



# ***Burmese Muslim Association***

**Situation Update**

**April**

| <b>Contents</b>   | <b>Page</b> |
|---|-------------|
| Summary .....   | 3           |
| Only Buddhist allowed can buy and rent properties in Mauk Kyine village ..... | 4           |
| Race and Faith Defence League also formed in Rangoon .....                    | 5           |
| Rohingya refugees arrested in Bangladesh .....                                | 5           |
| Peace and Diversity Party leader inciting violence against Muslim.....        | 6           |
| Rakhine leaders looking to increase engagement with UN and INGOs.....         | 6           |
| Damma School or promoting anti Muslim sentiments .....                        | 7           |
| Regime's thugs in uniform.....  | 7           |
| A new nationalist party on its way .....                                      | 8           |
| Obstacle for any business belongs to Muslim.....                              | 9           |
| Anti Muslim movie released .....  | 9           |
| Turkish aids for Rohingyas discovered from Arakan Army camp .....             | 10          |
| Update on White Card .....  | 10          |
| Race and Faith Defence League become second authority in Burma .....          | 11          |
| Online media and law courses for anti Muslim activists .....                  | 11          |
| A new anti Muslim book on its way.....  | 12          |
| Freedom to incite against Muslims.....  | 12          |
| U Wirathu's activities and travel record for April .....                      | 12          |
| Myanmar National Network party and anti Muslim hate speech.....               | 21          |
| Media contact .....   | 26          |

## Summary

This report prepared based on the information received from a Burma based monitoring network. The report mainly focused on the activities of anti Muslim Buddhist extremist groups and anti Muslim political parties such as Race and Faith Defence League (RFDL), Myanmar National Network (MNN), Peace and Diversity Party (PDP) and other incidents that effect minority Muslims in Burma.

Race and Faith Defence League is also known as Ma Ba Tha in Burmese acronym. Among these organisations and parties, RFDL is the largest organisation, which has a nation wide network, hierarchically structured, functioned by the monks, and supported by government. This is the organisation that proposed four discriminative laws – marriage law, birth control law, religious conversion law and polygamy law that President Thein Sein and the Parliament approving without hesitation. So far, the organisation has about 30000 members across Burma and a very strong network in grassroots level. Its members are available at every town, village, and streets.

The organisation has been working on various projects and its aims and objectives are clearly to demonise Muslims. It is running Damma School courses across Burma, under the pretext of teaching culture and norms of Buddhism to the children, in contrary, the courses are more focusing on anti Muslim sentiments.

The organisation also encouraging Buddhist communities to form a small business groups to operate a small businesses in order to compete local small Muslim businesses. The organisation also instructed local Buddhist communities not to engage any economic transaction with Muslims such as prohibited from selling or renting properties to Muslim.

In a process of capacity building, the organisation also offering media and law courses to train anti Muslim activists. There are three Buddhist extremist print medias and all of them belong to RFDL, Aung Zayyar Tu, Tharki Thway and Atu Ma Shi journals. These print media reach to every corner of Burma and publishing anti Muslim rhetoric regularly. The organisation also supported to produce an anti Muslim movie aiming to advocate Buddhist women against Muslim men.

A popular rhetoric against Muslim is the money Muslim businesses earned donated to the mosques and the mosques finance individuals whoever successfully convert Buddhist to Islam. This rumour is working very effectively to instigate against Muslims.

U Wirathu has been traveling at least more than 20 different places every month to create RFDL network and gave anti Muslim hate speeches. It is a worrying sign that he is increasingly getting more supporters and receiving more response than before. Noticeably, more people attend his speeches than before.

Myanmar National Network (MNN) is a nationalist political party led by Win Ko Ko Latt, an ex-army. The party has a seat in the parliament. The party has been organising anti

Muslim advocacy events in various parts of Burma. During the events displaying vinyl posters to public that published graphic pictures from Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. The party mostly attracting primary and secondary school children, targeting them to comprehend anti Muslim sentiments.

Peace and Diversity Party (PDP) is a nationalist party, whose leader Nay Myo Wai has radical extremist views and well known for his incitement for violence against Muslims. The party has a seat in Parliament.

