

Burma Link

Annual Report 2021



Prepared by Burma Link in April 2022

<https://www.burmalink.org>



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

MARGARET MEAD

Burma Link is an information-sharing organisation that advocates for the rights of Burma's marginalised ethnic nationalities and displaced conflict-affected communities, and amplifies their voices and stories locally and internationally.



Burma Link

Voices for Change.

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Cover image: Refugees in Mae La camp's main market on the Thailand-Burma border. Photo by Burma Link.

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Summary

Burma Link is a non-profit organisation that was set up in Mae La refugee camp in August 2012 to address vital unmet needs affecting Burma's ethnic nationalities and displaced people. Although the ethnic plight plays a central role in the lack of freedom, peace, and democracy in Burma, ethnic voices have been increasingly silenced since 2011 as the world has turned its attention towards central Burma. Burma Link aims to ensure that the voices of Burma's ethnic nationalities and displaced people, as well as the diverse Community Based Organisations (CBOs) and groups that represent them, are heard in Burma's reform process. Since the beginning, Burma Link has worked in collaboration with numerous ethnic, refugee, women, capacity building, human rights, media, and political and armed organisations that represent various ethnicities and envision a Federal Union of Burma. Whilst Burma Link's activities are currently paused until such time that we have adequate means to continue to a high standard in line with our mission and values, we are committed to keep Burma Link's vast resources freely available online to everyone interested in Burma issues and the plight of Burma's ethnic nationalities.

Background

Burma has experienced one of the biggest humanitarian crisis and most protracted refugee situations in the world. Millions of people from Burma, mostly ethnic nationalities in the country's borderlands, have fled armed conflicts and Burmese military-run war crimes and other severe human rights violations that have spanned over several decades. The changes in Burma's political landscape since 2011, and ceasefires signed between the Burma Army and some prominent ethnic resistance groups, have given a misleading image that peace is within reach – all the while abuse has continued in ethnic areas. The fragility of these highly touted reforms has been recently demonstrated by another military coup that took place in February 2021, followed by deadly crackdowns on peaceful protesters and intensified attacks in ethnic areas.

The civil war that started with the Karen armed resistance in 1949, following a failure to reach a political agreement, has been dubbed as the longest ongoing internal conflict in the world. The Burma Army, in order to defeat ethnic armed opposition, has targeted their military campaigns against ethnic civilians. The result has been ongoing persecution of ethnic villagers and destruction of more than 3,500 ethnic villages in eastern Burma alone. As the military has exerted repressive control over the resource rich ethnic borderlands all over the country, ethnic armies have fought to protect their lands and their people, and ethnic civilians have suffered the consequences.

The voices of Burma's ethnic nationalities have been silenced and suppressed for decades, and largely remain unheard inside Burma. The country's education system promotes the government's views and discourages critical thinking. Few have developed an understanding of the reasons for

the conflict and its human consequences, and many have adopted the military-pushed view that ethnic armies are waging a war to tear the country apart. Meanwhile, ethnic nationalities have endured killings, beatings, torture, forced labour, forced relocations, and the use of rape as a weapon of war, all committed in a culture of impunity.

For countless of ethnic civilians in exile and in Burma's borderlands, the peace process is a priority and constitutional change a necessity. The ethnic plight has always played a key role in the lack of freedom in Burma. In order to realise a free, peaceful and federal democratic Burma, marginalised ethnic nationalities and conflict-affected communities must be able to contribute towards political, social, and economic equality by actively participating in the peace and nation building processes that shape the country's future. Until there are solutions to the root causes of the conflict that address the political demands of ethnic resistance groups, there will be no peace or freedom for the ethnic people of Burma.

One of the best ways to measure the extent of Burma's reforms and progress is to listen to the voices and stories of Burma's marginalised ethnic communities. Burma Link is deeply grateful for the people of Burma who have courageously shared their voices and stories with us, and for the countless of individuals from all over the world who have selflessly dedicated their time and efforts to advance Burma Link's activities without any compensation. We continue to monitor the situation and are open for resuming our activities when we have the adequate means to do so to the high standards that we are known for. In the meantime, Burma Link's vast resources continue to be freely available online.

Vision, Mission and Values

Important note: Although Burma Link's activities remain paused, *the Vision, Mission and Values* outlined below continue to provide the guidelines for the organisation's behaviour and the potential resumption of our work in the future, unless otherwise stated.

