smith, a CCB friend, who died of cancer. They sang a beautiful song to honor him, about God being with us all the time. These children and families know loss and their hearts went out to our friend Graeme. The Smiths have been helping the people of Burma spiritually, medically, and materially for years. The children and teachers expressed gratitude for the Smiths and for all those who stand with the people of Burma.



DISPLACED KAREN CHILDREN ENJOYING GLC.

We walked to the village they had fled from and met other families who had not been in the school program in the jungle. We gave medical treatment to the ill and did a GLC program for these children. In the middle of the singing, the Burma Army and the Karen resistance defending the village clashed and the Burma Army began to mortar toward the village. Some mothers grabbed their children in terror and started to run away. We were in communication with the resistance via radio and knew the advance had stopped and the nearest mortar had landed at least a kilometer from us. We encouraged the mothers to stay, but said we would help them run if they had to. One mother said, "I am very afraid. This happens all the time."

We said we were with her, God was with



GLC PROGRAM FOR KAREN IDP CHILDREN.





GIRL READING BIBLE STORIES GIVEN TO HER BY RELIEF TEAM.



RANGER MEDIC PROVIDES AID TO IDP CHILD.

us all, and we would help them escape if needed. She asked, “Are you sure?” I made a joke in a fake trembling voice. She and the others burst out laughing.

“Ok, if you stay, we stay,” she said. We all stayed, laughing and singing together and the shooting stopped. After the GLC program, we gave funds for emergency rice to every family.

The gratitude on their faces gave us joy. That week the Burma Army had sent 84 trucks to re-supply the camps and launch more attacks in northern Karen State. The displaced include villagers from Mone and Ler Doh townships, Nyaunglebin District, and, in Papun District, thousand are displaced in Butho, Dwe Lo, and Luthaw townships.

In spite of the daily mortar attacks, patrolling, and shooting by the Burma Army, the people have not given up. Even when hiding in the jungle, the dedicated teachers and children continue school. With the help of people around the world, we and others have been able to feed every displaced family with one to three months of rice and provide medical care for those in need. This is a miracle and we thank God.

We believe that the power of good is greater than the power of evil. God’s love is greater and we believe that these people will prevail. Our prayer with these children was that all their hopes and dreams will be realized and there will be no limit to their future.

It is a blessing to feel useful and on these missions we do. In spite of our own sins and weaknesses and our inability to stop the Burma Army, we are able to show love and give out food, tarps, and medical care. All this is only

possible because of you who pray and help support the people here. You all are part of this mission and also part of the witness around the world that God cares for all people.

We are grateful for the children to be able to keep learning, for the teachers that keep teaching, for the moms and dads working their fields under fire, for the resistance that keeps trying to stop the Burma Army, and for our teams from all over Burma who can help. And we are grateful for you all who care. Our prayer is that the Burma Army would go back and that forgiveness will be extended and there would be reconciliation.

## PRAYER

Please pray that the students and teachers would continue to hold fast to hope and be sustained with joy in the midst of suffering.

Pray for peace in the hearts of those who live under constant threat. That they would not be consumed by fear, but through the wisdom of God, would know when to flee and when to remain.

Pray for God to comfort the broken-hearted and provide encouragement to the downcast and oppressed.

Please pray that the dictators’ hearts change or they would step down.





# EASTERN BURMA KARENNI STATE

Interview with Evelyn:  
Leader in Exile and First  
Karen Woman Elected to  
Parliament.

“I LEARNED THAT LOVE AND  
FOLLOWING GOD WAS THE  
BEST WAY.”

Evelyn completed high school within the Burmese education system. Limited financially, she was unable to attend university in the government education system. The alternative option was to join the Karenni National People's Liberation Front (KNPLF), a cease-fire group in Karenni State. She was 19 when she joined the KNPLF and was sent to a Karen refugee camp to complete her high school education. She was then selected to attend foreign affairs training in Chiang Mai, which led to an internship in the Czech Republic.

From her internship, Evelyn gained both knowledge and confidence that would serve her well. She says, “At my internship in Czech Republic I learned about leadership, democracy, human rights, government systems, and foreign policies towards Burma. It gave me a lot of experience and confidence. After this, I returned to the KNPLF.”