There are also few more small local based organisations that targeting on Muslim. Normally, they monitor on Buddhists community whether anyone made any economic deal with Muslim such as selling or renting any property to Muslim.

### **Only Buddhist allowed can buy and rent properties in Mauk Kyine village**

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015, member of Race and Faith Defence League from Mandalay attended a signing ceremony in Mauk Kyine village. The agreement is between RFDL and local Buddhist agreeing that any economic activity such as buying, selling and renting property would only remain within the Buddhist community and would not engagement with any none Buddhist.

Actually, a rumour was spread that none Buddhist businessman trying to buy a property in the village and the rumour reached to the member of RFDL, Ashin Khaymar Sara, who immediately decided to make an agreement between the local Buddhist residence and RFDL to bind the commitment by law that no one shall sell or rent their property to any none Buddhist. Local authorities are also signed the agreement.

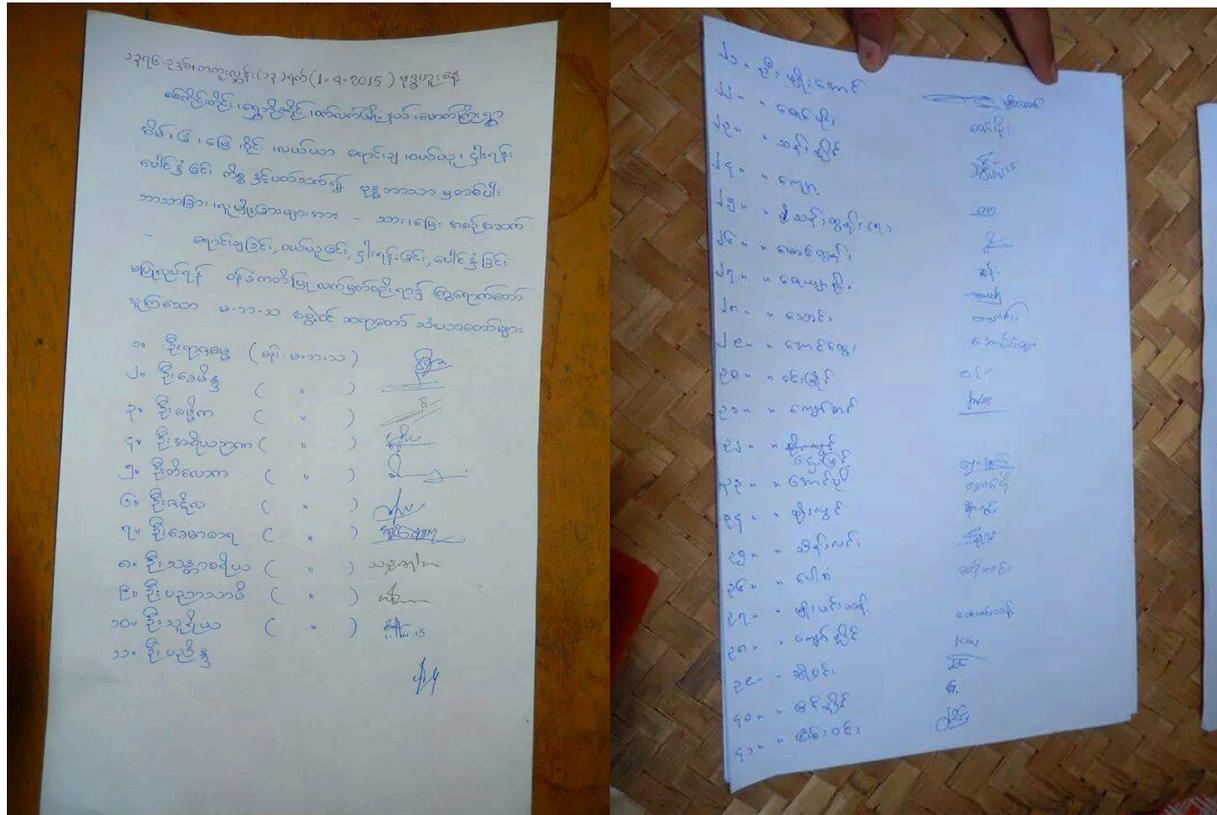


Figure 1: Agreement signed by local Buddhists

### Race and Faith Defence League also formed in Rangoon

Race and Faith Defence League elected BA. MA. Ph.D Ashin Nandaka as a President of Rangoon representative RFDL on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2015, during a meeting in Innsein Ywarma Monastery. U Wirathu also attended the meeting.

