



LAST MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

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

FEB
2012

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Burma

9 Feb 2012 Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Burma on the recruitment of child soldiers into the Burmese Army. [94435]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The use of child soldiers continues to be a problem in the Burmese military and some armed ethnic groups. Many children continue to work, largely due to poverty, and there remains no code of conduct to protect working children. There is little protection under the law for how children are treated within the Burmese police justice system.

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) visited Burma on 5-6 January 2012. During his visit the Foreign Secretary urged further reforms and emphasised the importance of an end to conflict, humanitarian access, political dialogue and national reconciliation.

We will continue to work closely with civil society organisations and UN agencies on children's issues. We support the work of the International Labour Organization in highlighting the problems and need for action on child labour and underage recruitment in the military. We raised the use of children in armed conflict in Burma in the UN Security Council in November. We supported a reference in the resolutions on Burma at the Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly, calling on the Government to end the recruitment of child soldiers by the armed forces and other armed groups, to intensify measures to ensure the protection of children in armed conflict, and to intensify its co-operation with the UN in this area. The Department for International Development's Operational Plan for 2011-15 aims to support more than 200,000 children through primary school in Burma.

9 Feb 2012 Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on abuses of human rights in ethnic states in Burma in 2011. [94436]

Mr Jeremy Browne: During his visit to Burma in January of this year, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) heard first-hand the concerns and aspirations of different ethnic minorities, including the Shan, Kachin, Karen, Karenni, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Rohingya communities.

Our ambassador regularly meets Burmese Ministers in Naypyidaw, raising our human rights concerns directly with the Government. Our embassy officials also provided regular updates throughout 2011 on the situation in-country, and their reporting helped us to ensure that the resolutions on human rights in Burma at the Human Rights Council and the Third Committee at the UN General Assembly were well-evidenced and reflected positive progress as well as detailing concerns.

9 Feb 2012 Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Government of Burma on spending on health and education. [94521]

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Mr Jeremy Browne: The Burmese Government have stated their commitment to the UN's Millennium Development Goals, which include achieving universal access to primary education and health care provision.

During his visit in November 2011, the Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Sutton Coldfield (Mr Mitchell), met with the Burmese President and Health Minister and pressed them on the need for the Government to use their budget for the benefit of the people. Department for International Development officials have also met with both the Education and Health Ministers to urge the Government to increase its spending on health and education.

We understand that the Burmese Parliament is now in the process of agreeing its budget and hope it will include big increases for health and education. We will continue to press the Burmese to honour their commitments.

Political Prisoners

9 Feb 2012 Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what contact he has had with the Burmese authorities about the release of political prisoners in Burmese jails in the last year. [94151]

Mr Hague: During my visit to Burma in January 2012, I welcomed recent progress, in particular the release of some political prisoners in 2011, and urged the Burmese President to commit to the further release of all political prisoners, in time for the by-elections on 1 April. Most recently, the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the hon. Member for Taunton Deane (Mr Browne), raised the issue of the remaining political prisoners directly with the Burmese ambassador when they met on 6 February.

I welcomed the release of a significant number of political prisoners on 13 January, including 88 Generation and ethnic leaders. However, a number of prisoners remain. We will continue to call for the release of all political prisoners with the Burmese authorities.

9 Feb 2012 Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the potential consequences of the decision by the Burmese authorities to release political prisoners on 13 January 2012. [94152]

Mr Hague: The release of political prisoners on 13 January 2012 was a further demonstration of the Burmese Government's commitment to reform. It included almost all prominent political prisoners, including members of the 88 Generation and some ethnic leaders. The timing of the release was additionally significant because those released can now contest and campaign in the by-elections on 1 April increasing the likelihood that those elections will be genuinely inclusive.

Thailand: Burma

9 Feb 2012 Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has for funding food and shelter for refugees in camps on the Thailand Burma border in each of the next three years. [94434]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is in the process of reviewing its last three years' programme of assistance to refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs) along the Thailand-Burma border, including support for the provision of food and shelter for refugees in camps on the border. This review will inform the nature of future support to refugees on the Thailand-Burma border, to which I remain strongly committed. Following the Bilateral Aid Review I agreed to a doubling of the overall British aid budget to Burma. [Link](#)

UK Companies and Burma

20 Feb 2012 Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which UK companies have approached the Government to express an interest in investing in or trading with Burma. [94522]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are aware that a number of UK companies are interested in investing in or trading with Burma. For reasons of commercial confidence, it would not be appropriate to comment on the nature

of any contact we have had with UK businesses, or to name those companies with whom we have had contact.

