



LAST MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

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

FEB
2013

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Rohingya

01 February 2013 Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment she has made of the provision of water, sanitation and health care services in remote parts of Rakhine state where inter-communal tensions are high.

Mr Duncan: My officials are liaising with the European Commission on the findings from their January assessment mission in Rakhine, including the area's sanitation and healthcare needs. We also await the findings of a review of health assessments conducted to date by the group of health partners who provide emergency healthcare in Burma. At the end of last year the DFID contributed £2 million in bilateral humanitarian aid to communities affected by the inter-communal violence in Rakhine to improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene and nutrition in children under five years old.

28 February 2013 Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government has had with the government of Thailand regarding reports that Thai officials have been selling Burmese refugees to trafficking criminals.

Mr Swire: Through the European Union, the UK engages in ongoing discussions with Thailand across a range of migration related issues. In June 2012, the EU Delegation to Thailand jointly hosted a two day seminar on migration management with the Thai authorities. This encompassed specific discussions with representatives of the Royal Thai Police and relevant Ministries on tackling human trafficking and transnational organised crime.

During the visit of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), to Thailand in November 2012, the UK agreed to provide capacity-building to Thailand on how best to tackle illegal migration. We will continue to co-operate with the Thai authorities on efforts to disrupt human trafficking and illegal migration. These issues will be included in the agenda for the first UK-Thailand Strategic Dialogue which I will lead later this year.

28 February 2013 Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to encourage the government of Thailand to grant the UN High Commissioner for Refugees full and permanent access to conduct refugee screening for all Rohingya refugees fleeing from the sectarian violence in Rakhine state in Burma.

Mr Swire: Our embassy in Bangkok regularly raises the issue of the Rohingya with the appropriate Thai authorities both bilaterally and through the European Commission, pushing for full and permanent access by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organisation for Migration to those Rohingya detained in Thailand.

We continue to follow the issue closely, in close conjunction with UNHCR.

28 February 2013 Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government is working with its EU counterparts on pushing for a regional Association of Southeast Asian Nations-led response to the refugee crisis resulting from ongoing sectarian violence in Rakhine state in Burma.

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Mr Swire: On 13 December 2012, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), discussed the situation in Burma with newly appointed Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretary-General, Le Luong Minh, during his visit to London. We have also discussed the issue bilaterally with Thailand and Indonesia.

In October 2012, former ASEAN Secretary-General, Surin Pitsuwan, suggested that there should be an increased role for ASEAN to help Burma address the situation in Rakhine State. Unfortunately, the necessary consensus on this proposal could not be reached by ASEAN member states.

The British Government has so far committed £2 million towards relief efforts in Rakhine State. Following my own visit to Rakhine State in December 2012, on 11 February I called on the international community to match the UK's efforts. We continue to work closely with international organisations, such as the EU and UN, to support the provision of humanitarian assistance to those people affected by inter-communal violence in Burma's Rakhine State.

26 February 2013 Baroness Nye : To ask Her Majesty's Government when the United Nations High Commission for Refugees review into Burma's 1982 citizenship law and its conformity with international standards will be complete; and, if so, whether it will be made public.

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): I refer the noble Baroness to the answer given by the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right honourable friend the Member for East Devon, (Mr Swire), on 21 January (Official Report , col. 92W). British officials in Burma have been liaising with the UN High Commission for Refugees on its review into Burma's 1982 citizenship law and its conformity with international standards. Decisions on the timeframe for the completion of this review and whether it will be made public have yet to be made. The issue of citizenship was also raised by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right honourable friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) during his recent meeting with the Burmese Foreign Minister, Wunna Maung Lwin, in London on 11 February.

Kachin State

12 February 2013 Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment her Department has made of international humanitarian access to all internally displaced people in Kachin State, Burma.

Mr Duncan: We have closely followed the latest round of recent talks held in China about Kachin and will be following up to assess progress. The UK regularly raises the urgent need for full and unfettered humanitarian access to all displaced people in Kachin State with the Burmese authorities, representatives of non-state armed groups and the UN. I have discussed this issue with the UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator, Baroness Amos, on 25 January. I also raised the issue with the foreign Minister of Burma on 11 February.

01 February 2013 Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps her Department is taking to address the severe shortage of food, blankets, medicine and other aid supplies in Kachin state, Burma.

Mr Duncan: DFID has provided £3.5 million for bilateral humanitarian aid to Kachin since January 2012 through local non-governmental organisations (NGO), supported by experienced International NGOs. We continue to monitor the humanitarian situation closely.

25 February 2013 Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: To ask Her Majesty's Government which organisations will be distributing British aid for internally displaced people in areas of Burma controlled by the Kachin Independence Organisation.

Baroness Northover: For the safety and security of the organisations working in conflict areas it is not appropriate to make such details public.

25 February 2013 Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

what meetings UK Government representatives have had with the Kachin Independence Organisation in the last 12 months.

Mr Swire: Officials from our embassy in Rangoon have met senior representatives from the Kachin Independence Organisation several times over the past 12 months, most recently during January and February 2013. The British Government continues to call on both sides to end hostilities and to continue with efforts to find a lasting peace in Kachin State. The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and I discussed the situation in Kachin with the Burmese Foreign Minister, Wunna Maung Lwin, during his visit to the UK earlier this month.

25 February 2013 Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions have been held with his EU counterparts in other EU member states on making representations to the Government of Burma following the escalation of attacks in Kachin State by the Burmese army.

Mr Swire: The EU's Political and Security Committee raised concerns about the situation in Kachin in a meeting with the Burmese Foreign Minister during his visit to Brussels on 6 February. On 15 January, Baroness Ashton, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, expressed her deep concern about the ongoing fighting in Kachin. British embassy officials in Rangoon continue to discuss the situation in Kachin State with their EU counterparts on a regular basis, most recently on 12 February. EU Heads of Mission in Burma, including HM ambassador in Rangoon, have planned a visit to Kachin in March in order to assess the situation there for themselves.