### Rohingya refugees arrested in Bangladesh

One of the Burmese media, 7Day Daily Journal, published on 5<sup>th</sup> April, on page 5 that 8 Rohingyas, including 2 women and 6 men, from Burma were arrested in Bangladesh border that illegally crossed the border and tried to enter the country, Chittagong Police said. One of them is a trafficker. The information was quoted from Bangladesh Tribune that published on 4<sup>th</sup> April.

Normally, Burmese media deliberately publishing that Rohingyas are illegal immigrant from Bangladesh but this time Burmese media reported quite fairly. However, this is not the first time. On 7<sup>th</sup> March, Myanmar Post journal reported that 136 Rohingyas who tried to cross into Bangladesh from Burma were clashed with Bangladesh Border Guard force.

## Peace and Diversity Party leader inciting violence against Muslim

Peace and Diversity Party (PDP) President U Nay Myo Wai is a well known for his anti Muslim instigation. On 6<sup>th</sup> April, he posted on his Facebook account to target Muslim women those who wearing Hijab, an Islamic dress for women. He encouraging Buddhists to target Muslim women and attack them with caterpillar or if anyone has courage hit them directly. He also suggest that such an activity could be arrested but all the Buddhist population will support and assist who sacrifice for the sake of their religion. He also mentioned that if such attack takes place 3-4 times, it could be resulted that Hijab would be banned in Burma. He is clearly instigating violence against Muslim but authorities in Burma never take any action because they support the ruling party and echoed similar voice that in line with the policy of the ruling party, which is supporting Buddhist chauvinism to demonise opposition party and Democracy.



Figure 2: Screen Shot evidence of Nay Myo Wai inciting violence against Muslim

## Rakhine leaders looking to increase engagement with UN and INGOs

Recently Arakan National Party decided to increase its engagement and cooperation with international community in Rakhine state. According to The Ladies News Journal the decision was made on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. The decision was followed after the party decided to halt disengagement with UN and INGOs. The party is aiming increase its engagement with international community for the benefit of Rakhine people.

## **Damma School or promoting anti Muslim sentiments**

Masoeyein Monastery Mandalay also offering Damma School, a short course, teaching culture and norms of Buddhism. In fact, the courses designed to teach anti Muslim hatred under the pretext of religious education. The course period was from 6<sup>th</sup> March to 4<sup>th</sup> April 2015. The course ran by a group known as (NGY) and the group is running Damma School at ten locations. Each location governed by two monks. There are two types of school, weekend Damma School and Summer Damma School. The following picture is during the exam for Damma School on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2015.



**Figure 3: Damma School children giving exam**

---

## **Regime's thugs in uniform**

Shan State Race and Faith Defence League has formed Law & Order security force wearing army uniform with helmet. They are also known as Swan Arr Shin, the regime's thugs that responsible for 2003 Dipeyin massacre where Daw Aung San Su Kyi was narrowly escaped. Law & Order group was formed in Taunggyi City on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Most of the prominent monks including the member of Race and Faith Defence League (RFDL) were attended on the day when the group was formed at Minn Kunn Monestary, Taunggyi City, Southern Shan State. However, recently local Sanga Committee and RFDL issued a statement on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2014, and mention that Law & Order group is no more related with them at all.



Figure 4: Member of Law & Order security force in uniform in Taunggyi City, Shan State

---

### **A new nationalist party on its way**

A rumour has been spread long ago that a nationalist political party would register and preparing for the election. Though, the information is confirmed when Dr Nay Zin Latt, an advisor to President Thein Sein and head of political management school, interviewed to The Voice Journal on 21<sup>st</sup> April that he is a chairman of the party and about 60 of his postgraduate students would also join the party.