On her return, she created the Kayan State Youth (KSY), which later became the Union of Karenni State Youth (UKSY), putting into action her belief that youth leadership, education, and involvement in politics must increase to promote peace. “Youth must lead peace in Karenni State, that is our purpose.”

Around this time, the Burmese military introduced a draft constitution they claimed would usher in a new era of “discipline-flourishing genuine multiparty democracy.” In reality, it would only perpetuate military control in Burma. A referendum was planned for May 10, 2008. In the leadup to the vote, according to Evelyn, “There was no rule of law, no chance to protest or march on the road, whoever said something against the Burma Army would be arrested or killed.” Evelyn and the UKSY started an underground movement, distributing anti-referendum material and educating the local communities. These activities were considered illegal by the Burmese military government.

As the May election approached, the Burmese military began to notice the action of UKSY and its members. Evelyn and other members knew the army was looking for them. “We had a very big vision but we acted without seeing what big danger could come to us...We were just active, we did many workshops in the communities, in churches, in the fields, in the jungle. Hundreds of workshops we did among youth. We expected to win.”

The referendum was scheduled for May 10, 2008; just one week before the poll, Cyclone Nargis made landfall and devastated the Irawaddy Delta, ultimately taking nearly 140,000 lives. Despite the tragedy unfolding for the people, the military went ahead with the referendum. On May 15, 2008, the Burmese government announced



that the constitution had been approved by 92.4% of voters, claiming a 99% turnout.

Also on election day, May 10th, Evelyn and three other UKSY members were arrested. Her friends were tortured and beaten. She recounts listening to them scream. "I was not tortured physically but mentally I was tortured." She was released into the custody of the KNPLF and had to remain in their compound for two months.

The experience pushed Evelyn. "I needed to be deeper, deeper thinking than previously. What am I going to do? What I came to believe is nonviolence is not workable. So I need to fight them back with everything I have. If I have gun I'm going to shoot. If I have stick I'm going to beat. That kind of mind came to me."

Evelyn was undeterred by her arrest and continued to push forward. "I thought that in order to organize the youth we needed to be well trained, physically and mentally, our purpose needed to be clear. This is the capacity of leadership I needed."

Later in 2010, she attended FBR training camp. "FBR was more than I expected because before I was never met with spiritually how to be, thinking about people. This was unexpected, being spiritually motivated. The physical preparation, spiritual preparation, the political and strategic education I received, it made me proud."

"I learned that love and following God was the best way."

"After FBR I worked for KNPLF, UKSY and



FBR TRAINING: LEARNING TO USE THE RADIO.



FBR TRAINING: VIDEOGRAPHY.



EVELYN ON THE RANGER OBSTACLE COURSE.





FBR TRAINING: ORIENTEERING AND LAND NAVIGATION.

as a Ranger. I put most time toward UKSY and served as the secretary number 2.” The youth organized an event for all the armed groups of Karenni to meet. “We were looking for things that everyone could agree on.” One of the ideas, according to Evelyn, was “gathering all health workers and forming an organization that represented all of Karenni State.” They reached an agreement and Evelyn became Deputy Director, leading in an operations capacity. The Karenni Civil Health and Development Network (KCHDN) brought together the health departments from all six Karenni EAOs.

“I was with the network for eight years. We made a lot of improvements to basic health services in the communities, developing and implementing public health policies. We had a lot of dreams. In the beginning our office was on our backs and we had no budget. We only had our thoughts and time to invest.”



FBR TRAINING: RAPPELLING.

The network quickly attracted the attention of the international community and large grants. Evelyn understood that these grants had predesignated priorities. So, building a system that wouldn’t change as donors came and went was her priority. “We made ourselves strong, we could tell the donors what we needed. We were able to mix the priority of the donors with our needs. We built strong relationships with donors and the international community.” Within eight years, they had 500 field staff and about 90 in the office and maintained and managed grants from many different international NGOs.

