



LAST MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

A summary of Burma-related issues
in the British Parliament and Europe

DEC
2013

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Rohingya

16 December 2013 Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has commissioned an investigation into reports by Human Rights Watch that ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity have been committed against the ethnic Rohingya in Burma.

Mr Swire: We are very concerned by the number of disturbing and specific allegations of human rights abuses in Rakhine State, some of which are backed up by comprehensive evidence. We have raised these concerns repeatedly at the highest levels of the Burmese Government.

16 December 2013 Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with Aung San Suu Kyi on visiting places in Burma where anti-Muslim violence has taken place.

Mr Swire: The Prime Minister, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and I discussed a range of issues with Aung San Suu Kyi during her most recent visit to the UK, including the situation in Rakhine State and anti-Muslim violence. Our ambassador in Rangoon also has regular discussions with her covering these issues. Aung San Suu Kyi has made clear that human rights and the rule of law must be upheld—whether in Rakhine or other areas affected by anti-Muslim violence. She has also publicly called for the Burmese citizenship law to be applied fairly to all in Rakhine State and to be reviewed in line with international standards. I myself visited Rakhine State in December 2012 and have consistently made similar points to the Burmese Government.

Political Prisoners

04 December 2013 Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Burmese counterpart on the case of Bauk Ja.

Mr Swire: On 22 November, I raised the issue of political prisoners with Minister for the President's Office, Tin Naing Thein, and made clear our concern about the political prisoners who are still detained in Burma. While I did not raise the individual case of Daw Bauk Ja, we continue to follow her case closely. Officials from the embassy in Rangoon raised Daw Bauk Ja's case with senior members of the Burmese Government in August, and remain in touch with local Burmese organisations which support her and the many other political prisoners who remain detained.

05 December 2013 Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding her Department provides for the rehabilitation of released political prisoners in Burma.

Mr Duncan: DFID has not provided funding for rehabilitation services for former political prisoners in Burma. The UK, however, continues to provide assistance through the British Council to help former political prisoners to develop the necessary skills, knowledge and confidence, including language skills, to take an active and effective role in the political process, perform more effectively within their organisations and communities, and engage with the diplomatic and international business community.

Aid

05 December 2013 Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which Government Departments in Burma have received assistance from, or are funded by, her Department; and what the nature of that assistance and level of that funding is.

Mr Duncan: No UK aid goes directly through central Government of Burma budgets. DFID funds trusted expert organisations who provide capacity-building and technical assistance to some Burmese Government Departments, as well as non-government organisations, to support reforms.

Some examples of such assistance include: The World Health Organisation through the Three Millennium Development Goal Fund provides technical advice to Ministry of Health on tuberculosis and malaria control; UNICEF assists the Ministry of Education on improving primary education; UNFPA provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Immigration and Population on the 2014 census; and the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business works alongside the Ministry of Planning to conduct Environmental and Social Safeguard Assessments.

05 December 2013 Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which civil society organisations in Burma receive how much funding from her Department.

Mr Duncan: The DFID Burma bilateral programme is providing just over £22 million to 21 civil society organisations in Burma in 2013-14. Civil society organisations in Burma also receive DFID funding through central and regional funding streams, and through our contributions to trust funds such as 3MDG and LIFT. Details of organisations receiving funding are available on the DFID and partner websites.

Constitution

02 December 2013 Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead : To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made specific representations to the government of Burma about ending the quota of military members in the Burmese Parliament; and, if so, what responses they have received.

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi) (Con): We continue to lobby regularly and publicly on the need for reform of Burma's constitution on a number of issues, including the role of the military in the executive and legislature, the rights of Burma's ethnic groups, and the clause that prohibits any individual with foreign family members from becoming President.

The Prime Minister my right hon. Friend the Member for Witney (Mr Cameron) and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) raised the Burmese constitution with President Thein Sein when he visited London in July 2013. The President acknowledged the need for change, and pointed to the work of the parliamentary committee set up to review the constitution. Recently, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire) discussed the need for constitutional change with Deputy Foreign Minister Thant Kyaw and with Minister in the President's Office Tin Naing Thein. Our Embassy in Rangoon continues to lobby on constitutional reform with the President's office, Ministers and officials in the Burmese government and members of the ruling party, the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP).