The Voice also interview a member of executive committee U Pite Tin who revealed the detail design of the party's flag, which will be red colour and golden peacock at the middle.

The party is preparing to join 2015 general election, planned to compete for 400 seats and targeting to be elected for 10% of the seats in the parliament. According to Ma Mya Nandar form election watchdog New Myanmar organisation, who said, retired generals from SPDC involved in the party such as General Tun Kyi and General Nyut Tin. She also mentioned that former army intelligence officers who were forced to retired or fired along with General Khin Nyut, are also interested to join the party and they are now negotiating with MPC. General Khin Nyut once publically expressed his intention soon after released from the jail that he would like to carry on nationalism. Since then critics on Burma politics are expected him to involve in the new nationalist party.

---

## Obstacle for any business belongs to Muslim

As a result of continuous campaigning against any business belongs to Muslim individual or Muslim country, led by Race and Faith Defence League (RFDL), Ooredoo telecommunication towers installations have to withdraw from Buddhist populated area on 15<sup>th</sup> April. The towers were installing at No.286, Aung Mitta Street, Block No 51, Northern Dagon Township, Rangoon.

A prominent monk from Race and Faith Defence League, U Pamaukha, who has been lobbying since June 2014 to oppose Ooredoo telecommunication towers installation, he said, 'if local residence oppose the installation they are not allow to carry on anymore'.

---

## Anti Muslim movie released

This is the first ever anti Muslim movie, Race and Face Defence League is distributing in Burma. This movie is aimed to advocate Buddhist women against Muslim. The movie is about the stories of Buddhist women, who are forced to convert when they married Muslim men.



## Turkish aids for Rohingya refugees discovered from the separatist Arakan Army

Burmese government security forces and Rakhine separatist, Arakan Army (AA), clashed from 17<sup>th</sup> April to 22<sup>nd</sup> April in Rakhine state. Government forces also captured 105 bags of rice that printed Turkish flag on every bag, which were donated from Turkey to Rohingya refugees, in August 2012. Turkish government donated \$50 million humanitarian aids to Rohingya refugees and it is not clear how these aids were ended up with Rakhine separatist hand, said Burmese authority. Possibly, aftermath of the violence, many times Rakhine extremist threatened Rohingyas and took the supply by force.



Figure 5: Turkish humanitarian aids donated to Rohingya discovered from separatist Arakan Army (AA)

---

## Update on White Card issue

According to immigration department senior officer, U Khin Soe, 320502 Rohingyas white card holders and total 342762 white card holders across Burma have already returned their cards to the authorities within April. Authority has cancelled white card since 31<sup>st</sup> March and giving deadline to return until end of May. There are 760855 white card holders in Burma and there are 666380 white card holders in Rakhine state alone. Authority do not expect to received all exactly same as above mention numbers because many lost their cards during the violence while some of them were possibly get killed during the violence. Authority has given them a receipt when the card return and the receipt is important evidence that would essentially required for citizenship application. However, the citizenship process would be based on 1982 citizenship law, which is deliberately designed to discriminate Muslims in Burma.

---

## **Race and Faith Defence League become second authority in Burma**

A Muslim young man and a Buddhist young girl from Meikhtilar Township, fall in love and decided to marry without parents consent. Both left their parents home on 19<sup>th</sup> April to marry without the consent of their family. However, members of Race and Faith Defence League, who threatened to attack local Muslims if they could not find the couple.

The Buddhist girl, Ma Wai Wai Aung, age 24, who live at No.55, Thapyaywa village, Tharsi Township, under Meitkhtilar district and the Muslim man, Maung Thein Zaw (a) Khairun, age 22, who lives at No. 74, Thapyaywa village, Meikhtilar.

On 21<sup>st</sup> April, security forces were deployed after the members of local RFDL were gathered to attack local Muslim. However, next day morning 3 am, the couple was located and took them to the authority. At the presence of parents from both sides, monks from RFDL, local MPs and local authorities, the couple were separated by force and they had to sign that they would never contact each other again.

