



LAST MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

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

MARCH
2014

ANSWERS TO WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Rohingya & Kachin

10 March 2014 Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Burmese counterpart on the persecution of the Christians within the Rohingya and Kachin ethnic tribes.

Mr Swire: During my recent visit to Burma, I met the Kachin Baptist Convention, the largest religious organisation in Kachin State, and discussed a wide range of issues. I raised our human rights concerns with senior members of the Burmese Government and called for religious tolerance and dialogue in my speech at the British Council in Rangoon.

Christians comprise a small minority of the Rohingya population. We have consistently called the Burmese Government to provide security and resolve the citizenship issues of the Rohingya community as a whole.

Our ambassador and embassy officials meet regularly with representatives of all faith communities, both in Rangoon and in the wider country. The UK is also supporting interfaith dialogue to help build trust between communities—for example through a project promoting peace building among youths from different faith groups.

Rohingya

11 March 2014 Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Myanmar about the Fortify Rights report, Policies of Persecution and discrimination and violence against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

Mr Swire: I have not had any discussions specifically about the Fortify Rights report with the Government of Burma (Burma remains the designation officially used by Her Majesty's Government). I did however raise our concerns about the situation in Rakhine State both in a public speech and with senior Ministers during my visit to Burma in January.

We have long shared many of the concerns that Fortify Rights raise in their recent report on the plight of the Rohingya, not least the restrictions on their basic human rights. We are currently implementing many of the recommendations that the report makes to the international community. We will continue to press the Burmese Government to find a long term solution to bring peace and reconciliation to the communities in Rakhine State.

20 March 2014 Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of whether Burma's state institutions have the capacity and capability to conduct an independent and transparent investigation into the persecution of, and violence against, minorities in Burma.

Mr Swire: The Burmese Government has commissioned state-affiliated groups to carry out a number of investigations into incidents of violence and allegations of persecution against minorities in Burma—for example the investigations into the incident in January in Du Chee Yar Tan village in Northern Rakhine

State carried out by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, and by the Myanmar Red Cross. We recognise the efforts of these investigations but remain concerned that their reports are not an independent and complete answer to the allegations that have been made. We have made repeatedly clear that such investigations must be transparent and meet international standards.

20 March 2014 Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publicly acknowledge and condemn supporting roles played by the Burmese state in the institutionalisation of persecution and violence against the Rohingya communities in Burma.

Mr Swire: The Government, both in public and private, sets out our concerns about the plight of the Rohingya community repeatedly and at the highest levels: the situation in Rakhine State was top of the agenda for the meeting between the Prime Minister and President Thein Sein in July 2013. During my visit to Burma in January 2014, I urged the Burmese Government to take swift and decisive action to protect the lives and rights of Rohingya. Where the state government or local authorities have been responsible for discrimination, we have highlighted that the central Burmese Government has a responsibility to ensure the human rights of all communities in Rakhine are consistently protected. We are urging action to address impunity and ensure equitable access to justice, promote coexistence and tolerance, create an environment for displaced people to return to their homes, ensure humanitarian access, and enable a path to citizenship for all eligible Rohingya residents.

20 March 2014 Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions she has had with the Burmese government about resolving the issue of the statelessness of the Rohingya population in Myanmar.

Mr Duncan: I met the Burmese Minister of National Planning and Economic Development when he visited London in March. At the meeting I urged the Burmese Government to work for a long-term solution to bring peace, reconciliation, and prosperity to Rakhine state. DFID continues to urge the government of Burma to re-start the citizenship verification process as soon as possible. It has the broad support of both communities in Rakhine and will help to address some of the underlying causes of tension.

Humanitarian access

20 March 2014 Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if she will make it her policy that demonstrable humanitarian access to Myanmar, including in Rakhine state, is a condition for the increased development aid budget for that country.

Mr Duncan: DFID's aid to Burma, including to Rakhine state, is provided on the basis of the humanitarian and development needs of the poor and vulnerable people there. Progress on humanitarian access is not a condition we set for giving aid in Burma, but we regularly urge the Government to improve humanitarian aid access.

Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative

03 March 2014 Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the (a) field of expertise and (b) qualifications are of each member of the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative multidisciplinary Team of Experts in Burma.