Vision

Burma Link envisions a free, peaceful and federal democratic Burma where marginalised populations including ethnic nationalities and conflict-affected communities are inspired and able to contribute towards political, social, and economic equality by actively participating in the peace and nation building processes that shape the country's future. We envision the people of Burma achieving full human rights, justice, and equality, and celebrating unity-in-a rich diversity of perspectives, cultures, and customs.

Mission

Burma Link is an information sharing organisation that advocates for the rights of Burma's marginalised ethnic nationalities and displaced conflict-affected communities, and promotes national unity and genuine peace by:

1. Providing easy access to background information and latest updates on the armed conflict, displacement, and the peace process based on reports by local and international media and organisations. We update our website and social media channels daily with the latest news and publications, and produce monthly situation updates. We also maintain an extensive database of local and international media reports related to our focus areas and share this information with interested stakeholders.
2. Amplifying the voices of the disempowered and disenfranchised ethnic and displaced populations via publishing extensive life stories and in depth interviews of persons affected by conflict with unheard perspectives and from a variety of backgrounds, ethnicities, and locations.
3. Collaborating with a range of local organisations to build their capacity and empower them towards reaching their goals. We conduct research and produce advocacy tools for local organisations to use in their efforts to ensure that the re-building of Burma includes the diverse perspectives from the ground. We also advocate directly through activities such as arranging meetings with stakeholders, diplomatic briefing, and campaigns to promote genuine peace and rights-based policy.
4. Facilitating communication and information exchange between (1) national actors to create a common understanding and a shared vision for the future, and (2) national and international actors to ensure that the latter understand and appreciate local contexts and engage in inclusive and just approaches that respect the rights and uphold the voices of Burma's marginalised ethnic and displaced populations.

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.

Goals

Important note: Although Burma Link's activities remain paused, *the Goals* outlined below continue to provide the guidelines for the potential resumption of our work in the future, unless otherwise stated.

1. Help Burma's marginalised ethnic and displaced people 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 Burma's marginalised populations 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 vulnerable ethnic and conflict affected 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, and about 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 in Burma's ethnic areas 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 in Burma's rural conflict-affected ethnic areas. 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 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 that does not side-line ethnic organisations, refugees and other conflict-affected communities.

3. Help the people of Burma understand the dynamics in Burma's ethnic areas 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 in Burma's rural conflict-affected ethnic areas, 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.

4. Advocacy and influence on policy-making

Burma Link advocates for the rights of Burma's marginalised ethnic nationalities and displaced conflict-affected communities to ensure that the re-building of Burma includes the diverse perspectives from the ground.

Activities and Outcomes

Table 1. Summary of Burma Link’s goals, activities and outcomes in 2021

GOAL (1) Help Burma’s marginalised ethnic and displaced people reach out and have their voices heard	
Goal	Activity/Outcome
1.1. Publish voices of the people of Burma on Burma Link’s website	New publications have been paused since the end of January 2019. Past publications continue to be available on the website.
1.2. Broaden the audience and reach for voices of the people	The book of life stories “Lives on the Line” continues to be available for purchasing in English and Burmese in Mae Sot, Thailand, and in Burmese in book shops in Burma. Print and e-book versions of the English book are also available for purchasing at Lulu.com and Amazon.com.
1.3. Undertake projects that let the voices of the people be heard	All projects have been paused since February 2019.
1.4. Manage Agents of Change Leadership Program	The 3-day Empowered Life and Leadership Skills (ELLS) course remains freely accessible on Burma Link’s website online. The module is also available at the Curriculum Project in Mae Sot.
GOAL (2) Help the world reach in and understand the dynamics in Burma’s ethnic areas 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 focusing on Burma’s conflict and displacement situation. All information sharing remained paused in 2021. Existing resources continue to be freely available online.
2.2. Broaden international audience and reach.	Burma Link’s media updates, including on the website, have been paused since February 2019. The number of Burma Link’s English Facebook page followers stayed around 10,000 in 2021. Updates have been paused since February 2019.