In her position as the deputy director, she was able to form a large professional community surrounding issues relating to women’s rights, youth education and political involvement, public health, foreign donors, and EAOs. Evelyn came to believe that the voices of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) were under-recognized and that “to be able to go for real development the CSO’s voices need to be in the legal



KARENNI STATE YOUTH FOR KAYAH DEMOCRATIC PARTY (YKDP).



process in parliament.”

Evelyn resigned her position as deputy director of KCHDN and joined the Kayah (Karenni) State Democratic Party, (KySDP); she became their candidate for parliament in the 2020 election. She ran on a platform of unity. “The most needed thing in our community is unity. Without unity we can’t move forward in development of peace. This is the very important thing. I won’t develop you. I will develop your ability to identify what you need. I will work to open the people’s eyes and minds. Then they will help me identify their needs and priorities.”

She won the election and was the first Karenni woman to be elected to state parliament. Her term would be five years and she had plans for development and education. “My big dream was to build and organize youth and women’s learning centers that would teach political awareness in each of the seven townships in Karenni State.” The centers would educate and teach political awareness to women and youth as well as leadership, democracy, human rights, and government systems.

Just three months after the election, the military coup took place, on February 1, 2021. The Karenni leaders came together and decided to back non-violent protests in support of the Civil Disobedience Movement.

The peaceful demonstrations grew. The Burmese military began to use excessive force and intimidation to quell peaceful protest. At the same time, they amended the penal code to make their actions, which were human rights violations, legal. The military issued orders for the arrest of Evelyn and other leaders, and their names were published to a list. She left her children with relatives and went to the jungle to continue her work. On April 20th, the Burmese military entered her relatives’ house. At that point, Evelyn and her family decided to move the children to the border areas, outside of Burma Army control.

When the Burmese military crack-down intensified, “we formed the Karenni State Consultative Committee (KSCC) to work with the National Unity Government (NUG) at the state level” to oppose the Burmese military. Among other things they are working on with the NUG is a new, state-level constitution. “We have lots of work to do.”

As a KSCC member, Evelyn could work remotely as long as she had a good internet connection. This meant she could stay with her children and, after many months apart, she visited them again in October. However, the pressure from the Burmese military was now extending to the border and it was no longer a safe haven. Evelyn decided to move into exile in a bordering country.

Now safe but not in her own country, Evelyn, like many in Burma, lives with the question: “What will my future be?”



EVELYN GIVING A POLITICAL SPEECH.



POLITICAL RALLY IN KARENNI STATE.

## PRAYER

Please pray for unity among the ethnic leaders seeking to come together and help their people in the name of peace, love and freedom.

Pray for wisdom as the people of Burma seek to understand how to take the next steps in their pursuit of justice.

Pray for mercy and grace. Pray that all people realize that we all need forgiveness and we must be willing to forgive those who have harmed us.





# ROHINGYA REFUGEES BANGLADESH

*Multiple Fires Devastate  
Rohingya Refugee Camps.*

The Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh, endured three big fires in the span of three months early in 2021, leaving thousands homeless, hundreds injured or missing, and several dead.

On 2 April 2021, in the early morning, a deadly fire broke out in Balukhali Camp 10, one of the many sections of the sprawling refugee camps located near Teknaf town. A local Rohingya relief team reached the incident at 9 a.m. on 3 April 2021, and began to help the people. The fire started in a Rohingya shop and quickly spread to 15 other closely packed stores. All the stores, with the merchandise inside, were burned completely to ash. There were five people inside when the stores caught fire; three of them died and two were seriously injured.

A much more serious fire had already occurred on 22 March 2021, devastating Camp 8W, in the Balukhali area near Teknaf. The fire started at 3 p.m. and burned out of control until 8 p.m. Approximately 10,000 shelters were



completely destroyed, leaving 85,000 people homeless. Hundreds of children were reported missing and around 15 people lost their lives. In addition to the lives lost, shops, schools, a mosque, hospital, and food centers were all destroyed.

The local Rohingya relief team quickly arrived to help by evacuating people, helping carry their belongings, and partnering with the local fire department to fight the fire. The village leader reported that the barbed wire fences surrounding the camp prevented people from fleeing. On 31 March 2021, the Rohingya team distributed mosquito nets and helped a total of 400 families in Camp 8W.

