Michael George DeSombre
Assistant Secretary of State

May 6, 2026

Dear Burma Research Institute:

Thank you for the March 23 letter to Secretary Rubio sent on behalf of the coalition of Christian leaders and organizations seeking protections for Christians in Burma. The Secretary asked that I respond on his behalf.

The Department values your continued engagement and the comprehensive documentation provided by the Burma Research Institute recounting military attacks against Christians across Burma. The United States remains deeply concerned about the ongoing conflict and has repeatedly condemned the violence that has harmed the people of Burma and discrimination against members of religious and ethnic minority groups.

The attacks you documented, including the April 8, 2025, destruction of Christ the King Catholic Church in Falam and the April 13, 2025, Palm Sunday airstrike on Mindat Baptist Church, reinforce the need for accountability for all those who commit human rights abuses in Burma. Thank you for the ten recommendations outlined in your letter.

The Department of State continues to promote accountability among those responsible through visa restrictions and financial sanctions. We will carefully review each of your recommendations and assess how we can most effectively pressure the military regime to cease

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violence that harms civilians, ensure unhindered humanitarian access across the country, release political prisoners, and engage in meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders to end the crisis.

Regards,

Michael George DeSombre