However, our policy remains that the British Government do not encourage trade and investment in Burma and offers no commercial services to companies wishing to trade or invest there. [Link](#)

Aid to Burma

27 Feb 2012 Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he proposes that the proportion of cross-border aid allocated by his Department to Burma will increase in line with his Department's overall increase of aid to that country. [96858]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is undertaking a comprehensive review of its last three years' assistance to conflict affected peoples in eastern Burma and Thailand, including aid delivered in refugee camps in Thailand and from Thailand over the border into Burma. This will include a full review of results achieved so far, how effective we have been at meeting programme objectives and whether the way that Britain is delivering its aid is providing good value for money. The review will help inform decisions on DFID's future programme of support for people affected by the conflict in Eastern Burma, including overall funding levels and funding for cross-border aid. DFID remains fully committed to providing humanitarian aid to people affected by conflict in eastern Burma, through whichever channels are best suited to reaching particularly vulnerable populations. The coalition Government has increased significantly our development work in Burma and on the borders.

27 Feb 2012 Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department has approved support to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium to assist with financial problems caused by rising food prices, changing currency rates and the withdrawal of funding by the European Commission. [96938]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Funding of our development programme has increased significantly under this Government. The Department for International Development (DFID) supports the Thai Burma Border Consortium (TBBC) to provide food and shelter for the refugees in the camps and for internally displaced people (IDPs) inside Burma with funding of around £1.1 million per year for the last three years. DFID is currently reviewing our overall programme of support to IDPs and refugees along the Thai/Burma border, including funding for the TBBC. The results of the review, our assessment of the level of need and the impact of rising food prices, exchange rate fluctuation and contributions from other donors will inform my decision over future funding. DFID remains fully committed to providing humanitarian aid to Burmese refugees in Thailand and people affected by conflict in eastern Burma, and encourages the European Commission and other donors to maintain their support.

27 Feb 2012 Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the level of access being given to the United Nations and other agencies operating in Burma in order to allow them to assist civilians in Kachin State. [96939]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: There is an urgent need for an increased level of access to be granted to the United Nations and other agencies operating in Burma to assist civilians in Kachin State. The UK is supporting NGOs which are providing assistance to 27,500 internally displaced people (IDP) in Kachin State over the next four months. The United Nations (UN) delivered 800 family kits containing basic items to internally-displaced people in areas of Kachin controlled by the Kachin Independence Organisation last December, and have been able to provide a limited range of goods to IDPs in other areas. More frequent access to all areas of Kachin and other conflict affected States is needed.

During our recent visits to Burma, both the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and I pressed the Burmese President and his Ministers to move urgently towards a resolution to the ethnic conflicts in Burma and to increase humanitarian access in border areas, including in Kachin State and it is an issue repeatedly raised by the British ambassador, the UN and others at the highest levels. Some progress is clearly being made.

27 Feb 2012 Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the levels of child malnutrition in refugee camps on the border between

Thailand and Burma; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects of changes to rations in such camps on such malnutrition. [96942]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Department for International Development (DFID) officials have regular discussions with the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC), including on the recent changes to the nutrition programme within the refugee camps in Thailand which they run. Preliminary results from nutrition surveys conducted in 2011 indicate that the average Global Acute Malnutrition rates in children between six months and five years of age across the nine refugee camps in Thailand stood at 2.3%, using Centre for Disease Control reference rates. This is below World Health Organisation rates of concern. DFID is carefully monitoring the ration changes which are being implemented by TBBC in 2012, including ensuring the most vulnerable people receive the rations they need.

