



CHIN ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND, INC.

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Chin Pastor and Three Deacons in Mindat Attacked by Tatmadaw, Deacons Detained

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Washington, DC --- On Sunday, July 16, 2023, intoxicated Tatmadaw soldiers from Infantry Battalion 274 arrived at the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in the compound of the Presbyterian Church in Mindat, Chin State in Burma. Although the Tatmadaw had allowed the camp to be established, the soldiers complained that there were too many motorcycles present.

A pastor, Htang Kay On, and three church deacons, Chai Kay, Hon Chway and Hon Kay, were assisting IDPs at the time. The Tatmadaw soldiers beat Pastor On into unconsciousness and then abducted and detained the three deacons.

Pastor On received medical treatment after the incident. A press release from the Mindat People's Administration reports that the Tatmadaw denied the arrest and detention ever occurred. However, a CAM source familiar with the incident confirmed both the attack and detention. As of this statement, the whereabouts of the three deacons remain unknown.

CAM previously [reported](#) that Tatmadaw soldiers in Mindat occupied the Grace Baptist Church for five months to use as a base for fighting the Chinland Defense Force (CDF) - Mindat.

CAM issues the following statement:

1. Condemning the Tatmadaw for this illegal attack on Chin Christian leaders.
2. Calling on the Biden administration and U.S. Congress to issue their own condemnations and demands for the release of Chai Kay, Hon Chway, and Hon Kay.
3. Calling on the administration to determine that these continued atrocities against Christians in Burma constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

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The Chin Association of Maryland (CAM) is a non-profit organization based in Ellicott City, Maryland with an office in Washington, DC. CAM advocates for Chin and other refugees and internally displaced persons in Burma, religious freedom, and human rights. CAM also works to empower the local Chin community in Maryland to successfully integrate into American society.