

2014

Burma Link Annual Report



**BURMA
LINK**

Produced by Burma Link

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“A small group of thoughtful people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead



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Burma Link
Voices for Change.

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Burma Link upholds the voices of the people of Burma and works to empower the people to become active agents in driving positive change in their lives and communities.

Message from the Chairperson and Co-Founder of Burma Link

Burma Link started in humble surroundings in Mae La refugee camp with nothing but a determination and passion to help the people of Burma have their voices heard. We have come a long way, and I am so excited to review our experiences, successes, challenges, and achievements for the year 2014.

The year 2014 was Burma Link's second full year of operation. Despite challenging conditions and extremely limited resources, we have managed to build a non-profit organisation that is now widely known among local and international organisations involved in Burma issues.

In 2014, we continued publishing stories and interviews of ethnic leaders, jungle medics, refugees, and local women activists, to name but a few. The top story in 2014 received as many as 841 Facebook recommendations/shares. With no external funding for media, we have built a website that during 2014 had on average over 300 visits per day, already being on average nearly 500 per day for the beginning of 2015. Burma Link's website has one of the most, if not the most, comprehensive packages of background information about Burma and the border easily and freely accessible for everyone online.

In 2014, we also held three empowerment and leadership trainings for 24 promising young leaders from Burma on the border. These young leaders have now become part of Burma Link's operation as AOCs (Agents of Change) who act as role models and help break the silence in their communities. We look forward to training more AOCs in 2015, and publishing the training materials available for all teachers and trainers on the border and in Rangoon. In 2014, AOCs embraced their role as active agents and we published a number of stories and articles with their help.

We have seen important changes in the border refugee camps since 2014, and will be focusing on refugee issues in 2015. With the help of our AOCs, we have now conducted interviews with 20 refugees in four different camps on the Thai border. Their voices were already projected in the Submission to the United Nations Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on Refugees and Displaced Persons (Burma/Myanmar) in March 2015. We are currently working on a joint briefing paper that builds on these interviews and will give recommendations to governments, donors, and all relevant agencies.

Burma Link is still run by non-paid volunteers who are driven by passion and determination. It is amazing what can be done with sheer will and a shared dream. From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank everyone involved in making the year 2014 a success, and lifting us up even more as the year 2015 has begun. This is just the beginning, and we are so excited for what is yet to come.

April 4, 2015

Ariana Zarleen

History and Introduction

This report describes the activities and key achievements of Burma Link during the year 2014.

Burma Link is a legally registered non-profit non-governmental organisation made up of people from Burma and around the world. We come from various cultural and professional backgrounds, some of us refugees on the Thailand-Burma border and others born and educated in Western societies. We all believe that at this critical time of change in Burma, upholding the voices of all Burma's people, and particularly the long-silenced ethnic nationalities and displaced people, is more important than ever.

Burma Link was founded by foreign specialists in the field of ethnic and international relations together with refugees from Burma in August 2012 in Mae La refugee camp, Thailand.

The idea was born out of the observation that the myriad organisations and vulnerable populations on the Thailand-Burma border were being silenced by the international community's praise for the Burmese government's recent reforms, the need for the people of Burma to have their voices heard at this critical time of change in the country's political landscape, and a lack of easy access to information regarding the situation in Burma and on the Thailand-Burma border. Burma Link was set up in order to address these vital unmet needs.



The initial idea of creating a website gradually developed into establishing a non-profit organisation that seeks to connect the world with the people of Burma through the use of social media and projects such as interviews, documentaries and other publications that help the people of Burma have their voices heard in effective and creative ways. We now conduct interviews with people of Burma from all walks of life - with a focus on ethnic nationalities and displaced people - and have been publishing their stories on our English website since April 2013.

In November 2013, we organised our first training, the AOC (Agents of Change) Leadership Program, in Mae Sot on the Thailand-Burma border. In 2014, we held another three trainings with altogether 24 participants who have become part of Burma Link's AOC Network. The program aims at developing essential life and leadership skills such as confidence, honesty and courage, problem solving and dealing effectively with others. Burma Link also teaches the participants how to put their newly found skills into practice through facilitating information exchange and storytelling in their communities and out to local and global actors through Burma Link.

Burma Link was legally registered as a non-profit organisation in Finland in August 2013. Burma Link operates with volunteer staff members, local interns, and AOCs, all of whom are deeply committed to our Vision, Mission and Values. In addition, a Governing Board made up of four professionals from Burma and around the world representing Burma Link's members provides overall sanctioning of Burma Link's operation.