Additional fires took place earlier in the year as well. On 14 January 2021, the Nayapara refugee camp saw hundreds of Rohingya homes destroyed in a fire which raged for hours until emergency response was able to put it out. The Rohingya team immediately responded by helping families move to a safe place and assisting the fire service by providing them with water from nearby water wells. Two members of the team lost their homes and all of their possessions in this fire. Several people were injured, hundreds of homes were destroyed, children were missing, several water pumps were damaged, and hundreds of people were left with only the clothes on their backs. Rohingya Rangers distributed a blanket and mat to each of the more than 500 families who lost everything.

The Rohingya team met with several of the victims' families. Those interviewed could not determine the exact cause of the fire. One woman reported smelling gas before she was forced to flee her shelter. The fire moved so quickly that she only had time to grab her children and was forced to leave her sick husband behind. He was unable to move due to an illness. She stated, "I had to leave the place, crying to look at my husband who was burning in the fire in front of me and I was out of my senses hearing the holler and cry of my husband."

The police have arrested and charged several Bangladeshi youth for starting the fire.

Three fires in three months have destroyed homes and belongings for tens of thousands of Rohingya people living in Cox's Bazar's refugee camps. After each of these fires, the Rohingya team has been able to distribute aid along with other NGOs working in the camps, including: BD Red Crescent Society, IOM, World Vision, Plan International, MSF, Turkish Aid and BRAC.



THE REMAINS OF A HOME.



YOUNG BOY STANDING IN FRONT OF WHAT REMAINS OF HIS HOME.



REFUGEES RECEIVE BLANKETS.





REFUGEE CARRIES CHILD TO SAFETY.

## Rohingya Refugees Dead and Missing as Flooding Strikes Bhalukhali Refugee Camp

Bhalukhali Refugee Camp, Bangladesh:

In July, heavy rains and flash flooding caused landslides and destroyed over 300 homes in Bhalukhali refugee camp. Many drowned, including children, and thousands lost their homes. Food delivery was temporarily cut off and over 300 families were without any food as the rains continued.

The camps are encircled with barbed wire fences to control the movement of the Rohingya refugees living there. This blocked some people trying to escape the floods and they ended up drowning. These Rohingya refugees fled a genocide by the Burma Army in 2017 and have since been stuck in Bangladesh refugee camps, with no prospects to return to their homeland. There are currently nearly one million refugees in these camps that are affected by disease, fires, and flooding, year after year.

Please pray for the Rohingya people and their uncertain future.



REFUGEE RECEIVES BLANKET AND SLEEPING MAT.

## PRAYER

Please pray for the thousand of families affected by the fires as they try to rebuild.

Pray for God to provide these people with a place to live in freedom.

Pray that the mercy of God would comfort the destitute and that His presence would be known among those afflicted.



# WESTERN BURMA

## CHIN STATE

Chin State Has Become  
One of the Most Violent  
Battlegrounds in Burma.



DISPLACED CHIN CHILDREN IN  
HIDING PLACE, JUNE 6, 2021.



BURMA ARMY ATTACKS THANTLANG TOWN , OCTOBER 29, 2021 (PHOTO PROVIDED BY OUTSIDE SOURCE).



A FUNERAL FOR THREE VILLAGERS KILLED IN BURMA ARMY ATTACK, HAKHA VILLAGE, MAY 5, 2021 (PHOTO PROVIDED BY OUTSIDE SOURCE).



CHIN IDP CHILDREN IN FRONT OF THEIR SHELTER.



In Chin State, as in many places in Burma, life has not been the same since the military coup of 1 February 2021. In the wake of the coup, the military showed its true colors, murdering hundreds of civilian protesters in the streets of the cities and arresting thousands more while at the same time escalating attacks on the ethnic nationalities along the border. The civilian government-in-exile formed the National Unity Government (NUG) and the Chin National Front, the Ethnic Armed Organization (EAO) representing many of the Chin people, was among the first organizations to declare its support for the NUG. This did not go unnoticed by the military, and Chin State has become one of the most violent battlegrounds in Burma.

