



CHIN ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND, INC.

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January 24, 2024

Peter Lohman  
Director for Southeast Asia  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

**Re: The Burmese military's atrocities against the country's Christian minority**

Dear Mr. Lohman,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us today and for allowing me to submit this letter.

I am submitting this letter urging the Administration to determine atrocities committed by the Burmese military against the country's Christian minority as war crimes and crimes against humanity. The Chin Association of Maryland (CAM) has been investigating and documenting these atrocities since the military coup on February 1, 2021.

I previously submitted a letter to your predecessor Ms. Henrietta Levin on June 20, 2023, urging the administration to take this action. My letter is enclosed here. Since then, the military, also known as the Tatmadaw, has only escalated its targeted persecution of Christians.

As fighting intensified in Burma, the military launched a series of airstrikes against the civilian population, killing eight children and three other children in a November 15 strike on Vuilu village. These strikes have also destroyed Christian churches in Vuilu and the towns of Lailenpi and Rezua.

On November 27, 2023, the Tatmadaw occupied the Christ the King Cathedral in Loikaw to use it as a military base. The bishop, resident priests, and all staff were forced to evacuate.

Further examples can be found in CAM's September 25 article in Christianity Today, "Myanmar's Christians: As Our Churches Burn and People Flee, We Need the US's Help," attached [here](#).

I am deeply grateful to the administration for its recent sanctions against Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise. Making a determination of war crimes and crimes against humanity regarding the Tatmadaw's targeting of Christians would be another important step for accountability.

My home state of Chin borders Rakhine State, where the Rohingya faced genocide and crimes against humanity at the hands of the military. In the absence of sustained pressure and preventive action from the United States, I am deeply concerned that Burma's Christians may suffer the same fate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zo Tum Hmung', written in a cursive style.

Zo Tum Hmung  
Executive Director