Timeline of Key Events

End of year 2014

Numerous stories and interviews published on the English and Burmese websites.

Burma Link's AOC Leadership Network has 29 active members

Burma Link starts refugee interview project in the border refugee camps

December 2014

AOC Leadership Program held in Thoo Mweh Khee (TMK) Migrant Learning Centre in Ph Phra

May 2014

AOC Leadership Program held in Mae La refugee camp

April 2014

AOC Leadership Program held at Wide Horizons in Mae Sot

March 2014

Burma Link secures the first grant from the Tiet Foundation in support of the AOC Leadership Program

End of year 2013

Stories of seven people of Burma published on Burma Link's website

November 2013

First AOC Leadership Program training is held in Mae Sot

August 2013

Burma Link becomes a legally registered non-profit organisation in Finland

June 2013

Burma Link helps refugees with the UN profiling survey

April 2013

First story is published on Burma Link's English website

Ever since founding the organisation, Burma Link has utilised a host of contacts on the Thailand-Burma border and across the world, including Burmese pro-democracy, capacity building, human rights and women's organisations, and local community leaders from various ethnic backgrounds as well as artists and international aid workers and journalists. We believe that cooperation is the key to create a shared view of positive change in Burma and to work effectively towards it.

Background

Most people inside Burma and on the Thailand-Burma border were born into an environment where systematic barriers have prevented them from making decisions, taking action to improve their lives, or even speaking out. Many of them feel that they have no voice and believe that they are powerless to change their current situation. Refugees and exiles still frequently talk about the deliberate silencing of activists and ethnic nationality members inside the country as well as on the border.

The recent changes in Burma's political landscape, loudly praised by the international community and mainstream media, have yet to reach the country's vulnerable ethnic populations who remain hiding in the jungle living in fear, or externally displaced outside the country's borders living in a limbo. During 2014, a number of experts including the UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar (Burma), Yanghee Lee, also warned of possible signs of backtracking on the country's reform process. At the same time, the root causes of the conflict remain unaddressed and lasting solutions yet nowhere in sight.

The voices of Burma's ethnic nationalities have been silenced and suppressed for over 60 years as they have fought a desperate struggle for survival against an overwhelming enemy; the Burmese government and the state army. While the ethnic struggle continues, their plight is increasingly ignored as the world has turned its attention exclusively towards central Burma. At this critical time of change, upholding the voices of the people of Burma is more important than ever. Regrettably, ethnic voices have now been silenced like never before.

By upholding the voices of the people of Burma and proving all actors easy access to information, Burma Link works to empower the people of Burma to become agents of change in their own lives, and helps both local and international actors take effective and just action to help the people of Burma.

Vision

Burma Link envisions a free, peaceful and democratic Burma that upholds the voices of its people. We envision the people of Burma achieving full human rights, justice and equality, and becoming active agents in driving positive change in their lives and communities. We believe in an inclusive and fair constitution, the rule of law and accountability as preconditions for national reconciliation. We envision a future where the people of Burma find love and forgiveness in their hearts, celebrate and respect diversity, and work together towards a brighter future for all peoples of Burma.

Mission

Burma Link upholds the voices of the people of Burma and works to empower the people to become active agents of change in driving positive change in their lives and communities. Burma Link connects the people of Burma with each other and the world by projecting their voices into local and global conversations so as to inspire and enable them to become active players in transforming their situation towards one of hope, dignity and inclusion. Burma Link also promotes unity and national reconciliation through facilitating communication and information exchange between different peoples of Burma. Burma Link is committed to helping both local and international actors take effective and just action to help the people of Burma, by providing them with easy access to background information and recent developments inside the country and around its troubled borders. Our focus is especially on the struggle of Burma's ethnic nationalities and displaced people. We work directly with the people of Burma to ensure our goals reflect the voices of the people themselves.

Values

1. Freedom, equality, dignity, and respect

- We reaffirm that all people are born free and equal and all have the right to be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of their differences in ethnicity, gender, age, religion, culture, customs and traditions
- We recognise that all people are individuals who have the right to freedom of thought, conscience, speech, expression and religion
- We respect diversity and are committed to openness and non-discrimination.