27 Feb 2012 Sir Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid supplies the UN was allowed to deliver to internally-displaced people in Kachin State, Burma, in areas under the control of the Kachin Independence Organisation on 10 December 2011; and if he will make a statement. [97110]

Mr Duncan: The United Nations (UN) delivered 800 family kits containing items relating to shelter and hygiene and sanitation to internally-displaced people in Kachin State, Burma, in areas under the control of the Kachin Independence Organisation between 12 and 14 December 2011.

There is an urgent need for an increased level of access to be granted to the UN and other agencies operating in Burma to assist civilians in Kachin State. During recent visits to Burma, both the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development pressed the Burmese President and his Ministers to move urgently towards a resolution to the ethnic conflicts in Burma through an inclusive process of political dialogue and national reconciliation, and to increase humanitarian access in border areas, including in Kachin State.

27 Feb 2012 Sir Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided to assist internally-displaced people in Kachin State, Burma, in areas not controlled by the Government of Burma; and if he will make a statement. [97111]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development has recently approved funding of just under £1 million to assist internally displaced people in Kachin State, Burma in areas not controlled by the Government of Burma. This funding will help alleviate the suffering of 22,400 displaced women, children and men through the provision of humanitarian assistance in the areas of food security, shelter, water, sanitation, health and bedding.

27 Feb 2012 Sir Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of internally-displaced people in Kachin State, Burma; how many internally-displaced people are in areas controlled by the Government of Burma; and if he will make a statement. [97112]

Mr Duncan: The United Nations estimate that there are approximately 49,000 internally-displaced people (IDPs) from Kachin State in Burma, of which approximately 18,000 are in government controlled areas. There is an urgent need for an increased level of access to be granted to the UN and other agencies operating in Burma to assist civilians in Kachin State. During recent visits to Burma, both the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development pressed the Burmese President and his Ministers to move urgently towards a resolution to the ethnic conflicts in Burma through an inclusive process of political dialogue and national reconciliation, and to increase humanitarian access in border areas, including in Kachin State.

27 Feb 2012 Sir Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much new funding his Department has provided to Health Poverty Action to assist internally displaced people in Kachin State, Burma in the last year; and if he will make a statement. [97113]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development approved £475,000 of new funding to Health Poverty Action to assist internally displaced people in Kachin State, Burma in January 2012. This funding

will alleviate the suffering of 13,000 displaced women, children and men in Kachin through the provision of food, shelter and basic health supplies. [Link](#)

28 Feb 2012 Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid he allocated to Burma in 2011-12; and what estimate he has made of the allocation for (a) 2012-13 and (b) 2013-14. [96857]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: British aid to Burma will combat the spread of drug-resistant malaria, improve healthcare, avert 153,000 unintended pregnancies, improve livelihoods, strengthen civil society, help 200,000 children complete primary school, and support conflict affected people.

In 2011-12 £36 million has been allocated towards these efforts. For 2013-13 the allocation is £36 million, and for 2013-14 the allocation is £55 million. In January this year £2 million worth of funding was announced for humanitarian work in Kachin state, this funding is in addition to the figures quoted above.

28 Feb 2012 Sir Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of people living in relocation sites as a result of the Myitsone Dam project in Burma; what assistance his Department has provided for such people in the last year; and if he will make a statement. [97109]

Mr Duncan: Sources suggest about 400 households, including around 2,000 people, have been displaced to a new village. The Department for International Development has made no specific allocation to those re-located but is supporting NGOs which are providing assistance to 27,500 internally displaced people in other areas of Kachin State over the next four months.

It is important that the Burmese Government listen to the needs and interests of their people in deciding the future of this project. We note that Aung San Suu Kyi supported the President's decision to suspend the construction during her meeting with the Burmese Minister of Labour on 30 September 2011. We welcome this further stage of dialogue and urge the Burmese Government to ensure that it continues. [Link](#)

HOUSE OF LORDS

Attacks in Karen State

27 Feb 2012 Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have received any information about the alleged killing by the Burmese army of Saw Pah Kok, an ethnic Karen villager, in Burma on 29 October 2011. [HL15513]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Howell of Guildford): We are aware of media reports regarding the alleged killing of Saw Pah Kok by the Burmese army. However, we have not been able to verify these reports. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right honourable friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) emphasised the importance of an end to conflict, humanitarian access, political dialogue and national reconciliation during his visit in January of this year. We continue to raise our human rights concerns directly with the Government.