	The number of Burma Link's Twitter followers stayed around 4,900 in 2021. Updates have been paused since February 2019.
GOAL (3) Help the people of Burma understand the dynamics in Burma's ethnic areas and on the Thailand-Burma border	
Goal	Activity/Outcome
3.1. Provide local actors with easy access to information on Burma Link's website	Burma Link's Burmese 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. The website also features voices of the people of Burma. Updates have been paused since April 2017. Continued selling "Lives on the Line" in Burmese in book shops inside Burma.
3.2. Broaden Burmese audience and reach	The number of Burma Link's Burmese Facebook page reduced slightly from around 3,800 in 2020 to around 3,700 in 2021. Updates have been paused since April 2017.
GOAL (4) Advocacy and influence on policy-making	
Goal	Activity/outcome
4.1. Publication and advocacy about IDPs and/or refugees	Burma Link's Burma/Myanmar Media Monitoring Database continues to be available online. Updates remained paused in 2021.
4.2. Publishing statements/op-eds on current issues	Remained paused in 2021.
4.3. Influencing through networking and cooperation	Remained paused in 2021.

Interviews and Stories

Publications on the website

Since 2013, Burma Link has been collecting stories from refugees, ethnic leaders, jungle medics, women activists, former political prisoners, migrant students, and freedom fighters along the Thailand-Burma border. These are unheard stories of incredible spirit and resilience, stories of courage, and voices of hope and dreams that have emerged from decades of oppression. Burma Link has also published numerous in-depth and issue-focused interviews, particularly with ethnic and women leaders.

New publications have been paused since February 2019 – the below stories and interviews represent some of our widely shared past publications.

- More stories and issue-focused interviews are available on the website: <http://www.burmalink.org/voices/>.

Selected interviews

1. 'Take Effective Action...Leading to the Emergence of an International Criminal Tribunal for Burma': Aung Htoo, Founder of Legal Aid Network

Published July 17, 2018



In this exclusive interview with Burma Link, Aung Htoo – Human Rights Lawyer and the Founder of Legal Aid Network (LAN) – discusses the human rights situation in Burma and how the country should approach justice and national reconciliation.

“National authorities in Burma – be they the ruling Burma military leaders as well the NLD government – are manifestly failing to protect their people and ethnic nationalities from genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The impunity – which has been profoundly prevailing particularly in ethnic states – negatively resulted in denial of the Rule of Law which has caused primary obstructions for peace, justice, freedom and development of the entire society.”

- Read [full interview on the website](#)

2. ‘They [Government] Are Just Doing a Show for the International Community, but They Really Want to Control the Ethnic Areas’: Moon Nay Li, General Secretary of KWAT

Published September 1, 2017



Kachin Women’s Association Thailand (KWAT) is a non-profit organization which works from Chiang Mai, Thailand, and advocates for ethnic women’s rights. KWAT places a strong focus on developing grassroots movements, in order to enhance women’s participation in political decision-making procedures and the ongoing peace process. In this interview,

Moon Nay Li emphasises the importance of ethnic women’s meaningful participation in the peace process and calls for ongoing cross-border aid and support as the situation on the ground keeps getting worse.

“Why do they [donors] cut and reduce IDP supporting and funding? They [IDPs] cannot return to [their] homes because the government will deploy [troops], this caused a lot of problems already. Still, you [donors] just give pressure for IDP returning. Some said to the international donors not to support the IDPs; ‘If [they] support the IDPs, that is support to the conflict.’ Their [government] propaganda is very, how can I say, opposite of the real situation. It is very wrong information. But most of international community will just listen and they cannot get the real information.”

- Read [full interview on the website](#)

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

Published October 20, 2014



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](#)

Selected stories

1. ‘FREEDOM is More Important than Anything’: Karen Major General Nerdah Bo Mya

Published June 15, 2016



Nerdah Bo Mya was born in a small Karen village in a KNU (Karen National Union) controlled area near Manerplaw—the former headquarters of the KNU and the pro-democracy movement—as the son of the late General Bo Mya who was the President of the KNU from 1976 to 2000. After being educated in Thailand and in the USA, the young graduate’s short visit to the Thailand-Burma border turned into a life-long mission. Nerdah is now the Major General and the Chief of Staff

of the Karen National Defence Organisation (KNDO). This empathetic “rebel” leader emphasises that it is not just the Karen people but the whole nation of 60 million people who are still suffering and need to be freed.

“Then I heard about the fighting, the political problems, and then the refugees started moving into Thailand. And then I realised that Karen people are not recognised and we need to gain back our freedom. They started talking about these things and every Friday the KNU leaders would come to our school and talk about the political situation, the military situation, and the refugees. So we listened and we learned, and I realised then, ‘we’ve got a problem...’”

