



[CHIN ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND, INC.](http://www.chinmd.org)

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February 8, 2024

Press Release - CAM Held Hybrid Congressional Briefing Hosted by Rep. Chris Smith, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs

Burma: Rising Persecution of Christians in Burma and the Humanitarian Fallout

Washington D.C. – On Monday, January 29, 2024, the Chin Association of Maryland, Inc. (CAM) held a Hybrid Congressional Briefing hosted by Rep. Chris Smith, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Foreign Affairs at the Rayburn House Office Building (Room 2200) in Washington, D.C called the *Rising Persecution of Christians and the Humanitarian Fallout*. This briefing aimed to highlight the atrocities against Christians and urge the Congress and the Administration to do more to hold the Tatmadaw accountable and increase humanitarian aid.

Rep. Smith stated, “We must double our efforts...” in the fight for religious freedom.

Remarks were given by Rep. Smith; Frederick A. Davie, Vice Chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom; and U Aung Kyi Nyunt, Chairman of the Committee Representing Pyithu Hluttaw (Burma). The first panel spoke to the rising persecution of Christians and included Dr. Robin Stoops, Associate General Secretary, American Baptist Churches USA; Tim Siemens, CAM Board Chairman; Rev. Fr. Peter Dee De, pastor of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Indiana; Rebecca Maw, sister of the imprisoned pastor; Rev. Sang Hre of Indiana; and Rev. Ah Le, General Secretary of the Kachin Baptist Churches USA in Maryland. The second panel underscored the humanitarian fallout in Burma and included Rev. Dr. Roy Medley, Convenor of the Burma Advocacy Group; John Indergaard, Project and Research Coordinator; Esther Par, Research Intern; Abishag Cer, Research Intern; Htayni Sui, Research Volunteer, and Hannah Par, Research Volunteer.

USCIRF Vice Chair Davie stated, “The situation for Christians for Burma has deteriorated.” He went on to say, “We all hope to see real and lasting change in Burma that will allow the people to live in peace and to fully realize their right to worship.”

Rev. Dr. Roy Medley stated, “Now is the time for stronger action on behalf of a people suffering because of their faith; a people struggling for justice, freedom and democracy.”

Zo Tum Hmung, Executive Director of CAM indicated, “I urge Congress to adopt a resolution condemning atrocities against the Christian minority in Burma and urging the military to stop the violence. I also call on the Biden administration to determine that the atrocities against Christians in Burma constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.”

The event was co-sponsored by the Office of International Justice and Peace of the United States

Conference of Catholic Bishops, American Baptist Churches USA, DC Baptist Convention, Burma Advocacy Group, Boat People SOS, International Campaign for the Rohingya, and 21Wilberforce. Individuals who co-sponsored the event included Scott Stearman, Ph.D. of the U.N. Representative Baptist World Alliance (ECOSOC)/Cooperative Baptist Fellowship; U Aung Kyi Nyunt, Chairman of the Committee Representing Pyithu Hluttaw (Burma); U Moe Zaw Oo, Deputy Union Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Unity Government; and U Aung Kyaw Moe, Deputy Union Minister of the Ministry of Human Rights, National Unity Government.

At the event, CAM released two reports: the [Public Health on the Indo-Burma Border The Situation of Chin Refugees in Mizoram](#) and the [Chin Association of Maryland 2023 Annual Report: The Persecution of Christians in Burma](#).

A recording of the event can be found [here](#) and can be accessed with passcode: O7%fDx!q.

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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.