Rohingya

27 Feb 2012 Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the Government of Burma regarding human rights abuses, discrimination and racism against the Rohingya people. [HL15514]

Lord Howell of Guildford: During his visit to Burma in January of this year, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right honourable Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) raised the discrimination suffered by the Rohingya community, who have been denied citizenship and access to basic services and rights, directly with the Burmese Foreign Minister. The Foreign Secretary also met a range of representatives from ethnic communities, including the Kachin, Rohingya, Shan, Rakhine, Chin, Mon, Karen and Karenni to hear more about their concerns and aspirations. We will continue to stay close to these and other ethnic groups to ensure we remain seized of the issues they face.

On 2 February, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials hosted a meeting which included

representatives from Burmese ethnic groups, notably members of the Rohingya community, where the issues facing their people were discussed. We remain committed to ensuring that these issues are raised directly with the Burmese Government, at the United Nations and with international partners.

Rape and gang-rape

27 Feb 2012 Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: To ask Her Majesty's Government what reports they have received about the alleged use of rape and gang-rape by the Burmese army against ethnic minority women in Shan State and Kachin State in Burma.[HL15515]

Lord Howell of Guildford: In March 2011, we received reports that the Burmese army had moved into areas of Shan state held by ethnic armed forces. We received reports that seven villages were razed to the ground, and civilians indiscriminately targeted. An estimated 30,000 people fled their homes. In June, conflict broke out in Kachin State, bringing a 17-year ceasefire to an end. Human rights abuses targeting civilians were reported, including torture, rape and unverified reports of murder.

We remain deeply concerned by these reports. At a United Nations Security Council debate on protection of civilians in November, the UK called for the Burmese army and ethnic militia to make every effort to protect civilians and bring to account those responsible for human rights abuses against them, and stressed that peace and stability could only be achieved through a genuine process of national reconciliation, starting with inclusive dialogue with all ethnic and political opposition groups. We also ensured that the Burma resolutions passed by the Human Rights Council in March and the General Assembly in November reflected our concerns. We continue to strongly urge the Government to end impunity and bring to account those responsible for human rights abuses.

Humanitarian access in Kachin State

27 Feb 2012 Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made representations to the government of Burma regarding humanitarian access to conflict areas in Kachin State.[HL15516]

Baroness Northover: During his visit to Burma on 15-17 November 2011, Andrew Mitchell, Secretary of State for International Development, pressed President Thein Sein and his Ministers to move urgently towards a resolution to the ethnic conflicts in Burma and to increase humanitarian access in border areas, including in Kachin State. During his visit to Burma on 5-6 January 2012, the Foreign Secretary also raised these issues. These are all things which the Burmese Government have themselves said they wanted to achieve. The British ambassador continues to raise the issue directly with Burmese Ministers.

Karen National Union

27 Feb 2012 Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have raised the imprisonment of Karen National Union leader, Mahn Nyein Maung, with the Government of Burma.[HL15517]

Lord Howell of Guildford: We have not specifically raised the case of Mahn Nyein Maung with the Government of Burma. However, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right honourable friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague) raised ethnic issues directly with members of the Burmese Government, including the Burmese President, during his visit in January of this year. The Foreign Secretary set out very clearly that the release of all political prisoners was one of the central conditions which we would expect the Burmese Government to fulfil before a more fundamental shift in our relationship could take place. He emphasised the importance of an end to conflict, humanitarian access, political dialogue and national reconciliation. He also heard first-hand the concerns and aspirations of different ethnic minorities, including the Shan, Kachin, Karen, Karenni, Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Rohingya communities.

I should also note that the Karen National Union's "Eleven-point proposal" for an initial ceasefire agreement, which was accepted by the Government of Burma in January, included a reference to the release of all political prisoners.

ANSWERS TO SPOKEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

HOUSE OF COMMONS

International Development

Burma

1 Feb 2012 Tony Baldry (Banbury) (Con): What development support he is providing to Burma. [92784]

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr Andrew Mitchell): The Coalition Government have doubled British aid to Burma. If progress on political reform continues, we will be able to do much more.