Health Expenditure

06 December 2013 Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead : To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the level of public expenditure on health in Burma; and whether they have made any representations to the government of that country about the matter.

Baroness Northover (LD): DFID is working closely with the World Bank to implement a Public Expenditure Review, including detailed assessments of public expenditure for health and education. This is due to report in early 2014, and the results will be disseminated to the Ministry of Health.

Military Expenditure

05 December 2013 Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations she made to the government of Burma on the need to reduce military expenditure and increase spending on health and education.

Mr Duncan: DFID is providing support to Burma's peace process which includes advising the Government on how to manage reforms in the security sector. DFID is also working with the World Bank on a public expenditure review which has a particular focus on improving spending in the health and education sectors.

Military Engagement

04 December 2013 Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what pre-conditions he has set before the UK will provide training to the Burmese Army.

Mr Swire: The Burmese military remain a core political force in Burma and will be key to the process of political reform. It will only be through engagement with all actors, including the military, that we will see greater democracy in Burma. The focus of our defence engagement in Burma will be on adherence to the core principles of democratic accountability, international law and human rights.

As part of this policy of engagement, in January 2014 a civil-military team from the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, in collaboration with Cranfield University, will deliver a tailored version of the Managing Defence in a Wider Security Context course in Burma to 30 students, drawn from government and the Burmese military. The course will educate participants on effective governance and management in support of a civilian government within a democratic framework. The programme will also include an examination of the legal framework by which defence and security operations are legitimised and controlled in line with international human rights and humanitarian law. We have made clear that training delivered to the Burmese military will not contain any combat or combat related elements.

05 December 2013 Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where British training for Burmese army soldiers will take place in 2014.

Mr Francois: The Tatmadaw (the Burmese Army) remain a key political force in Burma, therefore we seek to encourage them to support democratic reform through our influence and with education.

The first educational course that the UK will provide to the Tatmadaw will take place in January 2014. A civil-military team from the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom, in collaboration with Cranfield University, will deliver a course called Managing Defence in a Wider Security Context. This course will be delivered to approximately 30 students, drawn from Government and the Burmese military and it will be delivered in Burma at commercial premises. Currently, there are plans for an individual from the Tatmadaw to attend a similar course that will take place at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom later in the year.

Trade & Investment

05 December 2013 Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which companies have so far received support from the Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business.

Mr Duncan: The Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business has engaged with over 40 Burmese, and over 50 foreign, companies in group settings, and directly, since July 2013. These include companies in the sectors where the Centre is or will be conducting sector-wide responsible business assessments including: oil and gas, tourism, information and communication technology (ICT), and agriculture.

ANSWERS TO ORAL PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Women in the peace process

04 December 2013 Fiona O'Donnell (East Lothian) (Lab): The Secretary of State will be aware that

the International Development Committee recently visited Burma. I was very concerned about the lack of involvement of women in the peace process there. What is the Secretary of State doing to ensure that women are part of making and keeping the peace in Burma?

Justine Greening: I discussed that subject with Aung San Suu Kyi when she visited the UK a few weeks ago. Clearly, she is an incredibly important woman who can be involved in that peace process. Beyond that, much of the work the Department has done has been to reduce some of the ethnic tensions in various parts of Burma. The role that women play in that is obviously critical.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131204/debtext/131204-0001.htm#13120443000004>

Burma mentioned in Persecution of Christians Debate in the House of Commons

03 December 2013 Jim Shannon: In Sri Lanka, Christians are subject to persecution. In Burma, Christians and ethnic minorities are bombed by Government aircraft and attacked. It would be helpful to hear in the Minister's response some indication of how those issues were presented at the Commonwealth summit and what response the Prime Minister got. I understand that he brought the issues to the attention of the people attending.