Karen State

25 February 2013 Lord Alton of Liverpool : To ask Her Majesty's Government whether the United Kingdom Ambassador to Burma has met the new leadership of the Karen National Union.

Baroness Warsi: Our ambassador has not met the new Karen National Union (KNU) since the change in leadership last December. Officials at our embassy in Rangoon have met the KNU on numerous occasions over the last year and plan to meet the new KNU leadership at the earliest opportunity. We are also funding peace and reconciliation experts to support both the KNU and the United Nationalities Federation Council, a collection of the political wings of ethnic armed groups, in their approach to negotiations, and in drafting a framework for political dialogue.

04 February 2013 Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports she has received on the use of funds of the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria in Karen State, Burma.

Mr Duncan: The Global Fund resumed support to Burma in January 2011 after a gap of six years. The first phase of grants totalling US \$105 million for 2011 and 2012 is for programmes on AIDS, TB and Malaria. Global Fund grants operate in all states and regions of Burma, including Karen state. A diagnostic review of the grants was carried out by the Global Fund's independent Office of the Inspector General (OIG) in November 2011.

Humanitarian Aid

26 February 2013 Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports she has received on whether there is unrestricted access for the delivery of humanitarian access in Burma.

Mr Duncan: In 2011 British humanitarian aid reached over 86,000 people affected by conflict in Burma. However, access in some areas of Burma remains a concern. In Kachin state, for example, international organisations, including the UN struggle to receive access permission from both sides involved in the conflict. The UK, however, is able to deliver humanitarian aid there through an international non-government organisation, working closely with local organisations.

The UK regularly raises the urgent need for full and unfettered humanitarian access to all displaced people

in Kachin state with the Burmese authorities, representatives of non-state armed groups and the UN. The Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon.

Friend, the Member for Putney (Justine Greening), discussed this with the UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator, Baroness Amos, recently.

04 February 2013 Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment she has made of the humanitarian situation in Burma; and if she will make a statement.

Mr Duncan: There is particular concern for the humanitarian wellbeing of those affected by violence in Kachin and Rakhine states. In Kachin the instability which started in June 2011, has led to the displacement of around 85,000 people, loss of lives and livelihoods, and substantial damage to infrastructure. We are especially concerned by the recent increase in fighting in Kachin and are liaising daily with our humanitarian partners on the effects on the civilian population, with a view to how they can continue to best respond to humanitarian needs.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £3.5 million for bilateral humanitarian aid to Kachin since January 2012. In Rakhine state, inter-communal violence has displaced over 100,000 people since June 2012. Access to water and sanitation as well as nutrition and health care for those in camps remain concerns. At the end of last year DFID contributed £2 million bilateral humanitarian aid to communities affected by the inter-communal violence in Rakhine.

25 February 2013 Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: To ask Her Majesty's Government what percentage of British aid to Burma goes directly to indigenous Burmese organisations.

Baroness Northover: DfID directly funds one indigenous Burmese organisation. While this amounts to less than 1% of the total funding allocation for Burma over the four-year spending period, indigenous Burmese organisations do receive significant UK aid through multi-donor funds and through international non-governmental organisations which DfID funds. The UK is investing in helping Burmese organisations to build capacity for their future which will help them reach the high financial and management requirements we set for all partners we support.

25 February 2013 Baroness Goudie: To ask Her Majesty's Government what representations they have made to the European Commissioner regarding the cut in European Union aid to the Border Consortium in Thailand.

Baroness Northover: DfID officials regularly discuss funding to the Thai/Burma border, including assistance to the Thailand Border Consortium (TBC), with the European Union and other donors. The most recent discussions were held at the Donor and Humanitarian Agencies Working Group on 5 February in Bangkok, when all donors discussed their future funding plans for TBC. DfID noted our recent increase in support to TBC. The European Commission Humanitarian Office confirmed that it was cutting basic food and shelter rations to TBC, but increasing support to livelihoods and preparation for return inside the camps.

12 February 2013 Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether her Department's officials are able to travel freely throughout Burma.

Mr Duncan: DFID officials have good access throughout Burma. However, some areas cannot be accessed for reasons of safety and security. In those areas, UK aid is delivered by trusted partners who can report accurately on the use and impact of UK aid funds.

28 February 2013 Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 12 February 2013, Official Report, column 686W, on Burma, whether the Government of Burma is allowing international humanitarian access to all internally displaced people in Kachin state following representations by her Department.

Justine Greening: Some areas of Kachin State are not accessible to international humanitarian aid for internally displaced people. Access to these areas relies on a number of factors including successful

negotiations between the Government of Burma and the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO), and ensuring the safety and security of humanitarian aid workers. The UK, and other international partners, continue to raise the importance of humanitarian access with the Government, KIO and international humanitarian aid agencies.

12 February 2013 Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether her Department supports capacity building projects for the government of Burma.

Mr Duncan: DFID funds capacity-building support to Government and non-government institutions through trusted expert organisations to support the reforms in Burma. For example, through the World Bank, DFID provides capacity building support to the Government's Microfinance Supervisory Enterprise to ensure that small-scale loans are affordable and reach the poorest. DFID also supports the International Rice Research Institute to advise the Department of Agriculture on appropriate rice seeds and planting techniques which will benefit poor farmers.

No UK aid, goes directly through central Government of Burma budgets.

28 February 2013 Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which capacity-building projects with the government of Burma her Department is funding.

Justine Greening: Because of the diverse nature of capacity building work, it would not be possible to provide a definitive list of capacity building projects involving the Government of Burma without incurring disproportionate costs.

26 February 2013 Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much her Department spent on outside consultants working on Burma related issues in each of the last two years.

Mr Duncan: In 2011-12, in Burma, DFID's expenditure on direct consultancy was £175,000. There has not been any spending on direct consultancy services in 2012-13. Details of DFID expenditure over £500 since April 2011 are available on the DFID website: www.DFID.gov.uk

26 February 2013 Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many children in Chin State, Burma will benefit from the work of the Myanmar Education Consortium.

