

PRESS RELEASE:

51 Christian organizations and advocacy groups urged Secretary of State Marco Rubio to determine that the human rights abuses and systematic violations of religious freedom targeting Christians in Burma constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes.

March 7, 2024

Washington, D.C.—The Burma Research Institute, formerly called the Chin Association of Maryland, is releasing a letter from 51 Christian organizations and advocacy groups including the American Baptist Churches USA, Baptist World Alliance, Burmese American Catholics for Peace and Justice and Burma Advocacy Group to Secretary of State Marco Rubio. We urged Secretary Rubio to determine that the human rights abuses and systematic violations of religious freedom or belief targeting Christians committed by the Burmese security forces also known as the Tatmadaw, constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes. Such a determination would be an important step towards accountability for the Tatmadaw, to cease the violence against civilians and protect ethnic and religious minority groups, including Christians.

"Baptists are among the many Christians and other people of faith being persecuted by the Burmese military. We sign on to this letter to say enough is enough. We urge Secretary Rubio to determine that the systematic violation of religious freedom by the Tatmadaw constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes, said Reverend Dr. Roy Medley, General Secretary Emeritus and Executive Director of the Burma Advocacy Group.

Zo Tum Hmung, President and CEO, Burma Research Institute, formerly known as the Chin Association of Maryland, concluded, "The people of Burma have suffered the Tatmadaw's human rights violations for decades. The Tatmadaw has escalated its violence against civilians since the February 2021 military coup. We need the United States' help to ease the violence against the civilians in Burma."

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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