

INTERNAL CONFLICT IN BURMA

The Time is **NOT RIGHT** for Thailand-Burma Border Refugee Return

BURMA

THAILAND

"I don't think you really need to return refugees back because if conditions were right, the refugees would go back of their own free will."

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, 2012

Andaman Sea

Gulf of Thailand

Conflict areas in Burma 2014-2015
Refugee camps on the Thailand-Burma border
IDP camps

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.burmalink.org

Briefing paper by Burma Link and Burma Partnership
Voices of Refugees - Situation of Burma's Refugees Along the Thailand-Burma Border

THE MAIN GROUPS OF PEOPLE OF CONCERN 10 000

RESIDING in Burma



662,400 Internally Displaced Persons² (IDP)

400,000
IDPs IN SOUTH-EAST

ORIGINATING from Burma



110,637
REFUGEES IN 9 CAMPS
ON THE THAILAND-BURMA
BORDER³



479,706 Refugees¹



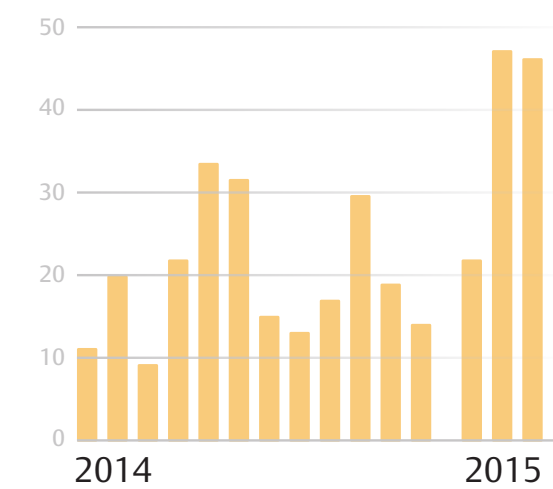
48,053 Asylum Seekers¹



409 Various¹



1 Returned Refugee¹



CONFLICTS⁴ 

¹ 2015 UNHCR Country Operations Profile - Myanmar
www.unhcr.org/pages/49e4877d6.html

² The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
www.internal-displacement.org/south-and-south-east-asia/myanmar/

³ The Border Consortium
www.theborderconsortium.org/media/59439/2015-03-mar-map-tbcunhcr.pdf

⁴ Myanmar Peace Monitor
www.mmpeacemonitor.org/research/monitoring-archive

1947 PANGLOSS CONFERENCE
1948 BURMA BECOMES INDEPENDENT FROM BRITAIN
1949 INTERNAL WAR - THE KNU TAKES UP ARMS AFTER FAILING TO REACH A POLITICAL AGREEMENT
1961 THE KIA TAKES UP ARMS
1962 MILITARY COUP

The Longest Running Civil War in the World

1974 NEW CONSTITUTION THAT FURTHER MARGINALISES ETHNIC NATIONALITIES

1984 A BRUTAL BURMA ARMY OFFENSIVE NEAR THE THAI BORDER - THE BEGINNING OF THE ONGOING REFUGEE OUTFLOW FROM BURMA INTO THAILAND
1988 THE 8888 UPRISING THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE KILLED BY THE MILITARY AND THE POLICE
1989 MARTIAL LAW AND THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS ARRESTED
1990 NLD WINS THE GENERAL ELECTION, BUT THE RESULT IS IGNORED
1991 DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI WINS THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE
1994 CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT WITH THE KIO
1995 CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT WITH THE NMSP
1996 6,000 MON REFUGEES FORCIBLY REPATRIATED FROM THAILAND TO BURMA. THE BURMA ARMY ATTACKS THEIR IDP CAMP AND MANY ATTEMPT TO FLEE BACK TO THAILAND

2015
FEBRUARY
MARCH

VIOLENT CRACKDOWN ON STUDENT PROTESTERS, BURMESE MILITARY OFFENSIVES DISPLACE 100,000 PEOPLE (NCA) AGREED, 48 ARMED CLASHES
THE UNHCR HAS DEVELOPED STRATEGIES FOR REPATRIATION, LOCAL CONSULTATION AND INFORMATION SHARING LACKING

2003 THE KNU AND GOVERNMENT SIGN THE CENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT, BUT BURMA ARMY CONTINUES MILITARY OFFENSIVES
2007 SAFFRON REVOLUTION
2008 NEW CONSTITUTION
2010 THE MILITARY-BACKED USDP WINS THE 2010 ELECTION, CONDEMNED AS A SHAM
2011 A NOMINALLY CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER, CONFLICTS BREAK OUT, INTENSIFIED FIGHTING AND CEASEFIRE BROKEN
2012 PRELIMINARY CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE KNU AND THE GOVERNMENT CUT IN REFUGEE SAN SUU KYI WINS A SEAT IN THE PARLIAMENT
2013 THAI AND BURMESE GENERALS AGREE ABOUT REFUGEES' RETURN TO BURMA, RESTRICTIONS ON REFUGEES' MOVEMENT
2014 2,000 KAREN ATTEMPT TO FLEE FIGHTING TO THAILAND