Mr Duncan: Across eight townships in Chin State more than 7,500 children will benefit from Early Childhood Development and Primary Education support under the Myanmar Education Consortium.

Political Prisoners

25 February 2013 Lord Alton of Liverpool: To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Burmese Ambassador to the United Kingdom about arrests in Burma under the right to protest law.

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): Ministers have not raised our concerns under the right to protest law specifically, but continue to raise our concerns with regards to the need for improved political freedoms more generally.

The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right honourable friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), raised our concerns regarding political prisoners and freedom of expression with the Burmese Government during his visit to Burma on 12 to 15 December. The same issues were also raised by my right honourable friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Member for Richmond (Yorkshire) (Mr Hague) and Mr Swire with the Burmese Ambassador and the Burmese Foreign Minister on 11 February, during the latter's recent visit to the UK.

Government officials will continue to monitor these issues and engage with Burmese counterparts on them.

25 February 2013 Lord Alton of Liverpool: To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have

had with the Government of Burma on the formation of a joint domestic and international board with the involvement of the United Nations to investigate the numbers of political prisoners remaining in Burma's prisons.

Baroness Warsi: We regularly raise the continued detention of political prisoners with senior members of the Burmese Government. Most recently, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right honourable friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), and the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right honourable friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), raised our concerns with the Burmese Foreign Minister during our meeting in London on 11 February. Our Ambassador to Burma also met with a senior Burmese Minister on 16 January and encouraged progress on the implementation of the review. In all our discussions with the Burmese Government we continue to emphasise the need for the review mechanism to be inclusive, credible and transparent.

We welcome the Burmese President's announcement on 7 February that a committee is to be set up to review the cases of those political prisoners who remain detained. It is also encouraging that the President has asked for the committee to include not only government ministers but also representatives of civil society organisations and political parties.

We will be monitoring developments closely and will continue to call for the unconditional release of all political prisoners at every opportunity.

26 February 2013 Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding her Department has provided for rehabilitation and counselling services for former political prisoners in Burma.

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development has not provided funding for rehabilitation and counseling services for former political prisoners in Burma. The UK is, however, providing 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.

27 February 2013 Baroness Goudie : To ask Her Majesty's Government what discussions they have had with the Government of Burma regarding the imprisonment of Lanpai Gam.

Baroness Warsi: Our embassy officials in Rangoon have not had discussions with the Burmese Government about the case of Lanpai Gam to date.

However, we welcome the positive steps taken by the Burmese Government on the release of political prisoners, their commitment to a prisoner review mechanism and access to prisons for the International Committee of the Red Cross. We continue to monitor progress the Burmese Government are making on their commitment to establish a committee to review remaining political prisoner cases, and welcome President Thein Sein's announcement on 7 February that the committee will include civil society leaders and Members of Parliament.

Human Rights & Laws

26 February 2013 Baroness Nye: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether President Thein Sein of Burma has fulfilled his commitment made in November 2012 to allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish an office in Burma.

Baroness Warsi: During their meeting on 11 February, the Foreign Secretary, my right honourable friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), urged the Burmese Minister for Foreign Affairs to follow up on the commitment made by President Thein Sein to open an office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. We continue to make clear that a UNHCR office in Burma would support more constructive relations between the international community and the Burmese government on human rights.

25 February 2013 Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

what reports he has received on whether the Burmese Government plans to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Mr Swire: The British Government regularly raises the signing of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) with our Burmese counterparts. I raised this issue with the Burmese Government during my visit to Burma from 12-15 December 2012. More recently, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), raised this issue with the Burmese Foreign Minister during his visit of 11 February.

Subsequent to this discussion, British officials met the Burmese Foreign Minister on 15 February and were informed that the Burmese Government had been advised by the Burmese National Human Rights Council on December 10 that it should consider ratifying the ICCPR. We will continue to urge the Burmese Government to sign and ratify this important international commitment.

25 February 2013 Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on whether Burma has agreed to sign the (a) Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol and (b) UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Mr Swire: The British Government regularly urges the Burmese Government to sign the convention against torture and its optional protocol. During my visit to Burma in December 2012, I raised this issue with senior members of the Burmese Government, and it has subsequently been raised by officials in meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Office of the Attorney General.

British officials met Burmese Foreign Minister, Wunna Maung Lwin, on 15 February and were informed that the Burmese Government had been advised by the Burmese National Human Rights Council on December 10 that it should consider ratifying the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR). We will continue to urge the Burmese Government to sign and ratify these important international commitments.

25 February 2013 Baroness Nye: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assistance they are giving to the Government of Burma in relation to reviewing and drafting laws in Burma.

Baroness Northover: UK assistance to Burma in relation to reviewing and drafting laws has been principally to Burma's Parliament and civil society, rather than direct to the Burmese Government. Last year the UK hosted a visit by the Bills Committee to Parliament, and the UK has arranged visits of advisers to Burma who have discussed with MPs the foreign investment law and the central bank law. The UK, through the British Council, is assisting the parliamentary committee in Burma in drafting the new higher education law. Also through the British Council we have supported a civil society consultation process on forest and land laws.

25 February 2013 Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on Burmese laws and their compatibility with Burma's international human rights obligations; and what representations he has made to the Burmese government on this matter.

Mr Swire: The Burmese Government has emphasised that establishing the rule of law across Burma is a priority. However, it has yet to sign and ratify important treaties which will embed international human rights norms into its legal system, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Convention Against Torture, and the Rome Statute, which established the International Criminal Court.

The Burmese Parliament is currently reviewing all Burmese laws and we are working closely with them to help increase their capacity to draft and scrutinise legislation.

I called on the Burmese Government to sign the ICCPR and other international human rights treaties during my visit to Burma in December 2012. British Ministers and officials regularly raise human rights issues and legislative reform with the Burmese Government, most recently during the Burmese Foreign Minister's visit to London on 11 February.

