



[CHIN ASSOCIATION OF MARYLAND, INC.](http://www.chinmd.org)

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## **Life Imprisonment for Chin Pastor Biak Mawi Sung**

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**Washington, DC** --- The Chin Association of Maryland (CAM) has confirmed with sources on the ground that Pastor Biak Mawi Sung, 45, was sentenced to life imprisonment by a military court in Hakha under Section 50 (J) of the Counter-Terrorism Law on September 29, 2023. Pastor Sung was accused of providing financial support to the Chinland Defense Force and held in a Hakha prison.

Pastor Sung was traveling to the city of Mandalay for a medical checkup along with two relatives when she was arrested on May 22, 2023, by soldiers from LIB 266 at an army checkpoint near Rungtlang, Hakha. She was ordered to get off her bus and hand her cellphone over. Pastor Sung's relatives were also arrested but later released.

This is the maximum punishment under Section 50 (J) of the Counter-Terrorism Law. Since the Tatmadaw had imposed martial law in Chin State, the military made this ruling without proper legal proceedings.

Pastor Sung, a native of Hakha, has two children, aged 11 and 13. She received her Bachelor of Theology degree from Chin Christian University and served as a pastor of Bethel Baptist Church in Hakha. She also served at the Hakha Baptist Churches in Hakha township. At the time of arrest, she was involved in caring for displaced people at the campus of Chin Christian University.

RFA Burmese reported the arrest and imprisonment of Ms. Sung on October 4, 2023. CAM has verified this information with sources on the ground, who also confirmed the use of 50 (J) in this case.

CAM issues the following statement:

1. Condemning the Burmese military's persecution of Pastor Biak Mawi Sung and other Chin Christian religious leaders.
2. Calling on the administration to determine that continued military atrocities against Christians in Burma constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.

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*The Chin Association of Maryland (CAM) is a non-profit organization based in Ellicott City, Maryland with an office in Washington, DC. CAM advocates for Chin and other refugees and internally displaced persons in Burma, religious freedom, and human rights. CAM also works to empower the local Chin community in Maryland to successfully integrate into American society.*