- Read [full story on the website](#)

2. ‘Sometimes I Ask Myself, Do I Have a Country?’: Young Peace Builder and Refugee

Published September 15, 2016



Mee Lay is a 25-year-old inspiring young refugee woman who spent her early years in malaria infested jungle hideouts with constant food insecurity and struggle to go to school. Despite her childhood memories including bombings and flows of wounded soldiers, the biggest challenge for Mee Lay was attaining education. After years of struggle, she was finally able to access higher education in Nu Poe refugee camp, Thailand. Despite her

high level of education—clearly noticeable to anyone engaging with this young talented and open-minded woman—her education is not recognised in Burma nor in Thailand.

“During my studies, I learned many things and the school also taught me many things. At first I didn’t know how to communicate with people or speak. I didn’t have confidence in myself but when I attended school here I got more confidence and more motivation. And then I dared to say what I thought because I knew more [about] human rights.

- Read [full story on the website](#)

3. Story of a Jungle Medic and Ethnic Health Director: Saw Win Kyaw

Published March 14, 2014



Taking to the streets in the 8888 uprising, 17-year-old Saw Win Kyaw and thousands of other students were forced to flee to the jungle after the military took over power. Saw Win Kyaw trained as a medic and in 1995, helped to establish a bamboo hut clinic in the war-torn jungles of northern Karen State. He ran the clinic for over a decade, delivering babies in emergency conditions with no experience,

amputating more than 150 limbs with extremely limited equipment, and training hundreds of others in an attempt to promote a community-based health system in an area where health services were completely destroyed. Saw Win Kyaw is now the director of the Back Pack Health Worker Team and manages over 300 health workers across rural ethnic areas in Burma.

“The first time, I saw a patient with landmine injury and I brought him back to my clinic. At the time I was not experienced doing amputation for a human. So I wanted to refer him to a

Thai clinic or Thai hospital. At the time there was a lot of fighting and the local authority, local commander, he did not allow to send the patient to Thailand. He did not allow because of the fighting it would be more dangerous than for us to take care of him in my clinic. [...] It was very difficult for me, but I decided I need to do amputation in my clinic. At the time we had no blood bags, blood transfusion bags and also our staff had never experienced how to do amputation.”

- Read [full story on the website](#)

Interview series: Youth voices

Burma Link’s interview series amplify the voices of Burma’s marginalised ethnic nationalities and displaced conflict-affected communities.

See the links below for the interview series available on the website, published between 2015 and 2019.

- Youth voices: <https://www.burmalink.org/category/youth-voices/>
- Protracted displacement: <https://www.burmalink.org/category/voices/protracted-displacement/>
- Karen IDP stories: <https://www.burmalink.org/category/karen-idp-stories/>
- Unrecognised leaders documentary: <https://www.burmalink.org/category/voices/unrecognised-leaders-interviews/>
- Mon IDP report: <https://www.burmalink.org/category/voices/mon-idp-report-interviews/>
- Voices of refugees briefing paper: <https://www.burmalink.org/category/voices/voices-of-refugees/>

Book: Lives on the Line



In March 2016, Burma Link published a book, “Lives on the Line: Voices for Change from the Thailand-Burma Border,” that features a collection of life stories from the border area. These collected stories provide an inside perspective to the conflict, the history, and the current situation from those who have experienced it first-hand. The book continues to be sold in Mae Sot and in book shops across Burma. The English

book is also being sold as a print and e-book via Lulu.com and Amazon.com.

- Burma Link’s spotlight at Lulu.com: <https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/burmalink>

Key publications and resources

The publications presented below represent some of our past publications and resources that continue to be available online.

- For more, see <https://www.burmalink.org/about-us/burma-link-publications/>

Map of refugee and IDP camps along the Thailand-Burma/Myanmar border



In January 2018, we published a new map of refugee and IDP camps along the Thailand-Burma/Myanmar border created by Lucas Grigri / Burma Link. This map can be freely used and reproduced with credit to the author.