Mr Swire: We have not deployed a Team of Experts (ToE) to Burma to date, but are currently considering ways in which a ToE or other international or local actors might best assist in the delivery of PSVI objectives in Burma. We continue to lobby the Burmese Government on the prevention of sexual violence in conflict, and to support projects in Burma to that end. Most recently, I raised the subject with Soe Thane, the Minister of the President's Office and with the Burmese commander-in-chief during my visit to Burma in January.

Census

20 March 2014 Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Burmese counterpart on ensuring that the upcoming census will not

further endanger the Rohingya communities and any other minority groups in Burma.

Mr Swire: During my visit to Burma, 28-30 January 2014, I raised the British Government's deep concerns about the situation in Rakhine State and discussed the census and its associated risks with Minister, in the President's Office U Soe Thane. I also discussed the census with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The Burmese Minister for National Planning, U Kan Zaw, visited London 10-13 March: in separate meetings the Minister of State, Department for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Rutland and Melton (Mr Duncan) and my noble Friend, the Senior Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the right hon. Baroness Warsi, reiterated the importance of pursuing urgent action in Rakhine State to protect the human rights of the Rohingya community.

The UK is a lead donor to the census; we have been working with other donors, the Burmese Government and the UN to manage and mitigate the risks, to ensure as peaceful, credible and complete a process as possible. In January, our ambassador discussed the census with ethnic armed group leaders in Chiang Mai. The Head of DFID Burma accompanied the Burmese Minister for Immigration and Population on a visit to Rakhine State in February to discuss the census with the Rohingya and Rakhine communities. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office Director for Asia Pacific and the British ambassador discussed the census with Rohingya leaders on 18 March.

Human rights

20 March 2014 Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Burma.

Mr Swire: As I set out in my statement following the UN Special Rapporteur's report to the Human Rights Council on 17 March, we assess that the Burmese Government continues to make encouraging progress across a range of human rights issues. We have seen further releases of political prisoners, ceasefire agreements signed with 10 major ethnic armed groups, the easing of media restrictions and commitments in support of the advancement of women.

However, many challenges remain, notably in Rakhine and Kachin States. We urge the Government to address the underlying causes of these conflicts to find a long term solution that will bring peace and reconciliation. We are also concerned that individuals remain in prison whose status is disputed. We urge continued dialogue between the Government and civil society to resolve these remaining cases as a matter of urgency.

The situation in Rakhine State remains of the most serious concern, highlighted most recently by allegations of killings of Rohingya in Du Chee Yar Tan on 13 January 2014. We continue to urge the Burmese Government to deal with allegations of human rights abuses through a credible and transparent investigative and prosecutorial process that meets international standards. We remain particularly concerned about the intimidation of humanitarian workers and the recent constraints around, and threat of expulsion of, Médecins Sans Frontières from Rakhine State, which risks severely affecting the provision of health care in the state.

It has also been over 18 months since President Thein Sein committed to open an in-country Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights. An Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) would allow for more constructive relations between the international community and the Government on human rights. We call on the Government to publish a timeline for the opening of the Office, with a mandate that includes monitoring and technical assistance.

20 March 2014 Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on an independent investigation into human rights abuses in Burma.

Mr Swire: It is the Government's position that allegations of human rights abuses must be dealt with immediately through a credible, independent and transparent investigative and prosecutorial process that meets international standards. We have made our views clear to the Burmese Government and will continue to do so.

Political Prisoners

03 March 2014 Mr Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made on ensuring that the government of Burma releases or charges all prisoners currently detained as political prisoners.

Mr Swire: We welcomed President Thein Sein's order to release all prisoners and persons facing trial for political offences in December 2013. However, we are concerned there are individuals in prison whose status is disputed.

During my visit to Burma at the end of January, I personally raised the issue of political prisoners, including a number of individual cases, with Soe Thane, Minister of the President's Office and urged the government to release all remaining political prisoners. I also raised the issue with Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Lower House, concerning activists who are being charged under legislation which is not in line with international standards. We will continue to raise our concerns with the Burmese Government to ensure that its review mechanism is comprehensive and transparent, leading to the release of all political prisoners.