28 February 2013 Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which repressive laws have been completely repealed in Burma.

Mr Swire: The Burmese Government has emphasised that the establishment of rule of law is a priority, and has taken some steps in this regard. For example, in January this year they repealed a law limiting the right to associate in groups of more than four people. However, there are still many older laws on the statute books which can be used to curb individual liberties.

The Burmese Parliament is currently undertaking an assessment of all of the country's laws, and its response for the most part has been to amend old laws (for example, recently the Bar Council Law was amended to allow 10 of 13 people on the Council to be elected, rather than appointed by the Attorney-General) rather than to fully repeal them.

Land Confiscation

25 February 2013 Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on increased land confiscation in Burma.

Mr Swire: We are aware of reports concerning the risks of land confiscation in Burma. During his recent visit to Burma this month Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Burma, reported the potential for development projects to have a detrimental effect on the human rights of the people of Burma through land confiscation and forced eviction.

Since the suspension of EU sanctions in April 2012, the British Government has promoted responsible trade and investment in support of Burma's democratic reform process. The British Government urges all UK companies entering Burma to abide by international standards of corporate governance and social and environmental responsibility. In particular, this means adhering to the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and the UN's Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

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28 February 2013 Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Burma regarding increased land confiscation in that country.

Mr Swire: Since the suspension of EU sanctions in April 2012, the British Government has encouraged responsible trade and investment in support of Burma's democratic reform process. The British Government has provided funds to support the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Burma, through which civil society and community leaders will be engaged in decisions over investments in the natural resources and extractives sectors.

Neither the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague), nor I have to date raised the specific issue of land confiscation with the Burmese Government.

Sexual Violence

26 February 2013 Baroness Nye : To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they have taken to ensure that their initiative on sexual violence in conflict includes rape and sexual violence by the Burmese army in Burma.

Baroness Warsi: The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right honourable friend the Member for Richmond (Yorks) (Mr Hague)'s Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) is global in reach. It aims to deter and end impunity for crimes of conflict related sexual violence wherever these occur.

We continue to receive disturbing reports of the use of sexual violence by the military in Burma. We are concerned that the Burmese authorities have done little to investigate. The Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my right honourable friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire), raised our concerns with the Burmese Foreign Minister in December 2012 and pressed Burma to take action on this issue, including by signing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

We welcomed the UN General Assembly Human Rights Resolution on Burma agreed on 26 November 2012. The resolution, which was agreed by the Burmese Government, represents a clear commitment for them to work with the international community to take necessary measures to ensure accountability and end impunity, including by undertaking a full, transparent and independent investigation into all reports of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law including allegations of targeted rape and other forms of sexual violence. We will continue to raise the issue of human rights abuses in Burma at every opportunity with the Burmese Government at ministerial level and through our embassy in Rangoon, reminding them of their commitment. We will also continue to raise our concerns with our international partners, and with the UN.

27 February 2013 Baroness Goudie : To ask Her Majesty's Government what funding they provide to non-governmental organisations in Burma working to prevent sexual violence in conflict zones.

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): The Government regularly lobby the Burmese Government on the rights of women, particularly on preventing sexual violence against women in conflict areas. During his recent visit to Burma in December, my right honourable friend the Member for East Devon, Mr Swire, raised this specific concern with the Burmese Foreign Minister, Wunna Maung Lwin, requesting Burma's support for the Foreign Secretary's Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative, and pressing Burma to sign the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Our embassy in Rangoon provides funding to local non-governmental partners that provide technical support to the Burmese Ministry of Social Welfare to help the Government fulfil their obligations under the Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, to which Burma is a signatory.

In 2012, the Department for International Development (DfID) increased its support for legal assistance centres in Burmese refugee camps in Thailand, which can help support victims of rape to secure access to justice. This support will run until November 2015. DfID also supports trauma care in camps in Kachin State, which can help in dealing with rape cases.

Arms Embargo

26 February 2013 Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: To ask Her Majesty's Government what mechanisms are in place to ensure that the European Union arms embargo on Burma is not violated.

The Commercial Secretary to the Treasury (Lord Deighton): HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is responsible for enforcing arms embargoes.

HMRC uses a risk-based, intelligence-led approach and conducts regular physical and documentary checks on all exports of armaments from the UK, including any attempting to be exported to Burma. HMRC also conducts checks on UK nationals trading armaments outside the UK to detect any illegal activity, including sales of armaments to Burma. HMRC treats the enforcement of EU sanctions as a priority.

27 February 2013 Baroness Goudie : To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have made any proposals to European Union partners to ensure stricter enforcement of the European Union arms embargo on Burma.

Baroness Warsi: The EU arms embargo on Burma is enforced by EU member states using domestic legislative powers. The UK has not made any proposals to other EU partners on stricter enforcement of the EU arms embargo.

If the Government were to receive credible information relating to a suspected breach of the arms embargo, we would bring this to the attention of the relevant EU member state.

25 February 2013 Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what sanctions are faced by EU (a) businesses and (b) member states if they break the EU arms embargo on Burma.

Mr Swire: The EU arms embargo on Burma is enforced by EU member states using domestic legislative powers. The penalties on businesses for non-observance can vary depending on the circumstances of any attempted or actual breach. These can vary from suspension of export licenses or a financial penalty, through to criminal prosecution resulting in custodial sentences of up to 10 years.

EU member states implement arms embargoes through domestic legislation. Each member state's implementation in its domestic law determines what the consequences would be if a member states breaches the embargo.

Sanctions

25 February 2013 Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs under which conditions suspension of EU sanctions against Burma would occur.

Mr Swire: The EU reviews sanctions annually to ensure that all designations continue to meet legal criteria, and to consider how the sanctions package can best support the process of reform in Burma.

On 23 April 2012, EU Foreign Ministers agreed to suspend all EU sanctions on Burma for one year, apart from the arms embargo and restrictions on the supply of equipment, which could be used for international repression.

