

PRESS RELEASE: Chin Association of Maryland changes its name to the Burma Research Institute and Names a New Board Chair

March 7, 2025

Ellicott City, Maryland—The Chin Association of Maryland (CAM) has changed its name to the Burma Research Institute (BRI). Reverend Dr. Robin Stoops, a longtime pastor and regional and national leader in the American Baptist Churches USA, will be the BRI Board Chairman. Zo Tum Hmung, CAM’s Executive Director, will serve as President and CEO of BRI. Reverend Timothy Siemens, Chair of the Board of CAM, will step down as chair, while continuing to serve as an Advisory Board Member.

“We are excited about the organizational name change to the Burma Research Institute (BRI),” said Zo Tum Hmung, President of BRI. “It signals a broader focus on all the people of Burma but also a deeper focus on research and advocacy.”

“We are very grateful for the generous service and contributions of Reverend Timothy Siemens as CAM’s Board Chairman for over five years, and we look forward to continuing to work with him as a Board Advisor. “And we also welcome Reverend Dr. Robin D. Stoops, a longtime Baptist pastor and leader, who now is serving as the BRI Chairman of the Board.”

The Burma Research Institute (BRI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the United States that conducts research and advocacy, primarily on freedom of religion or belief, human rights, and protection and assistance of refugees and internally displaced people in Burma. Formerly known as the Chin Association of Maryland, BRI also empowers the local Chin community in Maryland to successfully integrate into American society.

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