Member of Race and Faith Defence League spread the rumours to exaggerate the issue and the information was spread immediately through the social media.

---

## **Online media and law courses for anti Muslim activist**

Race and Faith Defence league is offering online media and law training for any Buddhist above 18 years old. Some of the criteria is the applicant must actively working for Burmese and Buddhist community, the applicant must at least qualified from secondary school and the applicant must bring reference letter from local Race and Faith Defence League. The training is aimed to enhance the capacity of the activist in order to be aware of the rules and regulations that related to their activities. The training has been providing at Block No 26, Pitakas Thone Pone Nikkayas Monastery. The training was from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015.



Figure 6: A lecturer giving media and law training to anti Muslim activists

---

### **A new anti Muslim book on its way**

One of the famous anti Muslim author, Naung Taw Lay, is seeking sponsor to publish an anti Muslim book. The name of the book will be, 'The World's Conflict'. Although it is illegal in Burma to attack any religion's faith but authority never prevent anti Muslim activities even it is challenging the existing law.

---

### **Freedom to incite against Muslims**

A prominent monk from Race and Faith Defence League, Ashin Nayakka, has been instigating against Muslim and encouraging to attack a mosque that closely located with a Pagoda in Inggapu Township, Irrawaddy Delta area. He also composed a poem to instigate local Buddhist against local Muslim.

---

### **U Wirathu's activities and travel record for April**

In April, U Wirathu travelled to Irrawaddy, Rangoon, Sagain and Shan State. He gave anti Muslim hate speech almost all these places he visited. The popularity of U Wirathu is increasing among Buddhist and he was welcomed by big crowded of people in many cities. Peoples welcomed him along the way waving the flag both side of the road. His influence is increasing among Buddhist community along with the influence of Race and Faith Defence League.

During his trips, U Wirathu usually highlight the danger of the existence of Muslim in Burma, encourage the audience to avoid any economic transaction with Muslims, and also using unfounded and fabricated information to mislead the audience against Muslim. So far, his campaign against Muslim has been very successful. Number of audience increasing significantly at his speeches and as a result, majority comprehend Muslim as a threat for Buddhism.

Following table is listed date, locations and activities during his trips.

| <b>No.</b> | <b>Date</b>                 | <b>Locations</b>  | <b>Activities</b>   |
|------------|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 1.         | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015  | Pantanaw Township, Irrawaddy Division.                  | Gave anti Muslim hate speech                                    |
| 2.         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2015  | Thingangyun Township, Rangoon.                          | Attended 5 <sup>th</sup> Damma School Ceremoney                 |
| 3.         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2015  | Innsein Township, Rangoon.                              | Attended Race and Face Defence League meeting                   |
| 4.         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2015  | South Dagon Township, Rangoon                           | Gave anti Muslim hate speech                                    |
| 5.         | 4 <sup>th</sup> April 2015  | North Dagon Township, Rangoon                           | Gave anti Muslim hate speech                                    |
| 6.         | 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2015  | Bala Gyi Village, Hlae Guu Township, Rangoon.           | Gave anti Muslim hate speech                                    |
| 7.         | 6 <sup>th</sup> April 2015  | Aung Thu Kha Village, Pobba Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw | Attended to celebrate the signing ceremony and gave public talk |
| 8.         | 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2015  | China Town, Lanmadaw Township, Rangoon                  | Gave anti Muslim hate speech                                    |
| 9.         | 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2015  | Titekya Township, Rangoon.                              | Gave anti Muslim hate speech                                    |
| 10.        | 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 | Tharkayta Township, Rangoon.                            | Gave anti Muslim hate speech                                    |
| 11.        | 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 | Shwe Bo Township, Sagain Division.                      | Gave anti Muslim hate speech and visited Damma School           |