Since August alone, the military has burned or destroyed more than 350 houses or religious buildings in the Chin area. According to the Chin Human Rights organization, up to 20% of the population of Chin State has been displaced. Troops have massed near the town of Thantlang, which has had more than 170 houses burned, including two churches and a temple. Reportedly, most of the people in the town of 10,000 people have fled.

In addition to attacks and destruction, the military has cut off internet in parts of Chin State, making it more difficult to share information and get news out. Civilians are passing news along through phone calls.

The following is a sample from a raw report from a relief team leader in Chin State that details only activity he specifically was aware of in the month of October:

4 October 2021. In the evening a Burma Army military convoy entered Kalemmyo with eight vehicles. They had been fighting along the way. The Burma Army fired heavy weapons near Chuagkhuah Village, Kalay Township, and the villagers had to flee. There is a village called Webula 27 miles from Kalemmyo, and

CHIN HOME DESTROYED BY BURMA ARMY.



YOUTH IN HAKHA, CHIN STATE, SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT (CDM).







CHIN STATE IDPS BEFORE FOOD DISTRIBUTION.

these villagers also fled into the jungle to hide because of this attack.

All internet was cut off in Falam Township. News was being passed through phone calls.

5 October 2021. In Chaungkhuah Village, Kalay Township, the Burma Army broke in and robbed U Ngun Za Moang's rice mill and some shops. They stole 50 gallons of diesel, one million kyat (about \$560 USD), and clothing along with other goods laying around.

7 October 2021. The Kalay People's Defense Force (a local PDF) shot at the Burma Army near Htoma GTI college and then hit again with IEDs near Tayakone Village. After the IED explosion, the Burma Army arrested three people from Tayakone Village and burned down a motorbike workshop owned by U Za Liar Thang Zanniat.

8 October 2021. Fighting has continued every day in the Kalay area. It is reported that the Burma Army arrived in Kalemmyo with 40 vehicles.

9 October 2021. Fighting broke out in the morning as the military convoy arrived in Kalemmyo.

11 October 2021. Today, a military convoy from Kalemmyo was sleeping in Lumbang Village, stealing and eating pigs raised by the villagers. They had 50 vehicles and two tanks. The villagers fled and hid in the jungle.

A young man from Zawlnu Village was hit in the knee by shrapnel from shelling along the road by Burma military vehicles. On the night of 10 October, a convoy of about 30 military council vehicles from Kalemmyo parked near Thaingin Village and joined forces with the Burma Army troops near Zawng Kaung Village on the Kalemmyo-Falam road. These vehicles fired heavy weapons along the road.

14 October 2021. Two Chin youths were killed by the State Administrative Council (SAC, the military's post-coup rebranding of itself) the evening of October 11th.



RICE DISTRIBUTION, CHIN STATE.



CHIN CHILD HOLDING PROTEST SIGN.





POLICE AND NURSES WHO SUPPORT THE CDM FORCED TO TAKE SHELTER IN CHURCH HALL.

U Thawng Fun Mang was 29 years old and Salai Thawng New Mawi was 34; they were both from Tuphai Village in the Falam area.

Burma Army vehicles leaving Kalemmyo met the two young men on the way. The Burma Army shot U Thawng Fun Mang in the forehead and shot Salai Thawng New Mawi in his abdomen four times.

In Falam area, one church, a warehouse, and eight homes were set on fire by the SAC soldiers on the 14th and 15th. Only three houses remain in Rialti; the rest have been burned.

On 29 October 2021, at 2:30 in the afternoon, the Burma Army set fire to many places in Thantlang town.

## PRAYER

Pray for the welfare of those displaced by violence and must seek shelter in places where there is little access to clean water, adequate nutrition, and decent medical care.

Pray for the families of people killed amidst the violence perpetrated by evil forces.

Pray for children who have witnessed and experienced more trauma than many of us could even imagine.



TEACHING ANATOMY DURING A GLC PROGRAM AT ZAWLSEI IDP CAMP.