Tony Baldry: Does my right hon. Friend consider that there is sufficient substance to the reforms in Burma? Is he confident that money provided by DFID for humanitarian relief is getting to the areas where it is needed, such as the Chin state?

Mr Mitchell: My hon. Friend poses the key question of whether these reforms are real. The fact that the regime in Burma has now released nearly all its political prisoners—particularly Min Ko Naing whom many Members campaigned to see released—is an enormously encouraging sign. The real test will come with the 48 by-elections due to take place before April. We will see how those elections are conducted and whether they are free and fair. If they are, that will be the most eloquent possible answer to my hon. Friend's question. Link

Humanitarian Access

28 Feb 2012 Graham Jones (Hyndburn) (Lab): What reports he has received on humanitarian access to conflict areas in Burma. [96707]

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Jeremy Browne): We receive regular updates on humanitarian access to conflict areas in Burma from non-governmental organisations and from our embassy and Department for International Development officials in Rangoon. Access is still very restricted, and we continue to press the Burmese Government to increase humanitarian access to all areas.

28 Feb 2012 Graham Jones: In addition to medical supplies, Médecins sans Frontières has recently highlighted the chronic lack of antiretroviral and tuberculosis drugs in Burma. In the light of that, what conversations has the Foreign Secretary had with the Burmese Government about the international supply of these drugs?

Mr Browne: The Foreign Secretary visited Burma last month—he was the first Foreign Secretary to do so since 1955—and had a wide range of productive conversations with the Burmese Government and others. It is worth pointing out that although no United Kingdom aid goes through the Burmese Government directly, the United Kingdom is the largest donor of humanitarian assistance to Burma, and will be spending an average of £46 million a year until 2015 on precisely the sort of projects that the hon. Gentleman has identified.

28 Feb 2012 Mr David Burrowes (Enfield, Southgate) (Con): I understand that our ambassador meets Burmese Ministers regularly. What is at the top of his agenda when it comes to highlighting the continued abuse of human rights?

Mr Browne: My hon. Friend is right to draw the House's attention to the appalling abuses of human rights that been taking place in Burma for many years. I think it reasonable for us to acknowledge that progress appears to have been made in recent months, and, when appropriate, to reward it, but we should not anticipate further progress before it has happened. Our ambassador and others, including Ministers, are keen to continue to press the Burmese Government to liberalise society further in that country.

28 Feb 2012 Meg Munn (Sheffield, Heeley) (Lab/Co-op): The progress in Burma is very welcome, and no doubt the Burmese Government will want to see changes to the current sanctions regime. I was pleased to note that the Minister said that it was probably too early for that to happen, but what discussions have been held with our European counterparts about the issue?

Mr Browne: A decision is likely to be made in a few months' time. I think it right for Britain to maintain a position on trade with Burma which is very tough, and which takes account of the concerns about human rights abuses in the country that are expressed frequently in the House, but we want to maintain a common European position, because we feel that that is an effective way in which to proceed. We will maintain that position with a hard-headed attitude which I hope will meet with the hon. Lady's approval. Link

EARLY DAY MOTIONS

EDM 2800 – SANCTIONS RENEWAL

29.02.2012

That this House is aware of the significantly different approach adopted by the rulers of Burma over the past year; remains however cautious until such times as action is actually taken by the regime to bring irrevocable and lasting change to the country; believes such actions must include the unconditional release of all political prisoners, announcement of an immediate ceasefire, agreement to begin the process of political dialogue between parties involved in the present conflicts, the ending of strict censorship, abolition of repressive laws and the setting of timescales to hold free and fair elections in the country; and calls on the Government to maintain the present arrangements of sanctions beyond the April 2012 renewal date, until such times as actual changes take place, rather than simply undelivered promises being made.

