



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

www.state.gov

March 27, 2025

Zo Tum Hmung
President
Burma Research Institute

Dear Zo Tum Hmung:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Rubio. The Administration is paying close attention to the abuses faced by members of Burma's ethnic and religious minority groups, including Christians, and deeply values your input. I am responding on behalf of Secretary Rubio to discuss our support for human rights and religious liberty in Burma.

The United States is committed to safeguarding the right to freedom of religion or belief around the world. Burma's military regime committed atrocities against members of ethnic and religious minority groups across Burma for decades, and impunity has fueled more violations in the aftermath of the 2021 coup. The Department of State has worked to impose costs on the military regime and advance justice for all affected groups through several lines of effort, including visa restrictions on officials and financial sanctions, and has provided support to the Independent Investigative Mechanism for Myanmar.

Like you, we are deeply concerned about the unjust detention of numerous religious actors in Burma, as President Trump cited in his reauthorization of the national emergency with respect to the situation in Burma. We welcomed the release of Reverend Dr. Samson and issued a public statement calling on the regime to immediately release the many other individuals it has unjustly detained. We unequivocally condemn the military regime's escalating violence against civilians, destruction of houses of worship, and systemic persecution and discrimination against members of all religious and ethnic minority groups.

We appreciate your organizations' readiness to provide information on the worsening situation on the ground and are grateful for your recommendations. We stand in solidarity with victims, survivors, and all those in Burma who are facing the military regime's ongoing repression and escalating violence.

I express our sincere thanks for your letter. The Department of State remains committed to working with you to support the people of Burma. May God bless America and the people of Burma.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. K. O'Neill', written in a cursive style.

Sean K. O'Neill
Senior Bureau Official
Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs