



BURMA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

REMARKS

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Hybrid IRF Roundtable with U.S. Government
Time: Apr 22, 2025 10:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Location: Cannon House Office Building, Cannon Caucus Room
27 Independence Ave SE, Washington, DC 20003

First, I would like to let you know that our name, Chin Association of Maryland, has changed to Burma Research Institute as we would like to emphasize our research activities.

As many of you may be aware, a deadly earthquake struck Burma on March 28.

The earthquake killed at least 3,700 people, injured 4,800 more and left 129 still missing. The UN and its partners launched a \$275 million appeal to provide assistance, [issued by the UN News on April 18](#). The United States pledged \$9 million for humanitarian aid.

The Burmese military, also known as Tatmadaw, announced a temporary ceasefire from April 2-22. Nonetheless, despite earthquake recovery efforts, the Tatmadaw's jet fighters have continued to bomb religious buildings such as Buddhist monasteries and churches targeting Christians.

Here are two examples:

April 8, after the ceasefire announcement, the fighter jets destroyed [Christ the King Catholic Church in Falam](#), Chin State. I lived there for 5 years. The Church members had no place to gather for Easter Sunday.

Then on Palm Sunday, April 13, the fighter jets deliberately destroyed [the Baptist Church in Mindat](#), Chin State.

On March 7, 2025, churches and community organizations in the United States sent [a letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio](#) urging him to determine that the Tatmadaw's atrocities constitute crimes against humanity and war crimes. Please join us.

We are asking the United States to defend and protect civilians from the airstrikes. The people of Burma need the anti-airstrikes systems and capability. They need early warning systems and other means of protection.

We invite you to join us next Monday, April 28, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. [for a Congressional briefing on Burma](#) in Rayburn 2200. Thank you.

***The Burma Research Institute (BRI)** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in the United States that conducts research and advocacy. BRI primarily focuses 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 and across the United States to successfully integrate into American society. (www.burmari.org).*