2. Passion, commitment, and excellence

- We are passionate about our vision and deeply committed to our values and mission
- We constantly strive for excellence in everything we do, and challenge ourselves to the highest levels of learning, professionalism and performance to achieve greater impact.

3. Integrity, trust, and responsibility

- We are open, honest and direct in our communication with each other and all our stake holders
- We act consistently with our mission, being honest and transparent in what we do and say, and accept responsibility for our collective and individual actions.

4. Empowerment, community involvement, and cooperation

- We believe that people have the right to make their own decisions and control their own lives
- We are committed to upholding the voices of the people of Burma, and reaffirm that change and efforts to build peaceful and just society should be led by people from that society
- We recognise the value of cooperation and partnership and believe that creating a shared vision and working effectively towards it is essential for bringing about positive change in Burma.

We are deeply passionate about Burma issues and genuinely care about the country's future and the people of Burma. We would never jeopardise anyone's identity or dignity in order to "get a good story". We respect the people's feelings and concerns and will always put them before media coverage or anything else. We consistently work with high levels of respect and consideration for the people of Burma in everything we do.

Goals

(1) Help the people of Burma reach out and have their voices heard

In order for Burma to transform to a peaceful and democratic society based on freedom and justice, the voices of the people of Burma, including the myriad Burmese organisations and people in exile, must be heard in the process. Democracy is all about people's voices, and the best way to measure the extent of reforms and progress is to listen to the people, particularly the vulnerable ethnic communities in Burma's border areas. Having access to people's voices and stories fosters greater understanding and knowledge about the past and the present as well as the similarities and differences between Burma's peoples. Sharing information and stories with both local and global communities can promote positive developments and effective actions, accountability and justice as

well as forgiveness and reconciliation. Storytelling can also be a healing and empowering activity that can help the people of Burma discover themselves and create a shared vision for the future.

(2) Help the world reach in and understand the dynamics behind the situation inside the country and on the Thailand-Burma border

As the international community is shifting its policies toward Burma, it is arguably of crucial importance that they are aware of the conditions inside the country and around its borders. All attempts to address the humanitarian crisis and promote positive developments in Burma require a clear acknowledgement and awareness of the local context. Having access to local voices and people's stories can help international actors feel more empathy and get more involved, learn more about the situation and gear them towards more just and effective action.

(3) Help the people of Burma understand the dynamics behind the situation inside the country and on the Thailand-Burma border

At this critical time of change in Burma's political landscape, it is arguably of crucial importance that the people of Burma are aware of the conditions inside the country and around its borders, and understand the underlying dynamics behind the prolonged conflict and suffering. If Burma is to celebrate unity in diversity, Burma's ethnic groups need to learn about and communicate with one another.

Activities and Outcomes



We are the link between the world and the people of Burma, helping the world reach in and the people of Burma reach out. We help the people share information and their stories with both local and global communities and provide all actors easy access to a wealth of information on Burma and its borders in order to gear them towards effective and just action to help the people of Burma and the country. Our main focus is on Burma's long-silenced ethnic nationalities and displaced people.

Table 1. Summary of Burma Link's goals, activities and outcomes in 2014

GOAL (1) Help the people of Burma reach out and have their voices heard	
Goal	Activity/Outcome
1.1. Publish voices of the people of Burma on Burma Link's website	We published stories of seven people of Burma from diverse backgrounds, including freedom fighters, ethnic and women leaders, students, and refugees in and outside the camps. Altogether we published 22 stories or interviews about people and organisations on the border.
1.2. Broaden the audience and reach for voices of the people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voices were published on our English website, which' audience has steadily increased. Voices were translated into Burmese and published on our Burmese website. More translations await editing and will be published in 2015. We published two newsletters in English, one in April and one in October, and distributed hundreds of free copies of them on the border (mainly around Mae Sot and Chiang Mai).
1.3. Undertake projects that let the voices of the people be heard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continued our interviewing and storytelling project throughout the year. We started projects with refugee voices, drug crisis in northern Burma, and some other issues, expected to have publications in 2015.
1.4. Manage Agents of Change Leadership Program	We held three AOC Leadership Programs with 24 participants in different locations on the border. Started translating AOC materials into Burmese.
GOAL (2) Help the world reach in and understand the dynamics behind the situation inside the country and on the Thailand-Burma border	
Goal	Activity/Outcome
2.1. Provide international actors with easy access to information on Burma Link's website	Burma Link's English website provides international actors with a host of background information as well as a comprehensive collection of resources on Burma and the Thailand-Burma border. Throughout the year 2014, we updated the background information as well as the collection library. We regularly published reports and press releases particularly by local CBOs.
2.2. Broaden international audience and reach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our English website average audience was over 300 visits per day for the year 2014, according to conservative <i>Awstats</i>. According to <i>Webalizer</i>, the average was over 600 visits per day for the year. We published two English newsletters. Our English Facebook page had over 1,300 followers at the end of the year. We started using Twitter.
GOAL (3) Help the people of Burma understand the dynamics behind the situation inside the country and on the Thailand-Burma border	
Goal	Activity/Outcome
3.1. Provide local actors with easy access to information on Burma Link's website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have been developing Burma Link's Burmese website throughout the year 2014. The website provides local actors with a host of background information on the situation in Burma and on the Thailand-Burma border as well as a comprehensive collection of resources that we updated as new publications were released. During the year, we published five stories of people of Burma on the Burmese website.
3.2. Broaden Burmese audience and reach	We started Burma Link Burmese Facebook page, which had more than 3,000 followers at the end of the year.

Interviews and Stories

During the year 2014, we published altogether 22 stories or interviews on our English website, and six stories or interviews on our Burmese website. The stories included people from various different backgrounds, including refugees in and outside the camps on the Thailand-Burma border, IDPs inside Burma, freedom fighters and ethnic armed leaders, migrants in Thailand, and leaders and staff of ethnic organisations on the border. Ethnicities of the people included Karen, Kachin, Ta'ang (Palaung), Naga, Arakanese, and Lahu.

2014 TOP STORIES

1. 'The British Had No Right to Draw the Borderline in the Heart of Naga Country': Eastern Naga Leader

Published August 8 - 841 Facebook recommendations/shares



Nagaland was once a free land with rich and unique cultural traditions that varied from village to village, each village ruled by their own chieftains. The faith of the Naga took an ugly turn after the British divided Nagaland without the consent or knowledge of the Naga who refused to acknowledge an arbitrary borderline that ran through villages, fields, and even homes. After the British left, Indian and Burmese forces occupied Naga homeland, following an agreement by their leaders that the Western part of Nagaland was to be ruled by India and Eastern part by Burma. The Nagas never succumbed to the foreign occupation – Naga warriors have now been fighting a desperate struggle for freedom and sovereignty for over six decades.

“...India and Burma had no right to invade Nagaland. They had no right to colonise Nagaland again. They themselves bitterly fought against the British colonialism. **After they break from the British colony, how can they use the same colonialism against the Naga?** They have no right to suppress the Naga people. They have no right to deprive the right of Nagas to be a nation. And the British had no right to give our land to India or Burma without our consent, without our knowledge.” [Read full story on the website.](#)

2. Rakhaing Leader of the Guerrilla and the Peaceful Pro-Democracy Movement: Saw Mra Raza Linn



Published January 30 - 576 Facebook recommendations/shares

Saw Mra Raza Linn is the founder and Chairperson of Rakhaing Women's Union and a founding member of Women's League of Burma. During the democracy uprising in Burma in 1988, Mra Raza Linn led thousands of people in pro-democracy marches in her native Rakhaing State. When Martial Law was declared in September 1988, the government ordered the capture of Mra Raza Linn and like many other prominent democracy leaders, she was forced to flee the country. Mra Raza Linn fled to the deep jungles of Bangladesh, where she soon became a leader of the armed guerrilla struggle, before resuming her political activism on behalf of Rakhaing women and children. Mra Raza Linn continues to work for national reconciliation, peace and for advancing women's participation in all spheres of decision making level for establishing a democratic and peaceful country.

"In 1988 I was one of the active leaders of the democracy movement in the Rakhaing [Arakan] State. At that time I was a teacher. So I organized many people and delivered my first democracy speech at Wangabar Ground in Sittwe on 9th of August, 1988... On 21st of August we seized all government offices in my native town, Rathedaung, without any bloodshed. The government was angry and wanted to kill me... After they seized state power, many gun men came in the township and then they searched for me to kill me. They shouted: *I want to kill Mra Raza Linn, putting the gun through her mouth!* Something like that. They were shouting everywhere..." Read [full story on the website](#).