28 February 2013 Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made on whether the Government of Burma has fully met the conditions required for the continued suspension of EU sanctions.

Mr Swire: On 23 April 2012, EU Foreign Ministers agreed to suspend all EU Sanctions on Burma for one year, apart from the arms embargo and restrictions on the supply of equipment which could be used for international repression. This was in recognition of the significant progress made by the Burmese Government against the EU's benchmarks as set out in Council Conclusions of January 2012. This included the release of a significant number of political prisoners; the signing of ceasefires with 10 of 11 major armed ethnic groups and the largely free and fair parliamentary by-elections on 1 April 2012.

By 22 April this year, EU Foreign Ministers must consider whether to lift, suspend or re-impose sanctions on Burma. The decision by EU Foreign Ministers will be influenced by the Burmese Government's efforts to make further progress against remaining benchmarks. If unanimity cannot be reached, sanctions will fall away in their entirety.

Trade & Communication

14 February 2013 Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which companies took part in the UK trade mission to Burma in December 2012.

Mr Swire: Thirteen UK companies participated in the UK Trade & Investment trade mission to Burma in December 2012. They were:

Allen & Overy
Aggreko
Barclays Bank

CMS Cameron McKenna LLP
HTSPE Ltd
Mott Macdonald
Neath Port Talbot College (NPTC)
Norton Rose
Pearson Qualifications International
Rolls-Royce
Standard Chartered Bank
Technical and Vocational Education and Training UK (TVET UK)
Warwickshire College

The trade mission was focused on the power sector with the aim of helping Burma strengthen its power and electricity generation needs of the people of Burma.

25 February 2013 Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: To ask Her Majesty's Government what advice they give to companies interested in trading and investing in Burma.

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint): Since the suspension of EU sanctions in April 2012, the British Government have made a commitment to promoting responsible trade and investment in support of Burma's democratic reform process. A UKTI office in Rangoon opened in July 2012 and provides a full range of UKTI services to help companies to understand the market and key areas of opportunity.

UKTI offers a practical guide for business in Burma, which is available through the UKTI website and which includes advice on the suspension of EU sanctions. The British Government urge all UK companies entering Burma to abide by international standards of corporate governance and social and environmental responsibility. In particular, this means adhering to the OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises and the UN's guiding principles on business and human rights.

25 February 2013 Lord Myners: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether they have taken or intend to take any action to assist the Government of Burma in the development of mobile telecommunications in that country.

Baroness Warsi: We continue to explore ways to assist British companies interested in investing in Burma as part of our broader commitment to promoting ethical and responsible investment in support of Burma's democratic reform process. Our new UK Trade & Investment team in Rangoon is closely monitoring the Burmese telecommunications sector and supporting interested British companies as appropriate.

Debt relief

12 February 2013 Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much debt relief has been granted to the government of Burma by the UK.

Sajid Javid: In line with the Paris Club agreement reached on the 24 and 25 January 2013. The UK will provide 50% cancellation on arrears due to the UK, with remaining amounts rescheduled over 15 years, with a seven year grace period. The exact amount of cancellation is to be determined, following reconciliation of debt numbers with Burma.

25 February 2013 Alex Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms he has put in place to ensure that British debt relief to Burma is spent on poverty reduction rather than the military.

Sajid Javid: An international agreement was reached at the Paris Club on 25 January to clear Burma's arrears towards its Paris Club creditors.

As part of this agreement cancellation of arrears due to the UK is subject to Burma's satisfactory performance under an IMF Staff Monitored Program. No additional funds have been created which could be diverted towards military use.

Burmese Government Budget

28 February 2013 Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information her Department holds on how much the Burmese government budgets for (a) health, (b) education and (c) the military were in 2012-13.

Mr Duncan: According to Government sources, health made up 3%, education 6%, and defence 16% of the total national budget in 2012-13.

ANSWERS TO SPOKEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Kachin, Rohingya & Shan ethnics' situation in Burma

28 February 2013

Baroness Cox: To ask Her Majesty's Government what assessment they have made of the current situation in Burma, with reference to the Kachin, Shan and Rohingya ethnic national peoples.

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi): My Lords, we welcome the direction of reforms in Burma but continue to raise concerns over human rights and ethnic reconciliation. In Kachin state we are encouraged by the recent reduction in fighting and agreement by both sides to pursue political dialogue. We continue to monitor the ceasefire and humanitarian situation in Shan state. In Rakhine state we continue to press the Burmese Government to improve coordination of humanitarian assistance, to ensure security and accountability and to address the issue of Rohingya citizenship.

Baroness Cox: My Lords, in thanking the Minister for that comprehensive reply, may I highlight the seriousness of the situation? I have just returned from Kachin state where a 17-year ceasefire was broken by the Burmese army. Fighting continues with widespread violations of human rights, including torture, killings, rape and an aerial bombardment causing 75,000 civilians to flee to camps or hide in the jungle. In Shan state, a military offensive caused hundreds of thousands of civilians to flee their homes, and the Rohingya people have been reduced to conditions of severe destitution and massive displacement.

Therefore, can the Minister give an assurance that Her Majesty's Government, while welcoming recent reforms, will press the Burmese Government to protect and promote the rights of all ethnic national peoples?

Baroness Warsi: The noble Baroness, as always, comes to these Questions with the most up-to-date information that could possibly be obtained, and I thank her for the enormous work that she does in Burma, as well as in many other places around the world. Our policy is one of constructive engagement on human rights, and ethnic reconciliation is a central part of that. I can assure the noble Baroness and the House that we take the humanitarian challenges in Burma extremely seriously. Indeed, the Minister with responsibility for Burma, Hugo Swire, when he visited that country, travelled to Rakhine state with a view to making representations to the regional governments as well. It is a matter on which we continue to press the Burmese Government and on which our ambassador there is hugely engaged.

