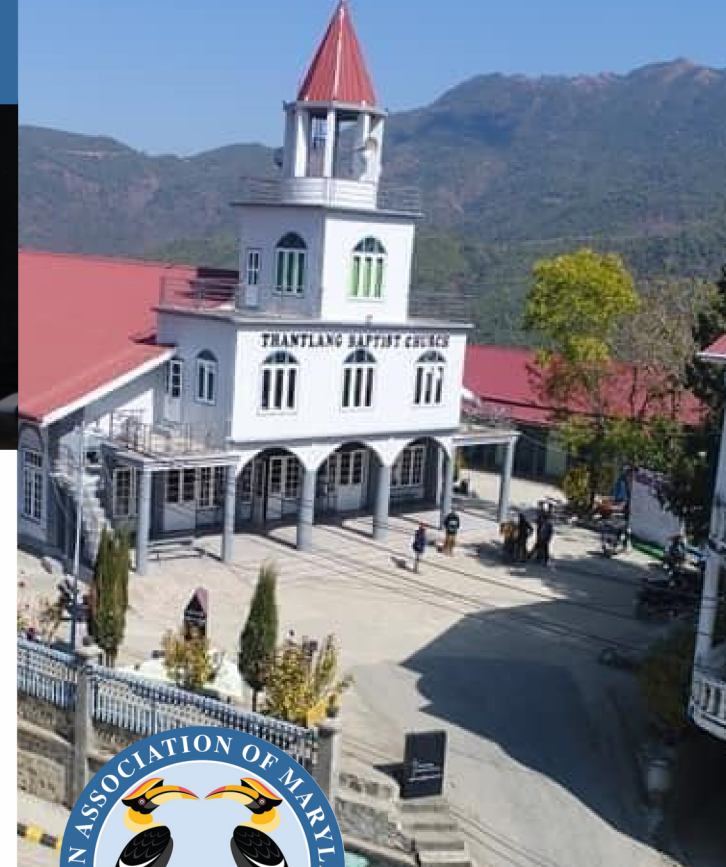


Advocacy

Community Programs



Chin Association of Maryland



United States and UN



CAM aims to inform and influence U.S. policy through congressional briefings and meetings with the Biden administration, Congress, and government agencies.

On Sept. 18, 2023, CAM held a congressional briefing at Senate offices: *Escalating Atrocities Against Christians in Burma*.



CAM's engagement with the United Nations includes a side event at the 53rd session of the Human Rights Council and a statement at the 54th session.



Visit our website to learn more about CAM's programming for the Chin community!

- Chin New Year Celebrations
- College Preparation
- Community Garden
- Sports Tournaments
- Advocacy and Leadership Training

Social Media

Follow CAM on Twitter (@ChinMaryland) or Facebook (Chin Association of Maryland) for updates on our activities.



Contact Us

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IRF Summit

CAM has organized delegations of Chin pastors and youth to present at the International Religious Freedom Summit in Washington, DC every year since the Summit began in 2021.

Who We Are

Research



IDPs and Refugees



Background



The Chin people are an ethnic and religious minority in Northwest Burma numbering over 1 million, with 500,000 in Chin State alone.

Chin leaders were signatories of the 1947 Panglong Agreement, which promised autonomy for “Frontier Areas” like Chin State, but was never implemented.

Today, approximately 85% of Chins in Burma are Christians and face persecution by the military junta.



About CAM

The Chin Association of Maryland, Inc. (CAM) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Ellicott City, Maryland, with an office in Washington, DC. CAM empowers the Chin community in Maryland to successfully integrate into American society.

CAM also advocates for humanitarian assistance and durable solutions for Chin and other refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), and for religious freedom and human rights in Burma. CAM is a member of the Refugee Council USA coalition.

Since the 2021 Burmese military coup, CAM has published 4 reports on religious persecution in Burma and the situation of IDPs and refugees with the help of contacts and consultants on the ground.

CAM has also undertaken field trips to Mizoram State, India, to assess the humanitarian situation of Chin refugees and the host community.



Religious Persecution



Every year since 1999, the State Department has designated Burma a “Country of Particular Concern” for discrimination against the Christian and Muslim minorities. This persecution dates back to the first military takeover in 1962 and has only worsened.

Since the 2021 coup, the Burmese military has escalated the persecution of Christians, burning churches and targeting religious leaders for arbitrary detention, imprisonment, and killing.

CAM makes the following recommendations:

1. For the Biden administration to determine the Burmese military’s atrocities against Christians to be war crimes and crimes against humanity;
2. For Congress to adopt a resolution condemning the Burmese military’s atrocities against Christians and calling for an immediate end to the violence.

Due to military violence, 1 million people are internally displaced in Chin State and the neighboring Sagaing and Magway Regions. 55,000 more are refugees in India.

In Mizoram State, India alone, there are 40,000 mostly Chin refugees. Due to the ethnic and kinship ties between Chins and Mizos, the local community has welcomed refugees with open arms. However, more international support is needed to achieve a sustainable response.

Location	IDPs/Refugees
Northwest Burma	1,072,200
India (total)	55,000
Mizoram	40,000

CAM recommends:

1. Access to Mizoram for international organizations and relevant UN agencies in Mizoram, especially UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP;
2. Cross-border assistance for IDPs over the Indo-Burma border;
3. Increased international support for Mizoram’s refugee response.