Kerry McCarthy: On Burma, we know about the religious tensions in Rakhine state, where the Rohingya Muslims' faith is a factor, as well as their ethnicity, but Christians in Burma have suffered persecution too. The Chin Christians have been targeted for their ethnicity and their faith. A report by the Chin Human Rights Organisation documented cases of forced labour, more than 40 separate incidents of torture, and 24 official complaints from Chin Christians of human rights violations, including rape and extra-judicial killing, where no action was taken against the perpetrators.

Mr David Burrowes (Enfield, Southgate) (Con): Baroness Warsi's meetings in January in London and in September in New York are extremely welcome and important, as are the engagement on bilateral agreements, the project work and the diplomatic support that is going on. That has a particular focus in relation to the freedom to change religion, which must be properly recognised, but it is important to accept that there are different understandings and interpretations of article 18. We must ensure that the international covenant on civil and political rights is signed by the Arab countries with which we trade that have not done so: Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates should all sign it, as should Burma.

Mark Simmonds: Persecution is not limited to the middle east, and, where Christians are attacked, it is rarely just Christians who are suffering—whether they be Shi'a Muslims in Syria and Pakistan, and Rohingya Muslims in Burma. None of that persecution is acceptable and none of it should be tolerated. <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131203/debtext/131203-0003.htm>

Burma mentioned in Modern-day Slavery Debates in the House of Commons

05 December 2013 Pauline Latham: Perhaps the hon. Lady feels that she did not do so, but I disagree with her on that.

As I have said, slavery takes a huge number of forms. I do not want to focus on international trafficking, although, having recently returned from Burma, I know that the Burmese fear that, following the opening of their borders, an increasing number of young girls will be taken to Thailand for trafficking. We should bear it in mind that they may end up in this country as well, and I think that the police and border agencies should look out for young girls coming here from Burma. Over the last few years, I have been made aware of slavery, trafficking, and the fact that people are groomed.

Michael Connarty (Linlithgow and East Falkirk) (Lab): I was also struck by a book by Baroness Cox called "This Immoral Trade". It is a study of what happened in Burma and Sudan where people were trafficked in the old way. They were put into slave gangs and taken to slavers in the north of Africa where they were sold. They are now being bought back from those very slavers by their communities. It is a

replication of what used to happen when people were taken to the colonies of the European countries. That practice is still going on. I spoke at the re-launch of the second edition of Baroness Cox's book in the House of Lords last month. It was said that between 11 million and 17 million people are enslaved in the world at the moment. A number of types of slavery are used. My hon. Friend the Member for Hyndburn (Graham Jones) mentioned the horrific practice whereby infants between the ages of three and eight are trafficked within their own country for sexual exploitation. It is a massive problem, but it is also a business and organised crime and we must treat it as such.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131205/debtext/131205-0003.htm#13120571000214>

Burma Debate on International Human Rights in the House of Lords

09 December 2013 Baroness Cox : To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of recent developments in Burma with regard to the situation of the ethnic national groups, in particular the Kachin, Shan and Rohingya peoples.

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi) (Con): My Lords, we welcome continuing talks between the Burmese Government and ethnic groups, including the Kachin and Shan, towards a nationwide ceasefire and political settlement. We are, however, concerned by recent reports of fighting in Kachin state and continue to argue for full humanitarian access. We continue to monitor tensions in Rakhine state and press for improved security and accountability, better co-ordination of humanitarian assistance and a solution to the question of Rohingya citizenship.

Baroness Cox (CB): My Lords, I thank the Minister for her encouraging and helpful reply. Is she aware that I have visited Kachin and Shan states, where I have seen massive civilian displacement, widespread suffering caused by the Burmese army's continuing military offensive and violations of human rights? Therefore, the proposed engagement of the British Army with the Burmese army is causing such anxiety that ethnic national leaders have written a letter highlighting their concerns. What assurance can the Minister give that this co-operation will provide no enhancement of Burmese military capacity for further assaults on its civilians but will be conditional on progress on the protection of human rights and a genuine peace process?

Baroness Warsi: As ever, my Lords, the noble Baroness comes to Question Time with the most up-to-date information, and I very much value her input. As she will be aware, the Burmese military is a core political force in Burma. It is therefore important that professionalism and human rights as an essential element of the work they do is part and parcel of their training.

The focus of our defence engagement in Burma is on adherence to the core principles of democratic accountability, international law and human rights. We have been delivering a course—a course which has been delivered in many other parts of the world—that specifically focuses on the professionalisation of the work that the army does. The Chief of the Defence Staff visited Burma earlier this year to deepen that engagement. I can assure the noble Baroness and other noble Lords that we will not be involved in the sale or transfer of arms or military equipment or play a part in military combat. We are involved in the professionalisation and accountability that the Burmese army needs to be aware of when conducting operations.

Baroness Berridge (Con): My Lords, Aung San Suu Kyi stated that Nelson Mandela made us all understand that nobody should be penalised for the colour of his skin or the circumstances into which he was born. Sadly, the Rohingya Muslims are still being persecuted on grounds of their race, ethnicity and religion. What representations are Her Majesty's Government making to the Burmese Government that they should sign up swiftly to the basic international norms in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights? Without such a commitment, how can the Minister assure the UK taxpayer that our aid is being distributed without discrimination?

Baroness Warsi: The discrimination against the Rohingya community and, indeed, against Muslims in other parts of Burma, is a matter of huge concern. It was raised at the highest level by the Prime Minister

in discussions with President Thein Sein when he visited earlier this year. It is important for us to respond to the deteriorating humanitarian situation on the ground in relation to the Rohingya community and to deal with the long-term issue of citizenship. My noble friend has made an incredibly important point. The basis of the argument used by the Minister who raised the issue with me was that the Rohingya were not really members of the Burmese community because they looked different, they had not been in the country long enough and they were from a different religion. I am sure that the irony of that was lost on the Burmese Minister when he was talking to me.

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead (Lab): My Lords, a national census is due to take place in Burma in 2014, as I am sure the noble Baroness knows. It has largely been funded by the United Nations and, as I understand it, the UK will contribute \$16 million. In view of the appalling levels of religious and ethnic discrimination in Burma, does the Minister anticipate that the Rohingya—who are not officially recognised, as we have heard, as one of the country's ethnic groups—will be included on equal terms in that census? In view of that reality, how do our Government intend to ensure that the UN guarantees a complete count of the population of Burma?

Baroness Warsi: This is a hugely controversial issue in Burma. There are concerns about the way in which the Government would like to define the Rohingya community, not so much as Rohingya but as Bangladeshis—I think that they want to define them as Bengalis. We have raised this issue. Some recommendations were made in the internal report that was done, and the President made some positive comments. We have also put forward evidence that shows the length of time that the Rohingya community has lived in Burma. I am not sure that I can give the noble Baroness a specific answer but I will write to her with further details.

Baroness Falkner of Margravine (LD): My Lords, given that my noble friend has mentioned humanitarian assistance, can she tell us what discussions the Government are having with Burma's neighbours about the people from all the tribes that the noble Baroness, Lady Cox, mentioned, who are displaced across Burma's boundaries? Particularly in light of the forthcoming census, are the Government supporting efforts to identify those who should rightly be identified as Burmese but are displaced externally?

Baroness Warsi: We have of course had discussions not just within Burma but with the Thai authorities. I had an opportunity to discuss the matter with the Bangladeshis and, indeed, had an opportunity to visit Cox's Bazar, where there are large numbers of the displaced community. We have committed £180 million up to 2015, which is specifically humanitarian assistance. Some of that is for use in relation to individual communities, such as the Kachin and the Rohingya, within Burma, but some is for peacebuilding and support along the Thai-Burmese border. I am not sure that I caught all of my noble friend's question because of the noise but I hope that that answers it.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (CB): My Lords, has the noble Baroness had the opportunity to look at the Human Rights Watch report that has categorised what is happening to the Rohingya people as genocide, and said that what is happening in Kachin state amounts to war crimes in the perfectly technical sense, not just in the rhetorical sense? Given those allegations, can she tell us what the Government are doing about raising that issue, particularly in the Security Council? Does she accept the underlying point that the ethnic minorities in Burma are in grave danger of being exploited more and more as the country opens up, and that more needs to be done to protect them during this process of opening up?