3. 'Please Support Our People, Not the Government – They Are Cheating the World': Mahn Robert Ba Zan

Published October 20 – 458 Facebook recommendations/shares



Mahn Robert Ba Zan is a former Karen freedom fighter and an advisor to the Karen Communities of Minnesota. He served in the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) for more than 30 years, following in the footsteps of his father Mahn Ba Zan, the first commander of the Karen National Defence Organisation (KNDO) and a former President of the Karen National Union (KNU). In 2000, Mahn Robert Ba Zan resettled to the United States of America with his family, changing his revolutionary tactics towards raising awareness and educating the Karen and other ethnics.

"There is no political solution, only ceasefire. During the ceasefire, they [Burmese military] have been building a stronghold in Karen areas. They fill up all their ammunitions, and they build their

bunkers with concrete. They are building very stronghold bunkers. So, on one side there is the ceasefire, but other side is preparing for war." Read [full interview on the website](#).

4. Back Pack Jungle Medics Treating IDPs in Burma's Conflict Zones: Interview with Saw Win Kyaw

Published March 20 – 386 Facebook recommendations/shares



The Back Pack Health Worker Team (BPHWT) is a multi-ethnic community-based organisation that has been providing primary healthcare in the conflict and rural areas of Burma for over 15 years. While BPHWT's health workers continue to risk their lives in providing primary health care for Burma's most vulnerable people, one of the most significant challenges they have recently had to tackle is that donors are increasingly abandoning the border.

"... Currently, most donors are moving to Yangon. And we are most or all of the cross-border aid. So they have moved to Yangon and they are not taking care of the real vulnerable persons. The budget here is very, very much less and not

enough for our estimated budget plan. We are not sure what to cut down... Our working areas are very remote areas and also most of our working areas are ethnic areas. So if the government or any NGO sends help through Yangon, they are very far away and then they also send their own staff there. One big barrier for that is lack of trust and common language. We have experience for more than ten years so we know how to deal with the communities and how to develop health in our areas. International donors should provide for the community based health system. Not directly come and provide their own system..." Read [full story on the website](#).

AOC – Agents of Change

AOC Leadership Network is building Burma's first and only self-sustaining leadership network model to empower communities and break the silence, through promoting the sharing of information, stories, and life experiences of communities from Burma locally and around the world. AOC stands for Agents of Change, empowered leaders and role models who can inspire others and effect change in their communities.

AOC Leadership Program aims at developing essential life and leadership skills like confidence, honesty and courage, responsible citizenship, and the ability to effectively deal with others. The participants also learn how to help their community members value their voice and have their voices heard. The first three days of the training are all about empowerment and how to develop the qualities of empowered leaders. The last two days of the training are about storytelling and information sharing.

Upon successful completion of the program, AOCs become part of Burma Link's AOC Leadership Network. We provide them with ongoing support and guidance, platforms to publish voices locally on the Burmese website and globally on the English website, and an access to a camera and recorder library. AOCs also have the opportunity to become AOC trainers. Eventually, we aim to have the AOC Leadership Network become sustained by local leaders.

Year 2014 in Review

The AOC Leadership Program in 2014 was a success and we were able to match our goal of training 24 new AOCs. We held three AOC Leadership Programs on the Thailand-Burma border, the first training at Wide Horizons, the second training at Mae La refugee camp, and the third training at Thoo Mweh Khee Migrant Learning Centre.

All participants successfully completed the program, having our AOC Leadership Network expand with 24 new AOCs. Feedback from the participants has been positive and they have been excited to become part of the AOC Network. AOCs have also welcomed the opportunity to have their own and their community voices be heard, and have also expressed a marked change in their values and confidence. As the program is new we have also kept developing the curriculum and training materials throughout the year, based on the feedback from the participants, the trainer and the assistant.

We hope this report conveys at least part of the excitement that AOCs have expressed during and after the training and the warmth we feel in our hearts to be able to bring this program to young leaders from Burma.

Training 1: Wide Horizons

The first training in 2014 was held in Mae Sot from March 31 until April 4 with six ethnically diverse Wide Horizons graduate students. Ethnicities included Karen, Kayan, Burman, and Pa'O. One of our AOCs, Eugene, was the training assistant throughout the 5-day training. Photos by Eugene / Burma Link AOC.



