



BURMA RESEARCH INSTITUTE

PRESS RELEASE

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Burma Research Institute Releases the Remarks of President Zo Tum Hmung at the IRF Roundtable with the U.S. Government

Tuesday, November 25, 2025, from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Good morning!

I am Zo Tum Hmung, President of the Burma Research Institute (BRI).

Thank you for the opportunity to talk about the systematic violations of religious freedom in Burma.

As you probably already know, [DHS Secretary Noem announced](#) the termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Burma effective January 26, 2026. This is not good news for the people from Burma. I have friends, mostly Christian minister, who are here with TPS. The rationale for the Secretary's decision was, "Burma has made notable progress in governance and stability". This is not correct. The Burmese military has continued atrocities against religious minorities including Christians.

On November 20, 2025, the [Khonumthung Burmese](#) reported that the Burmese military's fighter jets dropped bombs twice on Thuklai village in Chin State, Burma on November 19 at midnight Myanmar Time. The bombs destroyed the church called Assembly of God and the school.

The source, who is familiar with the situation on the ground, told BRI that there was no conflict or fighting, at the time of the bombing, between the resistance groups and the Burmese military at Thuklai village. The source further said that the resistance groups were not hiding at the Church as they are also Christians.

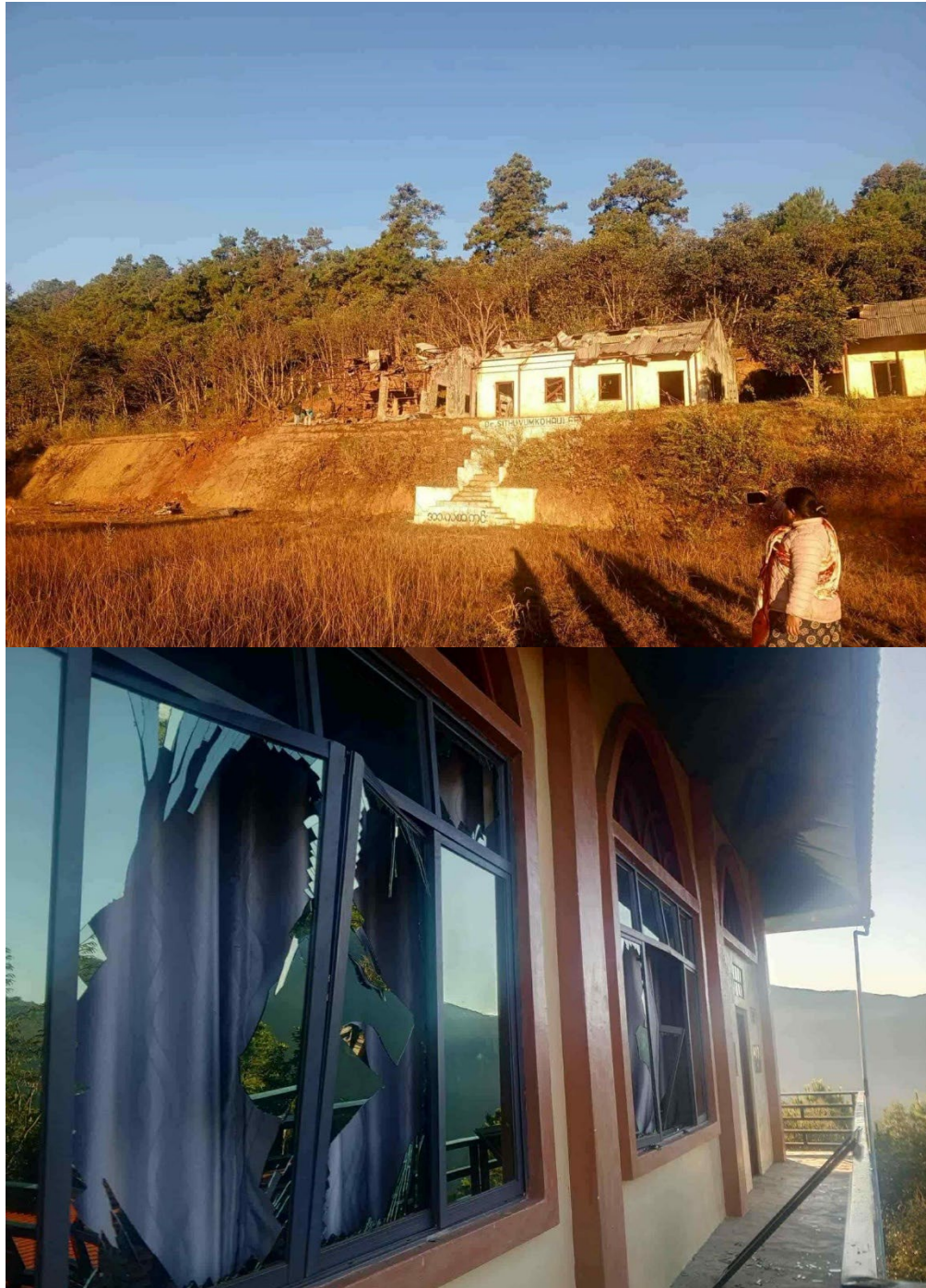
I would like to urge the Administration to protect religious freedom in Burma. Thank you.

Additional resources:

- Letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio by Christian and community organizations in the U.S. – [LINK](#)
- The State Department's Response to the above letter – [LINK](#)
- USCIRF: A Religious Freedom Lifeline to Burma's Persecuted People of Faith Needs to be Extended – [LINK](#)

**Below are photos of the damage done at Thuklai village by the airstrikes
Photos were provided to BRI by an anonymous source**





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).