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead: My Lords, when the EU common position on Burma is reviewed, as it will be in April, what position will the Government take on the EU sanctions that were suspended on the specific understanding that there would be progress on human rights and democratic reform in Burma? Is it not the case that in many respects human rights violations have significantly increased, especially with the Rohingya and Kachin, as the noble Baroness, Lady Cox, has said? Is it not the case that the Government should therefore support the reintroduction of some of the measures that were suspended, and resist efforts to lift sanctions completely unless and until there is significant progress on these issues?

Baroness Warsi: As the noble Baroness will be aware, the sanctions were suspended in April last year, and it was made clear at that stage that they would be lifted only if the Burmese Government was measured positively against the benchmarks set by the Council conclusions of earlier that year. Those benchmarks are that there should be free and fair elections, and that there needed to be progress on political prisoners and ethnic reconciliations. These matters will be discussed again in April this year but, as

the noble Baroness is aware, for those sanctions to remain suspended or not to be lifted requires unanimity at the EU level. We in the United Kingdom will be pressing for those measures, those benchmarks, to be tested against the Burmese record.

Baroness Buscombe: My Lords, can the Government explain what they are doing to resolve the plight of the Rohingya?

Baroness Warsi: My noble friend raises an important question. The Rohingya have been described as some of the most wretched people because of the way in which they have been abused over many years. They are left in a situation where real questions are being raised by the Burmese Government about their citizenship. The Minister responsible for Burma, Hugo Swire, visited Rakhine and met leaders of the Rohingya community. Last week, I was in Bangladesh and became the first British Minister to visit the Rohingya refugee camp at Cox's Bazar, in Bangladesh. We are looking at the problem from both sides of the border. Ultimately, however, the issue of citizenship of the Rohingya people is what needs to be resolved. There is a history of these people being in Burma for the past 200 years. They now need to be recognised.

Baroness Berridge: My Lords, it has been a great pleasure to see the developing relationship of the UK Government, particularly the Prime Minister, not only with the Burmese Government but with Aung San Suu Kyi, who is incredibly influential in this situation. Will the Minister outline what representations the UK Government have made to Aung San Suu Kyi about the growing concern among nations that are being looked to for aid about the treatment of groups of people who have a different religious background and, particularly in relation to the Rohingya people, those who are of different racial group from the majority population?

Baroness Warsi: I simply repeat what I said earlier. On every occasion, whether it is the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary, Hugo Swire or, indeed, Francis Maude, who was there only last year, we have taken the opportunity to raise the issue of minority groups. All communities must deserve rights as Burma moves forward on its democratic journey.

Lord Alton of Liverpool: My Lords, would the Minister confirm that since 2012, around 5,000 Rohingya Muslim people have been murdered and that many thousands have disappeared? As she has rightly described, they are living in a system of 21st century apartheid, their citizenship rights having been formally stripped from the constitution. Will she urge the government authorities in Burma to revisit this question and inquire of the UN special rapporteur on religious liberty whether he would be willing to make a visit to the Rohingya people in Arakan state?

Baroness Warsi: The noble Lord makes an important point. I will be meeting the UN special rapporteur on religious freedom in the next two months. This is certainly a matter that I can raise with him. Ethnic reconciliation is a central part of all discussions that we have with the Burmese Government.

Baroness Falkner of Margravine: My Lords, going back to Kachin and the conflict there, does the Minister accept that the use of fighter jets to bomb civilian populations is a significant escalation by the Burmese army? While we welcome attempts at a ceasefire again, will the Government urge both the Chinese and Burmese Governments to, first, allow the UNHCR to look at the refugee situation and give humanitarian assistance and, secondly, press for an overall peace settlement for all three ethnic groups? This is a long overdue matter and the civil war has been going on for 60 years. It is time now for a comprehensive peace, rather than just ceasefires that break down.

Baroness Warsi: We are, of course, concerned about the acts of the Burmese Government in Kachin. I can assure my noble friend that we have played our part: we have had experts who were involved in peacebuilding in Northern Ireland visit Burma on a number of occasions to assist with the peacebuilding in Kachin. We are also one of the three members of the peace donor support group, which also assists with peacebuilding. Moreover, we allocated a further £1.5 million in December of last year, bringing our total spending on humanitarian aid in Kachin to £3.5 million. We will continue to press them, and of course, the Chinese Government.

DISCUSSION ABOUT ROHINGYA REFUGEES DURING WESTMINSTER HALL DEBATE: ASYLUM SUPPORT (CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE)

27 February 2013

Chris Bryant: It is vital that we make swift decisions, and it is important that the Government do whatever they can to reach the target of all asylum decisions being made within six months. In some cases, we have to be very careful. In particular, I hope that the Minister will look at the new evidence about Sri Lanka. When we return people to Sri Lanka, where they face oppression and persecution, we need to be careful in our relations with the Sri Lankan Government, let alone with others. There can be no greater instance of the trauma involved in someone's having to leave their country as a refugee than the case of the 92 Burmese refugees who died after being at sea for 25 days off the coast of Thailand.

STATEMENT ABOUT BURMA IN WRITTEN MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

DEFENCE: International Defence Engagement Strategy

7 February 2013

Philip Hammond (The Secretary of State for Defence) : We have already taken steps to ensure that we use our defence engagement to promote our values through contributing to the institutional capability of other nations. We will have an accredited non-resident defence attaché for Burma next month and will establish a defence section in our Embassy in Rangoon later this year. The Burmese Government have taken some very positive and welcome steps towards reform which we should assist. The Burmese military continues to play an influential role in government, so we will use military to military dialogue where we can, complementing diplomatic and development efforts, to encourage reform and support democracy. During her meeting with the Prime Minister in June 2012, Aung San Suu Kyi specifically recommended the appointment of a defence attaché to Burma as a key channel for engagement with the Burmese military.