# NORTHERN BURMA

## KACHIN & NORTHERN SHAN STATE

*Fighting Has Escalated  
Since the Coup in  
Southern Kachin and  
Northern Shan States.*

Kachin and Shan states have seen a large rise in reported fighting between the Burma Army and the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) since the coup. Adding to the conventional fighting between the Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and the Burma Army is the presence of the People's Defense Forces and an increased use of drones and fixed wing aircraft by the Burmese military for surveillance and targeting of the EAOs. Both of these additions have brought an intensity to the fighting that didn't exist previously.

Burma Army forward operating bases are more frequently using light and heavy mortars, in addition to artillery, against the EAOs and the villages from which they operate, causing numerous civilian casualties as the mortars land indiscriminately amongst the populace. In response, IEDs, claymores, and landmines are increasingly being used against Burma Army troops on patrol and logistical convoys. When Burma Army convoys and patrols are hit with IEDs, they frequently fire indiscriminately into nearby villages.

Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM), Red Cross, and other civil society organization members are also not safe from targeting and harassment in the form of arrests by the Burma Army. CDM protests took place in numerous cities in Kachin and Shan states earlier in 2021, but many were met with brutal suppression by the Myanmar police forces.

### CIVILIAN TARGETING

Due to the rise of the CDM, PDF, and National Unity Government (NUG) movements, more civilians have been targeted, detained, beaten, or killed by the Burma Army throughout the region. This is an escalation of the egregious human rights violations that have already been a constant reality for villagers and farmers in the region.

### IDP MOVEMENTS

Throughout Kachin State, the numbers of new IDPs have increased since the coup due to the renewed intensity of the fighting. Complications in IDP camps have made conditions worse for IDPs, with food shortages, landslides, lack of medical attention, and especially Covid-19 cases. There are some accounts of IDPs returning to their destroyed homes because conditions in the IDP camps are too severe.



KACHIN RANGER MEDIC EXAMINES CHILD.





FOOD DISTRIBUTION KACHIN STATE.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

Within urban areas of Kachin State, infections of Covid-19 have been rapidly spreading despite some effective vaccination programs. Some Kachin outlets have expressed frustrations that the infections are continuing despite administrations of the vaccine. Statistics vary regarding infection rates and deaths (infections have been published in the thousands, deaths under several hundred over the course of 2021), but the urban centers are certainly being affected through infection counts. On at least one occasion, a Burma Army infantry unit used Covid-19 as an excuse to search through an IDP camp in Myitkyina (June 2021). Urban centers, IDP camps, and villages have all suffered due to lockdown procedures being put in place.

## INTERNET SHUT DOWNS

In October 2021, the Burmese junta shut down some of the mobile internet services throughout Kachin State. Locals believe this was intentionally timed to coincide with troop movements and offensives that occurred soon afterwards, to keep down the flow of information. The aftereffects of the internet shutdown effectively shut down numerous elements of society that rely on online connectivity, including things such as online schooling and money transfers that couldn't go through.

## RELIEF TEAM MISSION TO BUMRA YANG IDP CAMP

In the summer of 2021, a Kachin relief team conducted a basic relief team training that consisted of 38 Kachin men and women. Soon after the graduation, in July, the



FBR MEDICAL CLINIC PROVIDES AID TO KACHIN IDP.



assembled relief teams proceeded to Bumra Yang IDP Camp “providing food, rain gear, toilets and other much needed supplies.” As summarized from the published situation report:

“Villagers here first fled their homes [in] April 2018, after Burma Army jet fighters attacked with bombs and machine gun fire. They were escorted by Kachin Independence Army (KIA) soldiers to Bumra Yang IDP Camp which then housed only seven families. As the situation quieted in January 2019 they returned to their villages to find their homes ransacked and their livestock slaughtered by the Burma Army.

After one year of rebuilding and planting, fighting erupted nearby between the KIA and Burma Army. The villagers fled once again, back to Bumra Yang where they currently reside. Tucked in the remote highlands of Kachin State, it is the home of 140 families and sees little aid apart from what is given through small local and foreign NGOs. A small band of Kachin Rangers reported

on the situation and provided as much aid as they were able.”