|     |                             |   |   |
|-----|-----------------------------|---|---|
| 12. | 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 | Pearl Township, Sagain Division.  | Gave anti Muslim hate speech  |
| 13. | 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 | Ywar Thit Village and Zepauk Village, Tantse Township, Sagain Division. | Gave anti Muslim hate speech  |
| 14. | 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 | Aung Pan Township and Yatsauk Township, Shan State.                     | Gave anti Muslim hate speech  |
| 15. | 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2015 | Taunggyi City, Shan State.  | Gave anti Muslim hate speech  |
| 16. | 22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2015 | Pintaya Township, Shwe Taung district, Shan State                       | Gave anti Muslim hate speech  |
| 17. | 23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2015 | Kalaw Township, Shan State  | Gave anti Muslim hate speech  |
| 18. | 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 | Ywar Ngan Township, Shan State.   | Gave anti Muslim hate speech and explained aims and objectives of RFDL and 969 movements. |
| 19. | 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 | Yaynan Taung Village, Kyan Khin Township, Irrawaddy Division.           | Unlike other places, local people have requested to gave anti Muslim hate speech          |
| 20. | 28 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 | Kyan Khin City, Inngapu Township, Irrawaddy Division                    | Gave anti Muslim hate speech  |
| 21. | 29 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 | Kwinn Kauk Township, Irrawaddy Division.                                | Gave anti Muslim hate speech  |



Figure 7: U Wirathu in Pantanaw Township



Figure 8: Audience listening U Wirathu's speech in South Dagon Township, Rangoon



Figure 9: Audience welcoming U Wirathu in North Dagon Township, Rangoon



Figure 10: U Wirathu meeting with PDP party chairman at Nay Myo Wai's residence



Figure 11: Crowd listening U Wirathu's speech in Bala Gyi Village, Hlae Guu Township, Rangoon.