BARONESS WARSI ADDRESSED HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN BURMA AT THE HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL 22ND SESSION, GENEVA

25 February 2013

Check against delivery

The Rt Hon Baroness Warsi

Address at the High Level Segment of the Human Rights Council 22nd Session, Geneva
Monday 25 February

Introduction

1. Mr President, Madam High Commissioner
2. It is an honour to be here and to address such a distinguished audience.
3. Let me first thank the High Commissioner for her comprehensive and valuable speech. I would again like to voice the UK's strong support for the work of your Office. And Madam High Commissioner, I am fully committed to ensuring your independence to continue to champion human rights across the globe.
4. I'm delighted to be here to share with you our ambitions for 2013 and to underline our commitment to the important work of the Human Rights Council. In this respect, I am immensely proud that the UK is standing for re-election to this Council in November this year.

Achievements in 2012

5. Last year was memorable for the UK. The London Olympic and Paralympic Games showcased our capital city and our sporting talent. We saw athletes from all around the world competing under the Olympic principles of equality and non-discrimination.

6. Human rights are based on the same principles of universality, inclusion and non-discrimination. We were therefore delighted to launch an agreement between Brazil, Russia and the Republic of Korea as future hosts of the Games to promote respect for human rights.

7. I see universality as one of the fundamental principles of human rights. That's why I am a strong champion of the Universal Periodic Review. In May 2012, the UK approached its own review in a spirit of openness and transparency. We strive to be a powerful example of a country that upholds these rights, judging ourselves by the highest standards and taking corrective action where we fall short. The UPR's real strength is in giving and receiving genuine and thoughtful feedback.

8. That's why I encourage all states to engage constructively. And why we will again present a cross regional statement on improving the UPR this session with partners Brazil and Morocco.

9. And last year we continued to champion issues where greater international focus and leadership is needed. Preventing Sexual Violence in conflict is one such example.

10. We in Britain think that the international community must do more to protect victims. Do more to prevent the use of rape and sexual violence in conflict. Provide better support to survivors. And end the culture of impunity for these crimes.

11. This has got to stop.

12. The Foreign Secretary is leading the charge on this campaign, including during the UK's G8 Presidency.

Ambitions for 2013

13. In 2013, as in 2012, we face another challenging year.

14. The atrocities in Syria remain foremost in our minds. We cannot stand by and allow this situation to continue.

15. I want to be clear. Those responsible for the worst violations and abuses must be held to account, including through the International Criminal Court.

16. That's why I strongly support the work of the UN Commission of Inquiry on Syria.

17. I remain extremely concerned about reports of systematic and widespread human rights abuses in DPRK, particularly the continued use of political prison camps. During this Council, the EU and Japan will present a resolution which will call for an end to these abhorrent practices.

18. I fully support that aim. We urgently need an independent investigation into the most severe human rights violations, supporting the work of the Special Rapporteur.

BURMA

19. While I recognise the real progress made in Burma, I echo the calls of the Special Rapporteur for the government to translate its positive commitments on human rights into action.

20. We are very conscious of the problems in Rakhine State. Our Minister of State for Asia, Hugo Swire, visited Rakhine in December and was one of the first Western ministers to do so. And only last week, I visited the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh.

21. There is a desperate need for stronger security and more effective coordination of all humanitarian assistance and work to address impunity. But most importantly the Burmese government needs to resolve the issue of Rohingya citizenship.

22. In Kachin State, I am encouraged by the recent reduction in fighting and agreement by both sides to

pursue political dialogue in the context of a wide process of national reconciliation. We will support this. That's why I hope the government will sign a host country agreement and open a country office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

23. Sri Lanka will continue to attract a huge amount of attention both in my own country and others. The discussion at this Council will be in the spirit of support towards reconciliation in Sri Lanka. But the task now is to make concrete progress. Implementing the Lesson Learned and Reconciliation Commission will be a crucial step towards improvement in Sri Lanka's human rights record.

24. On Iran, the British government strongly supports a renewal of the mandate for the Special Rapporteur. We remain concerned by the serious and widespread violations perpetrated by the Iranian government.

25. As last year, the UK's focus in 2013 will also extend to thematic concerns that affect individuals globally.

26. Such as the promotion of Freedom of religion or belief. I do not believe that this debate is polarised. As a British Muslim, I cannot accept that this is a dividing line between the West and the rest of the world.

27. I believe we can build a shared understanding of what needs to be done to protect the right to freedom of religion or belief for all, and to combat intolerance. I am sure that we can all also agree that innocent lives lost through violence, whatever the provocation, cannot be right.

28. As Minister for Human Rights it's a topic that I have made a priority and I give my personal commitment to working hard towards achieving consensus. That's why I held a cross regional meeting of Ministers in London last month. Because through strong political leadership, I think we can bring about long term change in attitudes and behaviour.

Britain's election to the Council

29. I hope you can see from our commitment that UK wants to play an active role in the Council. Progress in all these areas requires a vocal, active and ambitious Human Rights Council. Through leadership, focus and diligence we can continue to strengthen this important body. We depend on its members to be bold and to hold to account those who commit the most serious violations, wherever they occur.

30. The UK is once again standing for election to the Human Rights Council because of our longstanding commitment to human rights, because of our belief in the UN human rights system, and because of our genuine ambition to promote and protect human rights around the world.

Conclusion

31. I believe that UK support can make a difference in the areas I have highlighted today, and in so many others.

32. But we all have a responsibility to protect those who are more vulnerable.

33. It is in the hands of the Human Rights Council to ensure that the highest standards of fundamental rights and freedoms are realised for each and every person wherever they may be.

34. Thank you Mr President, Madam High Commissioner.

EARLY DAY MOTIONS

BURMESE ARMY IN KACHIN STATE

Date tabled: 13.02.2013

That this House notes the actions of the Burmese army in shelling Kachin which has killed civilians including children; further notes the persecution of Christians and other religious minorities; calls on the Burmese government to cease attacks on civilians and to actively protect Christians from persecution; and calls on the UK Government to influence and promote true religious freedom throughout Burma.