In addition to the Bumra Yang IDP Camp, there was another relief mission that went to BP8, another IDP camp that is in a remote area close to the Chinese border. This is an excerpt from that mission’s report:

“Currently, there are 92 families living at BP8, about half of which have been for years and the other half are new arrivals. With the advent of COVID-19, life in the camp has become more difficult as roads have been blocked, the border closed and many organizations that used to help have stopped traveling to places like BP8.

The people were very happy to see the relief team, who came and stayed for three days, giving out food packs, providing medical care, doing kids’ programs and encouraging the people. The team met a pastor they had met on previous missions who remembered the team from previous years. He had moved out of the camp but come back to check on it, and also because he wanted to prepare to move back, in case the Burma Army launched more attacks.”



IDP RECEIVES AID.

## PRAYER

Pray for safe and secure movement for people simply trying to get themselves and their families to safety.

Pray that God continues to provide relief for the thousands of displaced persons in Burma.

Pray that NGOs like FBR can continue to reach those most in need of help, hope and love.



KACHIN RANGERS DISTRIBUTE FOOD.





MEDICAL DISTRIBUTION AND MEDICAL CLINIC CHIN STATE.



SHAN MEDIC COMPLETES HEALTH CHECK.



DOCTOR TREATS SHAN IDP.





# VOICE FROM BURMA

## KAREN STATE

*A dream that would not die.*

“I want to be a nurse, that was my mother’s dream for me,” said 16-year-old Naw Neela Oo. But now the dream is gone. Our mother was killed by the Burma Army on July 16, 2020, at our village of Po La Hta. Now my mother and her dream and my dream are all gone.” A tear rolled down her face. “I miss my mother so much, we all miss our mother.”

It was now January 2021 and Naw Neela Oo had come with her father and two younger brothers to our Good Life Club (GLC) and medical program in the jungle. The Burma Army has increased attacks this year and many newly displaced people were with us to receive help, hope and love.

After the GLC program, Naw Neela Oo, her father and

two brothers, aged nine and 12, came to speak with us. Her father described how difficult it was to be without his wife and how his daughter had to leave school to take care of the boys while he tried to find food for the family.

With the poise of a much older woman, Naw Neela Oo said, “My mother wanted me to be a nurse, that was her dream for me. Why did the Burma soldiers kill her? We found her body with two gunshots in the back of her head and one in her back. The Burma Army murdered her. What am I to do? My mother’s dream was for me to be a nurse and that’s what I wanted to do but now it’s impossible. To help our family survive I have to take care of my brothers. I’ll do my best to help my father and my brothers and I will never forget my mother.”

We listened, prayed with and talked with her, her father and her brothers and promised we would help. Her father said, “Please take my daughter, I give her to you to give her a chance. She has a dream and my wife had a dream. I give you my daughter so she has a chance for that dream to come true.”

We came up with a plan to help her father and brothers and enable her to finish high school in a school near our camp. Then we will enroll her in our Jungle School of Medicine so that she can study to be a medic and in the future a nurse.

She smiled and said “Yes I would like that very much. I am so happy. It is like a dream, thank you so much.”

We prayed together and we thanked God that in the midst of tragedy something good could happen.



# BRILLIANT EYES

Those brilliant eyes,  
They shine so bright  
While smiling  
Or in a gun fight.  
They show the pain  
Of the lost terrain  
They fought so desperately for.  
A land they owned for years unknown  
Was stripped and ripped from their hands,  
And yet those eyes  
Still see the light  
Of freedom yet untold.  
They fight for lives, of gone and yet to come.  
Those brilliant eyes  
Reveal the wisdom earned  
From years in battle.  
Though his heart was never turned,  
Those eyes shine bright  
And full of light.  
With a slight glimpse of charm still known,  
Will hold his grandchild, just for a while  
And tell him tales of old.  
And when they ask why he doesn't have a  
second hand to hold,  
Those eyes will show  
A love untold, and a price he had to pay  
To hold this child, and tell him  
"Oh, how I love you."

AUTHOR: SUUZANNE EUBANK



KAREN SOLDIER WHO LOST HIS ARM BUT IS STILL DEFENDING HIS PEOPLE.