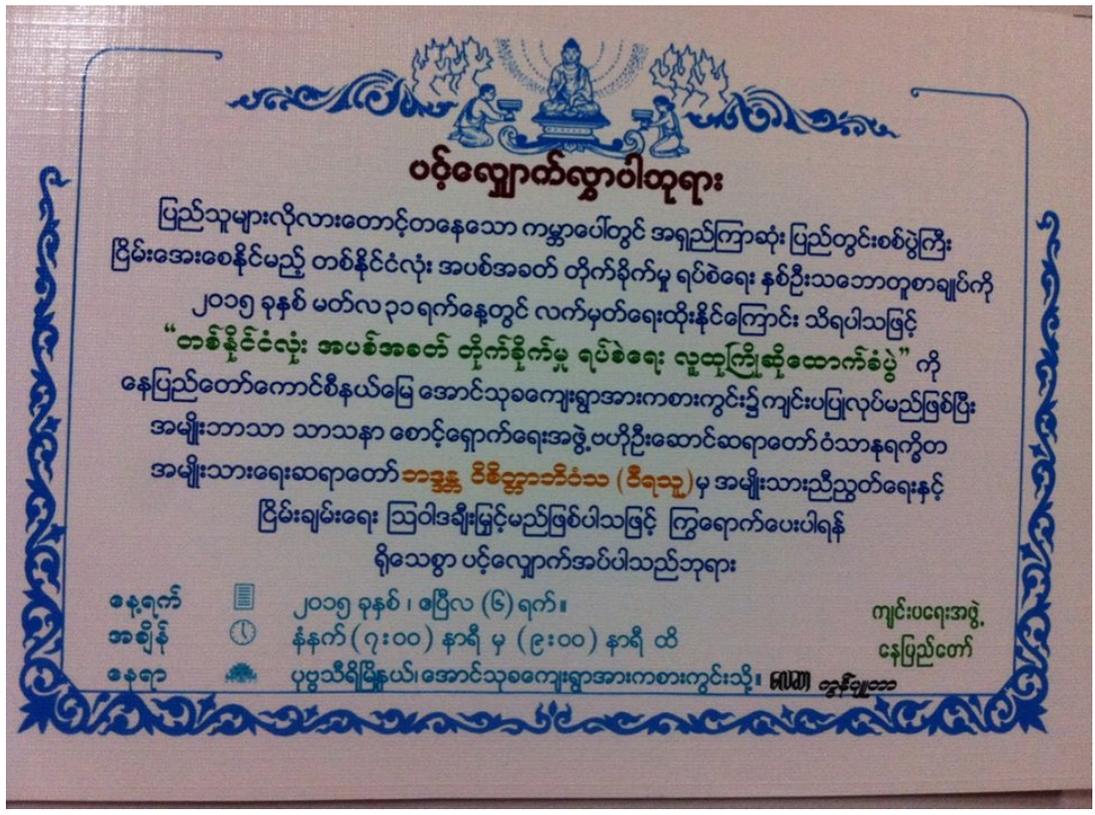


Figure 12: Invitation letter for U Wirathu to gave a speech and perform religious ceremony at Nay Pyi Taw



Figure 13: U Wirathu with his colleagues and ethnic Pao peoples in Nay Pyi Taw



Figure 14: U Wirathu giving hate speech in front of a Mosque in China Town, Rangoon



Figure 15: Crowd listening U Wirathu's speec in China Town, Rangoon.



Figure 16: Local Buddhists listening U Wirathus spech in Titekyi Township, Rangoon.



Figure 17: Local Buddhists listening U Wirathu's speech in Tharkayta Township, Rangoon.



Figure 18: Primary Shcool children listeing U Wirathu's speech in Pearl Township, Sagain.



Figure 19: Local Buddhist turned up to listen U Wirathu's speech in Sagain

---

### **Myanmar National Network party and anti Muslim hate speech**

MNN (Myanmar National Network) is a registered political party, which has a seat in the parliament. The party leader Win Ko Ko Latt is an ex-army. This is a nationalist party, having a radical view on none Buddhist, especially on Muslim. The party has been organising events in various part of the country to promote anti Muslim sentiments. The party using vinyl posters printed graphic pictures from Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Africa to create fear among Buddhists in Burma. The party is mainly targeting primary and secondary school children, probably brainwashing children against Muslim. According to the information received from some witness that the party largely using fabricated information to mislead people. Using pictures of Tibetan Buddhist monks cracked down by Chinese security forces, as if these incidents happened in Muslim countries.

MNN party is coordinating with extremist monks from Race and Faith Defence League. Although election committee has prohibited political parties from using religious rhetoric for party campaigning but authority never take action against pro army anti Muslim parties.

Following table shows date and name of the places that the party organised anti Muslim hate speech events.

| No. | Dates   | Name of the city                |
|-----|---|---------------------------------|
| 1.  | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2015                    | Dala Township, Rangoon          |
| 2.  | 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2015                    | Taunggu Township, Pegu Division |
| 3.  | 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2015                    | Nay Pyi Taw                     |
| 4.  | 10 <sup>th</sup> April 2015                   | Oak Pho Township, Pegu Division |
| 5.  | 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2015                   | Thone Gua                       |
| 6.  | 27 <sup>th</sup> -28 <sup>th</sup> April 2015 | Taunggyi City, Shan State       |



Figure 20: MNN party chairman explaining local Buddhist that Muslim tried to blast Buddha Gaya in India



Figure 21: MNN party chairman giving award to a primary school student who could anti Muslim quizzes correctly



Figure 22: MNN party members motivating students with a nationalist song



Figure 23: Primary and Secondary students in Taunggyi, Shan state, taking notes from the vinyl posters about Muslim



Figure 24: MNN party member helping a student to read about anti Muslim stories from the book



Figure 25: MNN party member and activist Naung Taw Lay explaining Muslim killing Christians



Figure 26: MNN party member and an extremist monk Ashin Nayaka listening nationalist song from a student



Figure 27: Children listening anti Muslim hate speech given by a member of MNN party

---

### Media contact

Kyaw Win, UK, [Kyawwin78@gmail.com](mailto:Kyawwin78@gmail.com) +44 740 345 2378

Myo Win, Burma, [starmywin@gmail.com](mailto:starmywin@gmail.com) +95 950 70304

Daw Molly, Canada, [law4women@gmail.com](mailto:law4women@gmail.com) +1 416 516 7383

Ms. Yasmin, USA, [yasnohana@gmail.com](mailto:yasnohana@gmail.com) +1 408 250 6227