



December 5, 2023

Press Release

The Burma Advocacy Group Decries Violence Against Burma Christians

Over recent months the illegitimate military regime in Burma and its military (Tatmadaw) have increased their assault upon the Christian and notably Baptist community in Burma as detailed by the Chin Association of Maryland, Mr. Zo Tum Hmung, director.

In September of this year, Pastor Biak Mawi Sung was sentenced to life imprisonment by a military court without recourse to proper legal proceedings. The sentence was carried out against her under the Counter-Terrorism Law imposed by the regime.

In November, 2023, CAM) also documented the summary executions of Rev. Mang Kui of the Kanpetlet Baptist Church and his son, Salai Lii Mang, by the military. CAM confirmed that the execution of Rev. Kui was carried out by a soldier in plain-clothes who shot the pastor in the head at close range. After his son arrived to retrieve his father's body, he, too, was killed by the military which then proceeded to open fire on nearby civilians.

Indiscriminate airstrikes against civilian areas in Lailenpi, Chin State, have resulted in four deaths and the destruction of the Mara Evangelical Church.

Most recently, the Tatmadaw has shelled and then occupied the Cathedral Compound of Christ the King in the Karenni State. The compound was housing 82 people, including 10 priests at the time of the shelling. Upon their evacuation, the Tatmadaw seized the center.

The Burma Advocacy Group notes that these assaults continue a premeditated campaign against Christians in Burma in which countless churches have been targeted and destroyed and Christian leaders have been arrested, imprisoned, or murdered. We are painfully aware that this release will be soon outdated as the junta presses its relentless assault.

We continue to call for the release of Rev. Dr. Hkalam Samson, former General Secretary of the Kachin Baptist Convention of Burma and the Rev. Thian Lian Sang, a Chin pastor who have been falsely imprisoned by the regime.

The Burma Advocacy Group:

1. Condemns these violations of human rights including religious freedom and calls for accountability for those responsible. We, with CAM, urge the administration to determine these acts to constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity.
2. Calls upon the administration to release funds appropriated for non-lethal military aid for Burma
3. Urges the administration to assist the National Unity Government and others to prepare for a peaceful and orderly transition to a federal democracy as the military junta's hold on Burma weakens.

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