Baroness Warsi: Yes, I am familiar with the report; and alongside that report we have our own disturbing and specific allegations which have been backed up by comprehensive evidence. However, at this stage we feel that rather than a UN-mandated inquiry, it would be better and probably more likely to be effective if it were done internally by the Burmese, and we have been encouraging them to go down that route. The noble Lord will also be aware that the Burmese Government have agreed to open up an OHCHR office. The President made a commitment to an office with a full mandate but it has not at this stage been fulfilled. The noble Lord may also be aware of a recent UN Third Committee resolution which focuses on concerns about the delay to the opening of that office. We think that the opening of an office with a full mandate is one of the ways in which we could take forward some of these concerns.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/131209-0001.htm#1312093000339>

Burma mentioned in Tributes to Nelson Mandela Debates in the House of Commons

09 Demcember 2013 Sir Malcolm Rifkind (Kensington) (Con): In our own day, we have Aung San Suu Kyi, and we all know what she has done and how it is transforming Burma. Being a political, charismatic figure is necessary but it is not sufficient. It must be combined with political skills, and of course Mandela was a politician to his fingertips as well as being a man with all those other talents.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131209/debtext/131209-0001.htm#1312098000001>

Written Statement: Foreign & Commonwealth Office

Development Foreign Affairs, Foreign Affairs and General Affairs Councils

11 December 2013

Burma

Our priority is to agree conclusions that incorporate language calling for reform of the Burmese constitution in advance of the report from Burma's parliamentary constitutional review committee, which will present its recommendations for reform on 31 January 2014. We will stress the importance of reviewing those clauses, which prevent the participation of individuals from being selected for Burma's presidency on the basis of the foreign nationality of spouses or offspring. We expect the conclusions will also reflect the outcomes of the Baroness Ashton-led EU-Myanmar taskforce, which visited Burma on 14 and 15 November.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm131211/wmstext/131211m0001.htm#13121191000001>

International Development Committee

Oral evidence: Democracy and Development in Burma, HC 821

Monday 11 November 2013

It is available online here:

<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/WrittenEvidence.svc/EvidenceHtml/3579>

Foreign Affairs Committee Publications: Reports and associated evidence

4th Report – The FCO's human rights work in 2012

17 October 2013

It is available online here:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/foreign-affairs-committee/news/human-rights-substantive1/>

ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR DEMOCRACY IN BURMA

On 3rd December 2013, APPG Burma hold a meeting with the Speaker of House of Common, Rt Hon John Bercow MP. The Speaker of the House of Commons visited Burma as part of a British Parliamentary delegation in July 2013. At this meeting, he discussed his recent trip to Burma where he met with the Burmese President U Thein Sein, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, various organisations and politicians, political activists, representatives from ethnic and religious organisations, civil society, non-governmental

organisations, UN agencies and international agencies.

On 11th December 2013, APPG Burma in collaboration with APPG on Population, Development and Reproductive Health (APPG on PD&RH) hold a debriefing/ round table meeting and discussed their recent trip to Burma – “Myanmar study tour on Family Planning/ Sexual and Reproductive Health and Right”. This study tour was organised by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health (APPG on PD&RH) in collaboration with Sexual and Reproductive Health NGOs, in July 2013.

EARLY DAY MOTIONS

SPEAKER’S DELEGATION TO BURMA

Date tabled: 08.10.2013

That this House wishes to thank Mr Speaker, Mr Speaker’s Office and the British Embassy staff in Rangoon who helped to organise Mr Speaker’s successful delegation to Burma on 28 July to 4 August 2013; welcomes the constructive meetings with Daw Suu Kyi, President Thein Sein and other Burmese politicians and activists; notes the need for constitutional change to allow Daw Suu Kyi to stand for election as President of Burma; further notes the meetings between faith leaders and the delegation, and hopes that this continued contact brings lasting peace to Burma; further welcomes Mr Speaker’s speech at Yangon University; praises the hard work by all parties to reform Burma’s political process, but also notes the work left to do to strengthen Burma’s democracy; further welcomes the enthusiasm and desire for democracy from the younger generation shown during the meeting with youth activists in Mon State; calls for the UN Special Rapporteur on Religious Beliefs to be allowed to carry out his work with the full protection of the local police; further calls for the establishment of a UN Office of Human Rights in Burma as agreed to by President Thein Sein; and further calls on the Government to continue to provide practical assistance to strengthen the capacity building of the Burmese Naypyidaw Parliament’s research department to help reduce the workload of the Bill Committees and help assist Burmese Members of Parliament to carry out their work.