Total Signature: 25

BURMA - THAILAND REFUGEE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING CRISIS

Date tabled: 05.02.2013

That this House is alarmed that, whilst the government of Thailand has agreed in principle to allow the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) access to hundreds of Rohingya refugees that have fled Western Burma's continuing sectarian violence, permanent access has still not been granted; welcomes the government of Thailand's pledge to work with the UNHCR to find a long-term solution but is further alarmed by recent statements indicating that that government is considering deporting refugees after six months, despite warnings that they will face persecution; expresses serious concern that human trafficking of refugees from Burma is a lucrative criminal activity and that traffickers are taking advantage of the violence and fuelling the growing wave of refugees; is especially concerned by a recent BBC report revealing that Thai officials have been selling refugees to traffickers; calls on the Government to urge the government of Thailand to grant the UNHCR full and permanent access to conduct refugee screening and to work with the European Union to push for a regional Association of Southeast Asian Nations-led response to the crisis; further calls on the Government to raise the Thai officials' reported selling of refugees to traffickers with the Thai government; further notes that growing numbers of refugees are risking their lives on smugglers' boats due to mounting frustration over the lack of immediate solution to their plight; and therefore again calls on the Government to work to ensure that unrestricted humanitarian access is granted by the Burmese authorities to Rakhine state.

Total number of signature: 63

WAR IN KACHIN STATE, BURMA

14.01.2013

That this House condemns the Burma Army's military offensive against the ethnic Kachin; expresses grave concern over the recent use of aerial bombardment in the offensive; notes with serious concern the significant escalation in the conflict, including a major increase in Burma Army troops and use of landmines on the frontlines; further condemns the continuing use of rape as a weapon of war; expresses serious concern about the displacement of over 100,000 people and the humanitarian crisis developing as a result of restrictions imposed by the government of Burma on international aid to the affected areas; calls on the government of Burma to stop attacks immediately and to engage in a meaningful political dialogue with the Kachin Independence Organisation to establish a peace process; further calls on the Government to respond to the urgent humanitarian needs arising from the conflict by increasing humanitarian assistance to internally-displaced people in Kachin State via local community organisations on the ground; and further calls on the Government to work within the EU to halt relaxation of economic sanctions and new trade and investments in Burma if there is not an immediate cessation of attacks.

Total Signatures: 20

ATTACKS AGAINST ROHINGYA IN BURMA

11.12.2012

That this House is concerned by the ongoing attacks against the Rohingya Muslim ethnic minority in Burma; notes that attacks have now begun against the Kaman Muslim ethnic minority; further notes that police, state security and national Burmese Army soldiers are reported to be taking part in some of the attacks; is further concerned by President Thein Sein's request for international assistance in deporting all Rohingya from Burma which gives encouragement to alleged mobs carrying out the attacks; calls on the Government to support the placement of UN-mandated international observers in Rakhine State; further calls on the Government to work to ensure unrestricted humanitarian access is granted to all Rohingya areas, to support a United Nations Commission of Inquiry into the violence, and to encourage the government of Burma to repeal or amend the 1982 citizenship law which deprives the Rohingya of citizenship.

Total number of signatures: 61

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN KACHIN STATE, BURMA

22.11.12

That this House is alarmed that whilst the world is celebrating the political reforms made in Burma, ethnic violence and persecution carried out by the Burmese military persists, largely unacknowledged, in Kachin State; notes that this includes the targeted killings of civilians, torture and the burning of 1,000 villages, illustrating the severe human rights violations the Kachin people are being subjected to by the Burmese Army; and urges hon. Members to ask the Government to put pressure on the international community to provide much needed humanitarian aid for the Kachin people, to put pressure on the Burmese government

to stop attacking Kachin civilians and to allow international humanitarian organisations access in Burma to provide aid and to urge the United Nations to instate a UN envoy in Kachin to monitor and improve this worsening situation.

Total number of signatures: 21

IDENTIFICATION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BURMA

15.10.2012

That this House recognises the importance of identifying all the remaining political prisoners in Burma and recommends that a review mechanism should be initiated, with assistance from the United Nations and civil society; and believes that upon identification an individual should either be charged with an internationally recognised offence and tried by proceedings recognisable with international fair trial standards, or released without charge.

Total number of signatures: 38

HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

06.09.2012

That this House calls on the Government to work with the international community to encourage the Burmese government to use this period of political transition to take action to improve the human rights situation in that country; and congratulates the excellent work being done by Aung San Suu Kyi and other Burmese human rights campaigners to bring to the world's attention the greatly troubling situation that has persisted for many decades, and tragically still continues, in Burma.

Total number of signatures: 44

COMMUNAL VIOLENCE IN BURMA

16.07.2012

That this House sends condolences to the families and friends of all those killed and affected by recent communal violence in Arakan (Rakhine) State in Burma; expresses concern that the government of Burma and local community leaders have not taken sufficient action to stop continuing sporadic violence; is deeply concerned by reports of widespread rape and of mass arrests, predominantly against the ethnic Rohingya minority; calls on the government of Burma to stop obstructing international agencies from delivering desperately needed humanitarian assistance to around 90,000 displaced people; further calls on the government of Burma to stop obstructing ethnic Rohingya from returning to their homes and villages; further calls on all parties in Burma to reform the 1982 citizenship law, which discriminates against ethnic minorities in Burma; and requests that the Government ensures the swift delivery of aid to the region.

Total number of signatures: 33

AUNG SAN SUU KYI AND VISIT TO PARLIAMENT 21 JUNE 2012

23. 05. 2012

That this House welcomes Aung San Suu Kyi's election into Pyithu Hluttaw, the Lower House of the Burmese Parliament, as an indication of change in the country; congratulates the National League for Democracy on its success in the by-election; welcomes change in the Burmese government; notes that Burma still holds a considerable number of political prisoners, who should be released immediately; welcomes Aung San Suu Kyi's visit to speak to both Houses of Parliament on 21 June 2012; and calls on the Government to continue actively to promote the transition to free democratic government in Burma.

Total number of signatures: 44

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**for Human Rights, Democracy
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