- Download the full-size map (PDF) here: <http://bit.ly/2ErnWGI>

Book: Thailand-Burma Border



Thailand-Burma Border
HISTORY AND CURRENT ISSUES

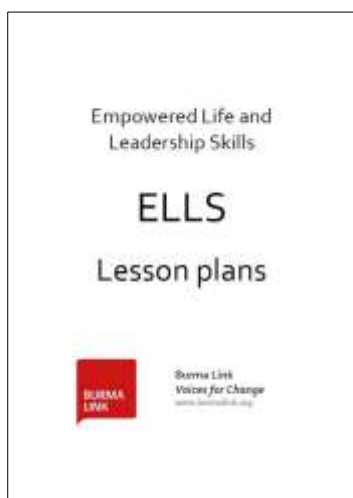


Arissa Zarlean

In February 2015, Burma Link published a book, “Thailand-Burma Border: History and Current Issues,” that provides an insight into the situation on the border and the lives of those who remain trapped in a limbo. The book is sold in Mae Sot as a print copy, and via Lulu.com and Amazon.com as a print copy and e-book.

- The book can be purchased at <https://www.lulu.com/spotlight/burmalink>

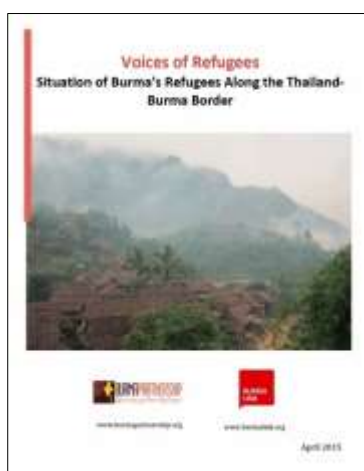
The ELLS training module



The 3-day Empowered Life and Leadership Skills (ELLS) training module was developed as part of Burma Link’s Agents of Change (AOC) project. The 3/4-day ELLS training aims at developing essential life and leadership skills such as confidence, honesty and courage, responsible citizenship, and the ability to effectively deal with others. The materials were developed for educated youth from Burma, but could be adjusted to other teaching environments. The ELLS training module continue to be freely accessible to download online. The module is also available at the Curriculum Project in Mae Sot.

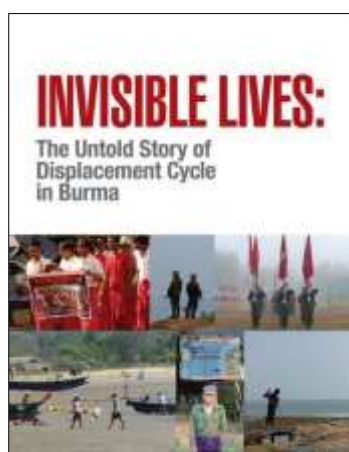
- Training materials can be downloaded as a zip file here: <https://www.burmalink.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/ELLS-all-training-materials.zip>

Briefing paper: Voices of Refugees



On April 27, 2015, Burma Link and Burma Partnership launched a a briefing paper “Voices of Refugees – Situation of Burma’s Refugees Along the Thailand-Burma Border” online, highlighting how the voices of refugees continue to be neglected in Burma’s reform process.

- [Download the briefing paper in English](#) | [Burmese](#)
- [Download the press release in English](#)



Report “Invisible Lives: The Untold Story of Displacement Cycle in Burma”

On August 12, 2016, Burma Link, Burma Partnership and Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFORM) launched a joint report titled, “Invisible Lives: The Untold Story of Displacement Cycle in Burma.” The report focuses on the concerns of the displaced ethnic nationality communities from Burma, particularly the ethnic Mon, living along Burma’s

southeast border. The report was launched in a press conference in Yangon on August 12, and in Moulmein, Mon State, on August 15, 2016.

- [Download the report in English](#) | [Burmese](#)
- [Download the press release in English](#) | [Burmese](#)
- Watch the 4-minute video “From Refugees to IDPs: Untold Story of Displacement Cycle in Burma” [in English](#) | [Burmese](#)

Documentary film “Unrecognised Leaders, Tomorrow’s Hope: Raising the Voices of Forgotten Youth”



On February 22, 2017, Burma Link, the Karen Student Network Group (KSNG) and the Karen Youth Organisation (KYO) launched a new documentary titled, “Unrecognised Leaders, Tomorrow’s Hope: Raising the Voices of Forgotten Youth” in Yangon. The documentary amplifies the voices of displaced ethnic youth who live on the Thailand-Burma border, highlighting their calls for inclusion in political processes and recognition of refugee education certificates. The advocacy and outreach for the documentary was supported by Right to Play and Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network.