Total signatures: 24

SPEAKER’S DELEGATION TO BURMA (No. 2)

Date tabled: 08.10.2013

That this House notes the Speaker’s successful delegation to Burma which visited that country between 28 July and 4 August 2013; welcomes the constructive meetings with Daw Suu Kyi, President Thein Sein, HE U Soe Thane, Minister Presidential Office, HE U Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of the Upper House, HE U Thura Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Lower House, Burmese MPs from all parties, Burmese Committee Chairs, non-governmental organisations, UN agencies, international agencies, Rohingya and Rakhine leaders, 88 Generation, ethnic and faith leaders, including Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Anglican and Catholic representatives, the Burmese business community, the Chief Minister of Mon State, the Speaker of Mon State Parliament, local MPs, and young political activists; further notes the visits to a DFID-funded school, UK-funded law clinic, a Commonwealth War Cemetery, a Migrant community clinic, and humanitarian projects; further notes the work by all parties to reform Burma’s democratic process, but notes that there is still more work to be done, especially in the area of human rights; and calls on the Government to continue its support for democratic reform in Burma and to provide the resources necessary to strengthen Burma’s democratic institutions.

Total signatures: 24

DAW BAWK JA AND THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN MYANMAR (BURMA)

Date tabled: 05.09.2013

That this House notes that Daw BawkJa was arrested in July 2013, and that the charges against her are currently unknown to her or her lawyer, and her trial is still pending; further notes that Daw BawkJa has actively supported local Kachin farmers against illegal land grabbing in 2009 and the resulting trial sided against the farmers; further notes that Daw BawkJa ran as a National Democratic Force candidate in the November 2010 election and lost by under 8,000 votes after 13,255 votes were deemed invalid; welcomes the political reforms and progress that have been made in Burma since the 2012 UN General Assembly Resolution on Human Rights in Myanmar (Burma) but notes that there are still concerns that need to be addressed, including the detention of political prisoners; further notes that President TheinSein is still

discussing the opening of the UN Office of Human Rights in Burma; and calls on the Government to help facilitate the release of Daw BawKJa and to continue its support for the UN General Assembly Resolution on Human Rights in Myanmar (Burma).

Total Signature: 7

ANTI-MUSLIM VIOLENCE IN BURMA

Date tabled: 11.07.2013

That this House expresses deep concern at the growing anti-Muslim violence in Burma; is concerned that the government of Burma has still not taken action against those inciting and organising violence; is further concerned by growing Buddhist nationalism in the country and that other religious minorities could also be targeted; is further concerned that, despite Muslims being the majority of the victims of violence, they also make up the vast majority of those being charged with violent offences; calls on the Government to significantly increase support for programmes promoting religious tolerance in Burma; and further calls on the Government to mobilise and co-ordinate an international task force to help address religious violence in Burma.

Total Signature: 33

ROHINGYA MUSLIM PERSECUTION IN MYANMAR

Date tabled: 20.05.2013

That this House notes that the persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar is not only continuing but sectarian violence is getting worse; further notes that a boat carrying well over 100 Rohingya Muslims fleeing a cyclone capsized on 14 May with many drowned; further notes that the Myanmar President Thein Sein has been invited to Washington to meet President Obama as part of the normalisation of relations with western countries; deplores the continued persecution of the Rohingya Muslims; and calls on the Government to take all necessary measures to get the Myanmar government to act to protect the Rohingya Muslims from sectarian persecution and violence.

Total Signatures: 14

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Thank you.

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