“I strongly feel confident and comfortable and got skills to be an AOC in my community”



“The training encouraged me to share story about my community”

Training 2: Mae La Refugee Camp

The second training was held in Mae La refugee camp from May 5-9 with eight participants, some of whom are teachers in different schools and some recent graduates from post-ten or higher education institutions. Six of the participants were Karen, one Karenni, and one Burman. One of our AOCs, Atun, was the training assistant throughout the 5-day training. This was the first training to be conducted partly in Burmese language. Photos by Atun / Burma Link AOC.



“AOC changed me to be honest and make me do something with courage”

“I have been empowered!”



"I really felt that I have more confidence than before and I believe that I have enough skills to be an AOC in my community"

Training 3: Thoo Mweh Khee

The third training was held in Thoo Mweh Khee (TMK) Migrant Learning Centre from December 1-6 with ten participants. TMK is located on the border 40 km from Mae Sot. The training took five and a half days, as we decided to introduce Burma Link and the AOC Leadership Program already one day before the first day of empowerment training to avoid information overload on the first day. This arrangement worked well and allowed the first day of training extra time for questions and discussion. The training assistant in this training was one of TMK's teachers who is planning on becoming an AOC trainer for other students at TMK.

All participants in TMK were of Karen ethnicity, nine of them GED students in TMK and one English Immersion Program (EIP) student from Umpiem refugee camp who is currently undertaking her internship with Burma Link.



"I know how to be an ethical person, how to change my society and how to participate, communicate with others."



"AOC changed my lazy heart to be proactive and open minded"



“I have learned many things from this training like courage, honesty and the basic abilities of a good leader. I get more strength to be a generous leader for my community, my people and my country”

Examples from the training

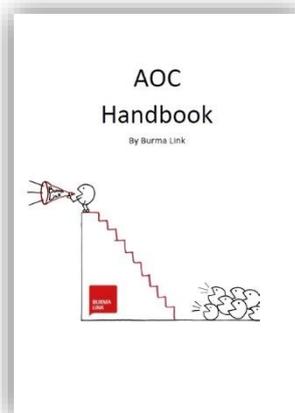
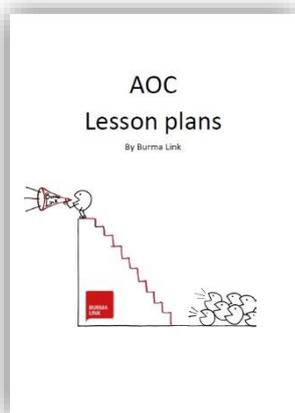


In a leadership activity that takes place after the first three days of empowerment training is finished, each participant gets a chance to lead their group in a timed challenge. This picture has been taken in Mae La camp by Dingo who was leading his group to complete a challenge of taking a picture that represents empowerment.



At the end of the training, participants choose and keep one picture card that is the most meaningful for them personally. Participants also explain to others why that card is particularly meaningful to them. This picture is from TMK.

AOC books, developed during 2014



AOCs as active agents

AOCs have embraced their role as active agents. During the year 2014, we published four stories and two articles in English, and two stories in Burmese with the help of our AOCs. Two AOCs have also published their own stories on the English and Burmese websites.

In addition, AOCs have sent us photos from Rangoon, Mae La refugee camp, Arakan State, Karen State, and Kayan areas on both sides of the border.



“This is our Karen people. They don't have opportunity to go to school. They have to stay with their parents in the farm and they have to take care of themselves.”

Photo and description by Moses Aye / Burma Link AOC

One AOC has also volunteered to translate stories from English to Burmese, having translated four stories by the end of the year 2014.

Media

English website

Burma Link's English website serves as the link between the world and the people of Burma, helping the world reach in and understand the underlying dynamics and current conditions in Burma and on the Thailand-Burma border. The website presents a host of background information on Burma and the Thailand-Burma border, the most comprehensive package of information related to the situation easily accessible online. The website also creates a platform for the people of Burma to have their voices heard, and includes a comprehensive collection of resources including reports, documentaries, news, and articles and press releases. The website can be accessed at <http://www.burmalink.org/>. While we acknowledge the importance of representing all Burma's people, our main focus is on the long-silenced ethnic nationalities and displaced people.

Throughout the year 2014, we updated the background information to ensure it reflects the current situation, most recently in November. We also continuously updated the collection library as new publications from local organisations were released.