- [Watch the full feature documentary on YouTube in English](#) | [Burmese](#)
- [Watch the short advocacy video \(4 minutes\) on YouTube in English](#)
- [Download the press release \(PDF\) in English](#) | [Burmese](#)
- [“Voices of Youth” website dedicated to this film and the cause](#)

Infographic briefer about Ei Tu Hta Internally Displaced Person (IDP) Karen Camp



On December 21, 2017, Burma Link published an infographic briefer about the Karen IDP camp Ei Tu Hta, which was cut off from long-standing international food aid in October 2017. The briefer is part of Burma Link’s [“Keep Supporting” Campaign](#), highlighting the urgent need for continuing the support for the IDPs. The briefer presents both information about the camp and voices of Ei Tu Hta camp leadership. It provides an overview of the camp’s history and demographics as well as the current situation regarding food and water supplies, health and education services, and obstacles to return.

- [Download \(PDF\) the briefer in English](#)

Short video -- 'We Don't Want to Go Back': Refugee on the Thailand-Burma Border



In 2013, Burma Link published a short video on YouTube, telling the story of U Soe Myint, a Karen refugee on the Thailand-Burma border, who fled Burma over 30 years ago and plans to never return. The video had 28k+ views on April 20, 2022.

- [Watch on YouTube](#)

Information Sharing

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 providing information about Burma’s armed conflict and displacement situation and amplifying the voices of Burma’s disempowered and disenfranchised ethnic and displaced populations.

English website

The information on Burma Link's English and Burmese websites are divided into three main parts: (1) Background Information, (2) Voices of the People, and (3) Resource Collection.

Burma Link's English website presents a host of background information on Burma and the Thailand-Burma border, the most comprehensive package of clearly referenced background information easily and freely accessible online. The background information has over 100 pages of clearly referenced information about Burma and the border, including images and statistics. The website also creates a platform for the people of Burma to have their voices and stories heard, and includes a comprehensive collection of resources including news, press releases, articles, multimedia, and reports published by Burma Link and partnering organisations.

Website updates have been paused since January 2019. All existing resources remain freely accessible on the website at <http://www.burmalink.org/>.

Burmese website

Burma Link's Burmese 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/>.

Social media accounts

English Facebook page can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/burmalink>. The page had app. 10,000 followers by April 20, 2022.

Twitter can be accessed at <https://twitter.com/burmalink>. The account had app. 4,900 followers by April 20, 2022.

Burmese Facebook page can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/burmalinkburmese>. The page had app. 3,700 followers by April 20, 2022.

YouTube account can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/user/burmalink>. The account had 103 subscribers by April 20, 2022.

Peace and conflict updates

To support easy access to information on the peace process and the conflict and displacement situation in Burma, Burma Link centralised the information and published monthly updates based on reports by local and international media and organisations until the end of the year 2017.

- The existing updates are available at <https://www.burmalink.org/peace-conflict-updates/>.

Burma/Myanmar media monitoring database

Date	Source	Title	Content
2016-1-14	Burma Herald	Government Forces Kill 100 in Ethnic Conflict	Government forces killed 100 people in ethnic conflict in northern Burma, according to a report by Burma Herald.
2016-1-14	Burma Herald	Human Rights Violations in Ethnic Conflict	Human rights violations were reported in ethnic conflict in northern Burma, according to a report by Burma Herald.
2016-1-14	Burma Herald	Political Developments in Burma	Political developments in Burma were reported, including discussions on the future of the country.

The Burma/Myanmar Media Monitoring Database focuses on ethnic issues, particularly conflict, displacement, human rights violations, and related topics. From May 2016 to November 2018, Burma Link systematically documented publications by local and national news sources, NGOs, and CBOs to a structured database. The database

provides day-by-day news monitoring, and represents an extensive source of information and resources that can contribute to further news reporting, academic studies or independent research on Burma issues.

- The database continues to be available at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1BehIVcUaVciJMR6mB2t2n0ki4W8y0oeJQVU-tHJB6WU/edit#gid=124430495>

Future Directions

At this time of global change, Burma Link foresees a significant rise in the use of digital media as well as increased interest in accessing information and stories from different cultures without physical travel. We are open for unexpected opportunities that these unusual circumstances may present for the organisation's future.

We would also like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has and/or continues to be part of our journey.

Burma Link advocates for Burma's ethnic nationalities and displaced people, and shares their stories and voices with the world.



Burma Link
Voices for Change.

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