20 March 2014 Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions she has had with the Burmese government on its commitment to release Rohingya political prisoners held in Buthidaung and Maungdaw prisons.

Mr Duncan: DFID welcomed President Thein Sein's order in December 2013 to release all prisoners and persons facing trial for political offences. However, we are concerned there are individuals in prison whose status is disputed. During the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, my right hon. Friend the Member for East Devon (Mr Swire)'s visit to Burma at the end of January, he personally raised the issue of political prisoners with Soe Thane, Minister of the President's Office, and urged the Government to release all remaining political prisoners. With Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Lower House, he also raised the issue of activists who are being charged under legislation which is not in line with international standards. We will continue to push the Burmese Government to ensure that its review mechanism is comprehensive and transparent, leading to the release of all political prisoners.

Drug eradication

20 March 2014 Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding the Government provides in Burma for programmes supporting the eradication of drug production.

Mr Duncan: DFID has no programmes in Burma with the specific purpose of the eradication of drug production.

24 March 2014 Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether HM Ambassador to Burma has discussed with the Government of Burma its failure to implement drug eradication agreements with the Restoration Council of Shan State and UNODC.

Mr Swire: HM Ambassador to Burma has not discussed with the Burmese Government the implementation of drug eradication agreements with the Restoration Council of Shan State and the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Illegal drugs

25 March 2014 Mr Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on whether the production of illegal drugs in Burma is decreasing; and which countries illegal drugs produced in Burma are exported to.

Mr Swire: At the invitation of the Burmese Government, officers from the Serious Organised Crime Agency, now the National Crime Agency, visited Burma in May 2013. During this visit, the issue of drug production and trafficking was discussed with the Burmese authorities and separately with the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) country representative. Other organised crime issues were also discussed, including child sexual exploitation, human trafficking and money laundering.

We have not received reports that illegal drug production in Burma is decreasing. Reports indicate that Burma remains the world's second highest producer of opium, after Afghanistan. The UNODC reported in its South East Asia Opium Survey 2013 that poppy cultivation rose from 51,000 to 57,800 hectares between 2012 and 2013. The main transiting countries for Burmese opium are those which border Burma to the east, namely China, Laos and Thailand. The production of methamphetamine is also a growing concern in Burma, with the majority of the production in Burma exported to neighbouring countries.

Military training

25 March 2014 Yasmin Qureshi: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 5 December 2013, Official Report, column 818W, on Burma, what the name and rank is of the Burmese Army officer visiting the UK for training; and when that officer will be visiting the UK.

Mr Francois [holding answer 20 March 2014]: The officer is attending the UK version of the managing defence in the wider security context course, from 10 March to 25 April 2014 which will take place at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom.

The Burmese officer is of OF 5 (Colonel) rank. I am withholding his name as this is personal information.

UNICEF office

25 March 2014 Baroness Nye: To ask Her Majesty's Government whether UNICEF in Burma is renting office space from former General Nyunt Tin; if so, at what annual cost; and whether they have had any discussions with UNICEF regarding the decision to rent those offices.

Baroness Northover (LD): DFID is not responsible for UNICEF's choice of office space or its cost. We have not had discussions with UNICEF regarding its choice of office space.

Peace Building

26 March 2014 Mr Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funds her Department provided to which non-governmental organisations for work in Burma on (a) peace building and (b) other activities in each year since 2005.

Mr Duncan: DFID is providing £1.5 million to Inter Mediate between 2012-15 for work on peacebuilding in Burma. To list all the non-governmental organisations that we have funded for all other activities since 2005 would incur disproportionate costs as this information is not held centrally. Publishable details of current and recent funding can, however, be found on the Development Tracker which is available on the gov.uk website.

ANSWERS TO ORAL PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Monthly questions on International Development in the House of Commons

Rohingya

05 March 2014 Fiona O'Donnell (East Lothian) (Lab): The Burmese Government are preventing Médecins sans Frontières from providing health services in Rakhine. What is the Secretary of State doing, especially as the Rohingya Muslims are now left with practically no access to health services?