The screenshot displays the Burma Link website's user interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a search function and links for Home, About Us, Background, Voices, Collection, and Get Involved. Below the navigation bar is a grid of featured images and video thumbnails. A central banner reads "Help us raise awareness of the struggle and share Burma's voices for change." Below this are three main content boxes: "Background Information" (Read about Burma and its border), "Voices of the People" (Listen to voices for change), and "Resource Collection" (Access lots of reports). The "Featured" section highlights a story titled "A Controversial Gap Migration in The Border Region" with a video thumbnail. The "Latest Posts" section lists several recent articles, including "Burma AOCs Stopgap Education" (November 19, 2014), "Implementation Gap Widens on Thai Border Camps" (October 24, 2014), "It Really Try Hard Nothing is Impossible: From Collecting Recyclables to Higher Education" (November 18, 2014), "AOCs Learning made me more powerful, independent and honest" (November 18, 2014), and "New Report Collection: 'Human Support' Amalaka Hillside Camp on Karen State" (November 18, 2014). The "Stories and Interviews" section at the bottom features a grid of smaller article thumbnails with titles like "It Really Try Hard Nothing is Impossible: From Collecting Recyclables to Higher Education" and "AOCs Learning made me more powerful, independent and honest".

The background information has over 100 pages of clearly referenced information about Burma and the border, including images and statistics. The collection library includes news, press releases, and over 50 reports published by our partnering organisations. We also publish articles and documentaries as well as photo galleries put together by us and our website visitors.

Burmese website

Burma Link's Burmese website launched in October 2013 and serves as the link between the people of Burma, helping the people connect with each other and understand the underlying dynamics and current conditions in Burma and on the Thailand-Burma border. The website presents a host of background information on Burma and the Thailand-Burma border, creates a platform for the people of Burma to have their voices heard locally, and includes a collection of key resources compiled from different sources. The Burmese website can be accessed at <http://burmese.burmalink.org/>.

The collection included news, press releases, reports, documentaries, and photo galleries published by our partnering organisations as well as by Burma Link and our website visitors.



Newsletters

During the year 2014, we published two newsletters, which outlined Burma Link's main activities, stories published of the people of Burma as well as other new publications by us and our partners. We also included quick facts and summarised some of the most significant recent developments inside Burma and on the border. Download Newsletters: [April](#) | [October](#)

Burma Link in other media

Towards the end of the year Burma Link was increasingly present in other media, including quotes in at least two news articles in December 2014, one in print in the Netherlands and one online at <http://www.ucanews.com/news/generation-gap-widens-in-thai-border-camps/72599>. Burma Link was also added to the online Burma Library in December 2014.

Future plans

Burma Link will continue to work towards its Vision, Mission and Goals.

Following are the major areas where we will enhance our focus for the year 2015:

1. Advocating for refugees in the Thai border refugee camps
2. Starting to run AOC Leadership Program empowerment and leadership trainings with local trainers
3. Regularly publishing stories of the people of Burma in English and Burmese
4. Publishing the Empowered Leadership training book freely available for teachers and trainers in Thailand and Burma
5. Publishing two other books currently under development
6. Enhancing the capacity of Burma Link through securing funding and increasing human resources

At this critical time of change in the Thai border refugee camps, we will continue to advocate for refugees and help their voices be heard locally and internationally. Other focus areas will be running AOC Leadership Program with local trainers, and securing more funding and human resources for Burma Link.

We will continue to help the people of Burma share information and their stories with both local and global communities, and provide both local and global actors easy access to a wealth of information on Burma and its borders in order to gear them towards effective and just action to help the people.

In the future, we aim to plan and execute various projects such as documentaries, musical productions, and events that help the people of Burma have their voices heard in effective and creative ways. We will continue to work in close cooperation with other local and international organisations involved in Burma issues.



Identity



Legal name:	Burma Link ry
Legal status:	Registered as a non-profit organisation
Registration number:	210.930
Date of Registration:	August 29, 2013
Email:	office@burmalink.org
English website:	http://www.burmalink.org/
English Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/burmalink
Twitter:	https://twitter.com/burmalink
Youtube:	https://www.youtube.com/user/burmalink
Burmese website:	http://burmese.burmalink.org/
Burmese Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/burmalinkburmese

Support us: <http://www.burmalink.org/support-us/>

Get involved: <http://www.burmalink.org/get-involved/>



Burma Link upholds the voices of the people of Burma and works to empower the people to become active agents in driving positive change in their lives and communities.



Burma Link
Voices for Change.

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