Total number of signatures: 9

EDM 2719 - AID TO VICTIMS OF CONFLICT IN BURMA

08.02.2012

That this House welcomes the continued increase in UK aid to Burma and the visit to Burma in 2011 by the Secretary of State for International Development; further welcomes political reforms made by the government of Burma; is, however, deeply concerned that the number of people displaced last year in that country by conflict and human rights abuses doubled to almost 150,000; is alarmed that the government of Burma is continuing to block humanitarian aid to hundreds of thousands of people in conflict zones; calls on the British Government to increase aid to populations displaced by conflict, including significant increases in cross-border aid which can be the only way to access large numbers of displaced people; expresses deep concern that refugees in camps in neighbouring Thailand who have fled conflict are facing cuts in rations of 22 per cent. Which could cause increased malnutrition in children; looks forward to free and fair elections with the participation of Aung San Suu Kyi and her party; and calls on the Government to significantly increase funding for Burma to support food and shelter for refugees.

Total number of signatures: 31

EDM 2710 - BURMA

08.02.2012

That this House welcomes the steps taken by President Thein Sein to release some political prisoners, enter into ceasefire negotiations with armed ethnic groups and allow more political space in Burma; further welcomes the visit to Burma by the Foreign Secretary and his meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi; expresses continued support for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the people of Burma in their ongoing efforts to secure human rights and democratic reform; notes with concern that hundreds of political prisoners remain in Burma's jails, and that there has been an increase in human rights abuses in ethnic states; further notes that reforms made so far have mostly not been enshrined in law and no constitutional changes have been made; believes that international pressure has played an important role in encouraging reforms so far; and calls on the Government to ensure that EU sanctions on Burma are not relaxed prematurely before substantially more political prisoners are released, conflict is ended and there is an inclusive dialogue process to secure further and irreversible reform.

Total number of signatures: 31

EDM 112 HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

That this House sends its best wishes to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who will spend her 65th birthday in detention on 19 June 2010; calls for the immediate release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners in Burma; rejects the elections planned by Burma's generals later this year which, due to election laws and ongoing repression in Burma, cannot be free and fair; condemns Burma's new constitution which is designed to maintain dictatorship in civilian guise and does not grant rights or protection to Burma's ethnic minorities; notes that all diplomatic efforts to reform the dictatorship's sham roadmap to democracy have failed; recalls that the United Nations Security Council, General Assembly, Secretary General and

Human Rights Council have all stated that the solution to the problems in Burma lies in dialogue between the dictatorship, Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, and ethnic representatives; and calls on the Government to support a United Nations-led effort to pressure the dictatorship to enter into such dialogue.

Total number of signatures: 146

EDM 787 AUNG SAN SUU KYI AND ELECTIONS IN BURMA

That this House acknowledges reports that Burmese political prisoner Aung San Suu Kyi may be released on the completion of her current term of arrest on 13 November 2010; is concerned that, as this date falls six days after scheduled elections in Burma on 7 November, Ms Suu Kyi may not be permitted to utilise her vote; is further concerned that her National League for Democracy party will play no part in the election, having boycotted it on the grounds of Ms Suu Kyi's and others' continued political imprisonment, her exclusion from political office and party membership and the Burmese junta's new election laws, which ban groups including civil servants and Buddhist monks from joining a political party; firmly believes that Aung San Suu Kyi should be released unconditionally as a matter of urgency; and calls on the Government to condemn strongly the Burmese junta's recent election laws as obstacles to the free and fair conduct on democracy.

Total number of signatures: 41

EDM 788 BBC WORLD SERVICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

That this House considers the BBC World Service to be not only a world-class broadcasting network, but also a lifeline for political prisoners and other suppressed persons; strongly believes that any move to cut this service, for example in Burma, will remove vital access to current and impartial information from those such as Aung San Suu Kyi who have no alternative source of unbiased news; further believes that such cancellation would constitute a failure of the Government to promote or support human rights on the international stage; and urges the Government to strongly oppose any reduction in this important service.

Total number of signatures: 57

EDM 989 ELECTIONS IN BURMA AND ADVANCE VOTING

That this House notes with concern reports of widespread manipulation of advance votes during the recent Burmese elections, boycotted by the National League for Democracy; believes that this is yet another blow to the prospects for democracy in Burma; dismisses this election as no more than a sham to reinforce the ruling regime's power; and urges the Government to make further representations for the immediate and **unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and more than 2,200 other prisoners of conscience currently detained in Burma.**

Total number of signatures: 26

EDM 1014 RELEASE OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI

That this House welcomes the unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from her house arrest in Rangoon on 13 November 2010; supports her calls for a peaceful revolution and for dialogue with the ruling regime in order to work towards change in Burma; urges continued international attention to the political system in Burma; and further supports Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's belief that nothing can be achieved without the participation of the people.