The Minister of State, Department for International Development (Mr Alan Duncan): We are urgently discussing the situation with Médecins sans Frontières, the UN and other donors, and we have made our concerns very clear at senior levels of the Burmese Government. The health situation in Rakhine state is already on the brink of crisis and there must be no deterioration in the provision of health services of which MSF was a crucial part.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140305/debtext/140305-0001.htm#14030567000004>

Burma mentioned in BBC World Service Debate in the House of Lords

12 March 2014 Baroness Bonham-Carter of Yarnbury (LD): My noble friend clearly agrees about the importance of a healthy and vibrant World Service. In February, Peter Horrocks, the director of the service, told the Foreign Affairs Committee of ambitious plans to extend the service it offers. He said: “We are launching and creating many new digital and TV services”, including a Burmese TV service. Does my noble friend think that, from a practical perspective, this very important long-term planning must be extremely hard for a corporation that does not know what its funding is going to be in 14 months’ time? How can the FCO help the charter review process ensure that the BBC World Service does not face a diminished future?

Baroness Warsi: Perhaps I may refer my noble friend to the way that I answered this question before. This matter was dealt with as part of the spending review in 2010. It was felt that the licence fee funding footing on which the BBC was placed was the appropriate way forward. The noble Baroness is right to refer to the opening of services such as the Burmese television service at the beginning of 2014—and services have been closed in the years preceding that. These are the managerial and editorial decisions that the BBC has to take.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140312-0001.htm#14031265000431>

Foreign and Commonwealth Questions monthly debate in the House of Commons

04 March 2014 Valerie Vaz (Walsall South) (Lab): What discussions he had during his recent visit to Burma.

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Hugo Swire): During my second visit to Burma in January, I met Aung San Suu Kyi, key Ministers, the Speaker, and the Commander-in-Chief. I discussed the need for constitutional reform and continued progress in the peace talks, and I raised in strong terms our concerns about human rights and about the situation in Rakhine state. I was also the first British Minister to visit Kachin state since Burma gained independence in 1948. Among other things, I met a group of Kachin world war two veterans, and paid tribute to their exceptional and brave service during the war.

Valerie Vaz: I thank the Minister for his response, and pay tribute to you, Mr Speaker: if you had not raised the issue of political prisoners with the general and Ministers during your recent trip, they would not have been released.

May I urge the Minister to press the Burmese Government? There is still concern about the census. Many people have been displaced, Médecins Sans Frontières has been suspended from Rakhine, and there needs to be constitutional reform by 2015 if there are to be free and fair elections.

Mr Swire: We approach this issue in a spirit of agreement, and, in accordance with the pledge that I had given the hon. Lady previously, I was able to raise the issue of political prisoners. I believe that there are still 30 whose cases are disputed.

As for the census, the hon. Lady will be aware that we are providing funds for it, and that it is the first census to take place for a very long time. There are issues surrounding it, but we believe that it is the right course. I believe that our engagement with Burma is on the right lines, but serious issues remain, not least the continuing problems in Rakhine.

Sir Malcolm Bruce (Gordon) (LD): I welcome what the Minister has said, and his engagement with Burma. Of course there are many challenges within the country, but does he not accept that the steps towards peace and democracy deserve our support and wholehearted engagement while the opportunity presents itself?

Mr Swire: Yes, I do. I have been able to discuss the situation with Baroness Amos, the United Nations under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, in the last couple of weeks. I also discussed it yesterday in Geneva with António Guterres, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and last night with

Peter Maurer, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

We are all extremely concerned about aspects of what is still going on in Burma, but we believe that, with our support across the board, the Burmese Government need encouragement on the path towards democracy. It was never going to be easy, but we must redouble our efforts to ensure that they deliver on the pledges that they have made.

Meg Munn (Sheffield, Heeley) (Lab/Co-op): On Friday I met representatives of the Karen community who have been settled in Sheffield for some period now. They expressed great concern about Karen people in Burma despite the peace talks. What is the Foreign Office doing to look at the situation of the many ethnic groups in Burma, not just the Rohingya Muslims, and to ensure there really is peace and that they are given support to integrate properly into society throughout Burma?

Mr Swire: The hon. Lady is right to raise that. We are extremely concerned about allegations of human rights violations and inter-communal violence. We have discussed this right across the board with Burma's leaders and with Aung San Suu Kyi herself. The census is an important step. Whatever kind of Government then come about in Burma will, to my way of thinking, have to recognise some of the differences in the different parts of that country. Human rights are universal; we cannot pick and choose them, and everyone in that country is entitled to the same protection as everyone else, regardless of their ethnicity.

Miss Anne McIntosh (Thirsk and Malton) (Con): Knowledge is key in promoting democracy. Does my right hon. Friend therefore welcome the assistance this House is giving in setting up the library in the new Burmese Parliament?

Mr Swire: Yes I do, and you, Mr Speaker, and others at all levels in this place are trying to show best practice. In effect, we are trying to build a democratic country in a country that has not been a democracy. We are trying to embed democratic institutions and that requires a lot of work, and I pay tribute to those right across this House—officials, civil servants, Ministers, Opposition MPs. All of us have a part to play in this, given our long-standing close affinity and history with that country.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140304/debtext/140304-0001.htm#14030451000014>

Burma Question House of Lords

24 March 2014 Baroness Cox: To ask Her Majesty's Government what is their assessment of the current situation in Burma with particular reference to the Rohingya, Shan and Kachin peoples.

The Senior Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government & Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Baroness Warsi) (Con): My Lords, we welcome that the Burmese Government and ethnic armed conflict groups will establish a joint committee to draft a nationwide ceasefire text, but remain concerned by low-level fighting in Kachin state and Shan state. We are troubled by UN reports that at least 40 Rohingya people were killed in Rakhine state in January and by constraints imposed on Médecins sans Frontières. We have pressed for improved security and accountability, co-ordination of humanitarian assistance and a solution on Rohingya citizenship.

Baroness Cox (CB): My Lords, I thank the noble Baroness for her Answer, including her expression of concern for the suffering of the Rohingya people. Is she aware that I visited Shan state recently and Kachin state last year, and that in both states, despite ceasefires, the Burmese army continues to carry out military offensives and atrocities, including the killing, rape and torture of civilians, while the Burmese Government continue their expropriation of land, theft of natural resources and displacement of hundreds of thousands of civilians? Will Her Majesty's Government not consider more robust responses? Many Burmese people and advocacy organisations such as Burma Campaign UK, in its recent report, *Downplaying Human Rights Abuses in Burma*, are concerned that the British Government are making trade and investment such a priority that the Burmese Government can continue to kill and exploit their own people with impunity.

Baroness Warsi: My Lords, as ever, the noble Baroness comes to these questions with probably the most up-to-date information available. She is absolutely right that, despite ceasefires having been signed, there

is still concern about real human rights abuses happening in Shan, about fighting in Kachin and, of course, about the appalling situation in Rakhine. We take these matters very seriously. They have been raised in the most robust way at the highest level, by the Prime Minister, when President Thein Sein visited the United Kingdom, and most recently by me about a week ago, when Ministers from the national planning committee were here, as well as representatives of the chamber of commerce and the director-general responsible for all investment coming into Burma. I did not hold back in any way in making very clear to them our view that responsible business can happen in Burma only against a backdrop of human rights being observed.

Lord Avebury (LD): My Lords, have we asked the Burmese Government directly why they are not providing adequate protection and relief for the 140,000 Rohingya displaced victims of ethnic cleansing in Rakhine state but are instead expelling humanitarian organisations such as MSF, which provided health services to these victims of the Government's failure to protect them? Secondly, why does the FCO's quarterly report on Burma as a country of concern play down or omit these and other human rights violations, such as the tolerance of hate speech?

Baroness Warsi: I assure my noble friend that the discussions in relation to Médecins sans Frontières are ongoing. We have huge concerns about it being probably one of a handful of NGOs that are providing health support in Rakhine. Those discussions are ongoing and I will certainly report to the House once we have made some progress. The quarterly report stated:

"More needs to be done to tackle hate speech, which continues to inspire violence and intolerance across Burma; we continue to lobby the Burmese government to tackle these underlying issues".

We continue to raise these matters. As to humanitarian access, my noble friend will be aware that there are certain parts of the country which, unfortunately, due to fighting, we cannot access, but we continue to press the Burmese Government to allow us access in those areas where there is no fighting.

Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead (Lab): My Lords, how does the Minister respond to the report of the outgoing UN special rapporteur for human rights in Burma last week, in which he concluded that human rights violations against the Rohingya people could amount to crimes against humanity that should be the subject of an independent international inquiry? Will Her Majesty's Government support these well founded recommendations?

Baroness Warsi: We support a lot of the work that is being done by the special rapporteur. In that report, which he presented to the Human Rights Council, he felt that technical assistance was required from the international community for any investigation to be transparent, credible and acceptable. I know that the noble Baroness does a large amount of work in this area and continues to campaign. Of course, we will continue to press the Human Rights Council for a strong resolution on human rights against Burma.

Lord Alton of Liverpool (CB): My Lords, the noble Baroness will be aware that the forthcoming census in Burma is largely funded by the United Kingdom. Has she seen the calls by a number of non-governmental organisations that it should be postponed, not least because in Rakhine state, and other states where there are large ethnic minorities, it could certainly be a flashpoint for further confrontation. Will she at the very least ensure that, should the census be conducted, it will not be used to further distort the ethnic tensions in Myanmar?

Baroness Warsi: The noble Lord is right. We have provided about £10 million to ensure that the census is conducted in a technically sound way. We have also helped with the mapping exercise. We have concerns about the census, which is due on 28 March. This Friday will be census night and there will then be a period of 10 days when enumeration will take place. We have concerns because of the 135 officially recognised ethnicities—Rohingya, for example is not included—but we take some comfort from the fact that we have gained agreement from the Burmese Government for independent observers to be mobilised during this process. We hope that the option to self-identify will be used by the Rohingya community to be properly enumerated.

Lord Triesman (Lab): My Lords, the noble Baroness has said that these issues are raised with the Burmese authorities vigorously and frequently and I know that to be the case. I am sure that these efforts

are appreciated. To ensure that these issues do not drop between any cracks or rely on a single sentence to capture them, should we not adopt in the quarterly report a traffic light system under which countries that persistently abuse human rights are shown to all of those who read our reports around the world as red, those which are making progress as amber and others as green? As we take comfort in some progress, I sometimes feel that we have lost them on our radar.

Baroness Warsi: As the Minister with responsibility for human rights, I constantly keep under review how the quarterly and annual reports on human rights are presented, how we can present them better and how we can better judge countries that are making progress. I am starting to see the first drafts of the human rights reports which will be published later this year. They will include a great deal of detail on Burma, both as a country of concern and in relation to specific human rights abuses.

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld201314/ldhansrd/text/140324-0001.htm#14032410000826>

EARLY DAY MOTIONS

MYANMAR AND THE PERSECUTION OF THE ROHINGYA COMMUNITY

Date tabled: 25.02.2014

Total signatures: 13

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/1115>

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND THE ROHINGYA

Date tabled: 24.02.2014

Total signatures: 44

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/1102>

SPEAKER'S DELEGATION TO BURMA

Date tabled: 08.10.2013

Total signatures: 24

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/524>

SPEAKER'S DELEGATION TO BURMA (No. 2)

Date tabled: 08.10.2013

Total signatures: 24

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/525>

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

Date tabled: 05.09.2013

Total Signature: 7

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/485>

ANTI-MUSLIM VIOLENCE IN BURMA

Date tabled: 11.07.2013

Total Signature: 33

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/403>

ROHINGYA MUSLIM PERSECUTION IN MYANMAR

Date tabled: 20.05.2013

Total Signatures: 15

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2013-14/131>

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Select Committee Statement on the publication of the Ninth Report from the International Development Committee: Democracy and Development in Burma available here: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmhansrd/cm140313/debtext/140313-0002.htm#14031364000003>

International Development Committee: Democracy and development in Burma

9th Report Democracy and Development in Burma

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/international-development-committee/inquiries/parliament-2010/democracy-and-development-in-burma/>

ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR DEMOCRACY IN BURMA

On 11th of March, APPG Burma held a joint meeting with APPG Genocide Prevention on the situation of the Rohingya, with Melanie Teff, Senior Advocate of Refugee International, Chris Lewa, founder and director of the Arakan Project and Charlotte Clapham, National Coordinator for Aegis Students, the youth department of the Aegis Trust.

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