



BURMA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

RSVP Here



Contact: Esther Par, Coordinator
Research and Advocacy
Mobile: 816-385-2309
estherpar@burmari.org

October 17, 2025

INVITATION

Ellicott City, MD -----[The Burma Research Institute](#) (BRI), formerly the Chin Association of Maryland (CAM), invites you to join the 5th Hybrid Congressional Briefing on Burma. BRI is grateful to Rep. Young Kim (R, CA-40), Chairwoman of East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs, for her assistance in securing the briefing room.

U.S. Policy on Burma: Opportunities and Challenges

Date: Thursday, November 6, 2025

Time: 12:00pm - 1:30pm (EST)

Location: Rayburn Office Building (Room 2200)
45 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20515

Attendance: In – person or Virtual (Zoom)

[RSVP Here](#). (*Light Refreshments will be served*)

PROGRAM

Moderator: Reverend Dr. Robin Stoops. Chairman, BRI's Board of Directors and Associate General Secretary (retired), American Baptist Churches USA

12pm-12:15pm: Light Refreshment

12:15pm - 12:35pm: Remarks

- Rep. Young Kim (R, California - 40), Chairwoman, East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs. **Confirmed.**
- Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-New York), Ranking Member, U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee. **Invited.**
- Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas), Member, the U.S Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. **Invited.**

- Sen. James Lankford (R-Oklahoma), Sponsored **S. Res. 52** (religious freedom). *Invited.*
- Sen. Pete Ricketts (R-Nebraska), Chairman, Subcommittee on East Asia, The Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy of the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. *Invited.*
- U Aung Kyi Nyunt, Chairman of the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), Myanmar. *Confirmed*

12:35pm - 1:00pm: Panelists (Confirmed)

- U Moe Zaw Oo, Counselor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Unity Government, Myanmar
- Daw Myat Thida Htun, Chairwoman of the International Relations Committee, CRPH
- Lucky Karim, Founder and Executive Director, Refugee Women for Peace and Justice
- Reverend Saw Ler Htoo, General Secretary of the Karen Baptist Churches USA
- Esther Par, Coordinator of Research and Advocacy, BRI
- Senior officials from the State Department. *invited*

1pm - 1:25pm: Q and A - Moderator

1:25pm - 1:30pm: Concluding Remarks

- Zo Tum Hmung, President and CEO, BRI

UN Human Rights High Commissioner Volker Turk [stated](#) at the 60th session of the Human Rights Council that “Since the coup, more than 7,000 civilians have been killed by the military and some 30,000 people have been arrested on political grounds. In August alone, a reported 277 civilians were killed across the country”. Mr. Turk further said that “some 350,000 people have been displaced in Rakhine and Chin States since November 2023, and some 150,000 Rohingya have crossed into Bangladesh seeking safety. Reported figures of 3.3 million displaced since the coup are likely an underestimation”.

The military regime, known as the State Security and Peace Commission (SSPC), continues systematic violations of religious freedom in Burma targeting religious minorities, including Christians. On March 7, 2025, BRI and other religious and community organizations in the United States wrote [a letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio](#) urging the Secretary to “determine that the human rights abuses and systematic violations of religious freedom or belief targeting Christians in Burma 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”. On behalf of Secretary Rubio, we received an [encouraging response](#) to our letter from a Senior Bureau Official on March 27, 2025.

Despite on-going violence, mass displacement and a humanitarian crisis in Burma, the military plans to hold [a sham general elections](#) beginning December 28, 2025. The National Unity Government (NUG), [issued a statement](#) opposing the sham election and calling the international community to denounce it.

During the Congressional briefing, panelists will provide updates on the situation in Burma, reflect on US policy toward Burma and provide recommendations to the Administration and the Congress.

The Burma Research Institute (BRI) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Ellicott City, Maryland, 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). ###