Total number of signatures: 47

EDM 1649 BURMA AND THE EU

That this House notes that despite holding an election in November 2010, Burma has failed to meet the requests of the EU Common Position, last renewed on 26 April 2010, which called on Burma to take steps to bring about a peaceful transition to a democratic, civilian and inclusive system of government, to release political prisoners, to provide for free and fair elections, to engage with the international community and to respect international human rights and humanitarian law; further notes with concern that these requests have not been met; further notes that the November 2010 elections were widely dismissed as neither free nor fair, and that although Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been released more than 2,000 political prisoners remain in detention; and calls on the Government to make representations in support of a UN Commission of Inquiry into war crimes and crimes against humanity in Burma, ahead of the EU Council Position renewal in April 2011.

Total number of signatures: 37

EDM 1659 BURMA EARTHQUAKE

That this House notes with grave concern reports of an earthquake of magnitude 6.8 in north east Burma near to the Thai border; sends its sincere condolences to those affected by the fatalities, casualties and destruction of homes and infrastructure; acknowledges the logistical and political challenges of providing assistance in this situation; and calls on the Government to take all possible steps to offer emergency aid and assistance to the people of Burma.

Total number of signatures: 29

EDM 1739 AUNG SAN SUU KYI AND THE BRIGHTON FESTIVAL

That this House welcomes Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as guest director of the 2011 Brighton Festival; notes that although Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will not attend the festival she plays a significant role in inspiring the programme through her plea to 'use your liberty to promote ours'; congratulates the Festival organisers for their choice of guest director and planning of a wide-ranging and vibrant programme; looks forward to a dynamic celebration of arts, culture and freedom over the three weeks of the Festival; and urges the Government to maintain pressure on the Burmese regime to free the more than 2,000 political prisoners still in detention and to move towards free and fair democracy in Burma.

Total number of signatures: 13

EDM 1966 BIRTHDAY OF DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

That this House recognises Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's 66th birthday and Burma Women's Day, celebrated on 19 June 2011; welcomes Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Reith lectures on the theme of securing freedom, to be broadcast on 28 June and 5 July 2011 on BBC Radio 4; is concerned that despite the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest on 13 November 2010 the human rights situation in Burma has not improved; notes that more than 2,000 political prisoners remain in detention; is gravely concerned by the Burma Campaign UK reports that the breaking of the ceasefire between the Burmese regime and the Shan State Army has resulted in violence including against civilians in the area; and urges the Government to call for a nationwide ceasefire, to support humanitarian efforts to provide assistance in these areas and to call for the release of political prisoners in Burma.

Total number of signatures: 41

EDM 2101 AUNG SAN SUU KYI AND THE MARTYR'S DAY MARCH

That this House notes that the winner of the Burmese general election and pro-democracy and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been invited to march in the city of Yangon on Martyr's Day, 19 July, to mark the tragic assassination of her father, General Aung San, and eight other independence leaders in 1947; seeks the reassurances of the Burmese government that it will protect the security of both Aung San Suu Kyi and those supporters who are expected to join her; further notes with concern that, despite the release of Aung San Suu Kyi in 2010, the reported human rights situation in Burma has not improved; calls on the Burmese authorities to permit free speech and peaceful protest; and further calls on the Government to make representations to the Burmese government to ensure these protestors are not exposed to danger.

Total number of signatures: 32

EDM 2241 RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BURMA

That this House warmly welcomes the release of political prisoners in Burma, particularly that of Zarganar, the comedian and film maker, who was originally sentenced to 58 years' imprisonment for alleged public order offences; and calls on the Burmese authorities to follow up this gesture with the further release of all prisoners of conscience and the introduction of genuine democratic reforms.

Total number of signatures: 43

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**for Human Rights, Democracy
& Development in Burma**