

## POLITICAL MONITOR NO.13

### OFFICIAL MEDIA

#### **UNION PEACE MAKING WORK TEAM AND NCCT HOLD TALKS**

The government's Union Peacemaking Work Committee led by President's Office Minister Aung Min and an eight-member team of the National Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) led by General Secretary of the Karen National Union (KNU) Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, launched three day talks on 21 May. During the first two days the two sides discussed the first draft single text document for a nation-wide ceasefire though reference was made towards the six-point principles as proposed by Burmese Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing.

However, regarding the definition of the word "Revolution", KNU leader Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win stated that it would be discussed at the next meeting, with the time and place to be determined later. Colonel Khun Okkar of the PNLO stated that the question on the inclusion of the Three Main National Causes in the document and definition of these three points were also raised by the NCCT during the meeting.

On the 22 May the two sides agreed to extend the meeting until Friday 23 May in order to conclude discussions on the two remaining chapters of a single text document for a nationwide ceasefire. The meeting was also attended by high-ranking military officials including Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Lt-Gen Thein Htay and Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn from the Ministry of Defence.<sup>1</sup>

#### **UNION PEACE-MAKING WORK COMMITTEE HOLDS TALKS WITH LOCALS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND POLITICAL PARTIES IN KACHIN STATE**

Union Peace-Making Work Committee (UPWC) held separate talks with towns-elders, national race representatives, leaders of eight Christian associations and political parties in Kachin State on peace process at a meeting hall of Kachin State government office on 12 May. At the meeting, Vice-chairman of the Union Peace-Making Work Committee work committee Aung Min, affirmed the government's commitment to peace process, saying that a series of meetings for ensuring peace and stability in Kachin State are underway. He vowed to strive for holding a political dialogue after reaching the ceasefire despite continued clashes between the two sides during the Thingyan period in April. Chairman of People's Parliament National Race Affairs and Internal Peace Committee Thein Zaw, also called for building trust at the negotiating table while implementing the results of previous meetings through cooperation and also stressed the importance of maintaining the agreements for making remarkable progress. A success story could be made through cooperation of everyone concerned and mass participation in the peace process, he added.<sup>2</sup>

#### **NLD, 88 GENERATION GROUPS LAUNCH SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN TO AMEND CONSTITUTION**

The Constitutional amendment campaign took place at Bo Sein Hman Sports Ground in Yangon on 17 May and was attended by leader of the National League for Democracy Aung San Suu Kyi, NLD CEC member Win Myint and leader of the 88 Generation Students Peace and Open Society Min Ko Naing. At the talks, Min Ko Naing clarified why the amendment of Section 436 is needed for further

<sup>1</sup> Participants of UPWC-NCCT meeting hope to conclude second draft single text document at Thursday's meeting – <http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/22/05/2014/id-9300> (NLM) 22 May 2014 (p. 1)/ UPWC, NCCT extend meeting on drafting text for ceasefire until Friday – <http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/23/05/2014/id-9344> (NLM) 23 May 2014 (p. 1)

<sup>2</sup> Union Peace-Making Work Committee holds talks with towns-elders, national race representatives, leaders of Christian association, political parties – <http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/13/05/2014/id-9167> (NLM) 13 May 2014 (p. 1)

changes to the Constitution and called on those present to take part in a NLD-88 alliance's nationwide signature campaign that will begin on 27 May till 19 July this year to drum up public support for amending Section 436. In her call for constitutional reform, Aung San Suu Kyi expressed her willingness to amend the Constitution as a way of strengthening national reconciliation and allowing mature and respected democratic practices. She also reiterated her support for constitutional amendments which is critical to building trust in the parliament within the rule of law framework.<sup>3</sup>

### **C-IN-C MEETS MINISTER OF NATIONAL DEFENCE OF PRC**

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by State Councillor and Minister of National Defence of the People's Republic of China General Chang Wanquan in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 May. The two leaders exchanged views on developing the two countries' and the two armed forces' relations as well as maintenance of stability at the border region.<sup>4</sup>

### **BURMA HOSTS ASEAN SUMMIT FOR THE FIRST TIME**

Burmese President Thein Sein opened the 24th ASEAN Summit in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 May with a speech highlighting Burma's action plan to address climate change as extreme weather patterns have affected ASEAN countries with "increased frequencies and ferocity" each year. His other main point focused on ASEAN Community building and poverty reduction. The president said that the priority of Burma's ASEAN chairmanship is to accomplish the remaining tasks of the ASEAN Community building "through undertaking initiatives such as promotion of good governance, working for progress on the ASEAN Agreement for Protection of Rights of Migrant Workers and concluding the ASEAN Communication Master Plan." He also emphasized the importance of promoting the "resilience of ASEAN economies and equitable economic development," saying this could be achieved by enhancing "productivity, competitiveness and innovation in ASEAN, especially with small and medium sized enterprises, and the establishment of the ASEAN SME Development Fund as outlined in the ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint."

The 24th ASEAN Summit was the first in the series of ASEAN Leader's Meetings under Burma's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014 under the theme "Moving forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community". The 24th ASEAN Summit Plenary Meeting Summit was hosted and chaired by the Burmese President Thein Sein and attended by the Heads of State/Government of the ASEAN Member States. At the Meeting, the Leaders discussed the progress of implementation of the Roadmap for ASEAN Community, Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plan II, Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) which were submitted by the Secretary-General of ASEAN; the future directions of ASEAN Community by taking into account the progress reports of ACCWG on Post-2015 ASEAN Vision and the High Level Task Force (HLTF) on Strengthening the ASEAN Secretariat and Reviewing the ASEAN Organs and ASEAN's External Relations.

As well as chairing the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit (Plenary) Burma also hosted the ASEAN Retreat, the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meetings, the 11th ASEAN Political and Security Community Council Meeting and the 14th ASEAN Coordinating Council Meeting, the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting with the Representatives of AIPA and the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting with the Representatives of ASEAN Youth in Nay Pyi Taw from 10 to 11 May 2014. ASEAN Heads of State/Government exchanged views on current regional and international issues including the recent political unrests in Thailand and ongoing developments in South China Sea disputes. President Thein Sein also held separate talks

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<sup>3</sup> NLD, 88 Generation call for amendment of Section 436 with launch of signature campaign – <http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/18/05/2014/id-9231> (NLM) 18 May 2014 (p. 1 & 3)

<sup>4</sup> C-in-C meets Minister of National Defence of PRC – <http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/19/05/2014/id-9245> (NLM) 20 May 2014 (p. 8)

with the prime ministers of Vietnam and Singapore and attended the meeting of ASEAN Leaders' meeting with Representatives of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA).<sup>5</sup>

## UNOFFICIAL MEDIA

### WA OFFICIAL DISPELS CLAIM OF WA STATE "CRIMEA STYLE" SECESSION

A leader of the United Wa State Party (UWSP) has said the Wa-controlled areas in Shan State will under no circumstances seek a 'Crimea-style' secession from Burma with the support of China. "Some wonder if something bad happens between China and Burma, Wa State will become a problem like Crimea. [But] they are just speculating as they wish," said Aung Myint, secretary of the UWSP, the political wing of the powerful United Wa State Army (UWSA).

The Crimea region broke away from Ukraine and its predominantly Russian population joined Russia after a referendum in April that was condemned as flawed by Western nations. "Those who understand history know there is no problem. Those who don't would try to instigate problems and people might protest against [secession] because they don't know the history," he told The Irrawaddy by phone. "Since we left the Communist Party of Burma 25 years ago, we released statements saying that the Wa people will never secede from Burma. We still maintain this position," Aung Myint said. "We are asking for autonomy as Wa region is our land. It has nothing to do with secession." Since the collapse of a China-backed communist insurgency in northern Burma in 1989, leaders of the ethnic Wa, who comprised most of the foot soldiers, took over from the Burmese community party leaders. Shortly afterward, the then military junta in Burma signed an agreement with the Wa granting them autonomy in Special Region 2 in northern Shan State on the border with China. The group formed the UWSA and maintained their close links with China, while their border region became culturally and economically interlocked with Yunnan Province. These days, the Wa state region uses Chinese currency, Chinese mobile phone network and Chinese goods, and many inhabitants speak Chinese. Some UWSA leaders are believed to be ethnic Chinese.

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<sup>5</sup> Myanmar hosts ASEAN Summit for the first time –  
<http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/11/05/2014/id-9134> (NLM) 11 May 2014 (p. 2)/  
President U Thein Sein urges for collective action to combat climate change in opening speech of 24th ASEAN Summit –  
<http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/12/05/2014/id-9145> (NLM) 12 May 2014 (p. 1 & 2)/  
President gives press conference on upshots of ASEAN Summit –  
<http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/12/05/2014/id-9145> (NLM) 12 May 2014 (p.2)/  
Myanmar President meets PMs of Vietnam, Singapore –  
<http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/12/05/2014/id-9145> (NLM) 12 May 2014 (p.4)/  
President meets delegates of AIPA, AUF –  
<http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/12/05/2014/id-9145> (NLM) 12 May 2014 (p.4)/  
Press Statement on closing of 24th ASEAN Summit –  
<http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/12/05/2014/id-9145> (NLM) 12 May 2014 (p. 3)/  
MOFA releases Press Statement on 24th ASEAN Summit –  
<http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/12/05/2014/id-9145> (NLM) 12 May 2014 (p. 3)/  
ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on the developments in Thailand –  
<http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/12/05/2014/id-9145> (NLM) 12 May 2014 (p. 3)/  
ASEAN to undertake implementation of DOC and COC, Secretary-General says –  
<http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/11/05/2014/id-9134> (NLM) 11 May 2014 (p. 2)/  
Joint Statement of ASEAN foreign ministers on on-going developments in South China Sea –  
<http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/11/05/2014/id-9134> (NLM) 11 May 2014 (p. 2)/  
"Myanmar in good position to facilitate dialogue with China" as South China Sea issue dominates agenda of ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting –  
<http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/11/05/2014/id-9134> (NLM) 11 May 2014 (p. 1 & 3)/  
ASEAN ministerial meetings held in Nay Pyi Taw –  
<http://www.moi.gov.mm/npe:zg/newspaper-journal/content/11/05/2014/id-9134> (NLM) 11 May 2014 (p. 5)

Burma's government only recognizes six townships in Special Region 2 as autonomous Wa area. The UWSA wants to create a separate Wa State in Burma and wants government recognition of nearly 20 townships under its control. Since President Thein Sein's reformist government came to power Burma's relations with China have cooled significantly. Some observers have said China has supplied weapons to the Wa in order to maintain pressure on Naypyidaw. Some observers have argued recently that the Burma Army could be preparing for an assault on the UWSA, to be carried out before the 2015 elections.

The UWSA has grown into a heavily-armed insurgent force funded by first by opium drug trade and later methamphetamine production, mostly trafficked to Thailand and China. The UWSA signed a new ceasefire with Naypyidaw in 2011, but the group are not participating in the ongoing nationwide ceasefire talks between the government and 16 ethnic armed groups. Wa fighters are believed to number between 20,000 and 30,000, and have reportedly received Chinese heavy weaponry such as armoured personnel carriers, surface-to-air missiles and even helicopters—a claim the Wa have denied.<sup>6</sup>

### **POLICE ACCUSE SNLD MEMBER OF VIOLATING UNLAWFUL ASSOCIATION ACT**

Burmese police have charged Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) member Sai Aik Keng with violation of the Unlawful Association Act. On 9 May, the police took Sai Aik Keng to court and when SNLD members visited him, they found that he had been tortured and deprived of food since his arrest on 5 May.

Sai Aik Keng was arrested by the Burma Army Battalion No. 245 on 5 May. During his detention he was physically abused and on occasions threatened to be shot and forced to confess his possession of firearms by the Burmese Army officials. On 8 May, the Army transferred him to the Military Affairs Security for interrogation and subsequently back to the police who charged him with the Unlawful Association Act, article 17/1, for contacting the Shan State Army (SSA). The police in Keng Tung said: "We are in the process of interrogation. We can't provide any information."

SNLD spokesperson Sai Leik said: "Sai Aik Keng was charged with violation of the Unlawful Association Act because of contacting SSA. Which SSA? Both SSAs, north and south, have signed a ceasefire with the government. Burma Army should not abuse people who want to build peace. If this is the case, then this means the country has no rule of law." Sai Aik Keng was the member of SNLD and the leader of ethnic Ann in Keng Tung.<sup>7</sup>

### **BURMESE ARMY AND KIA CLASH IN SOUTHERN KACHIN STATE**

Troops from Burma's military clashed with the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) for nearly the whole day on 8 May at Kyauk Pya on the Bhamo to Namhkam Road, in south eastern Kachin state.

Naw La, a resident of Manwing village who witnessed the fighting said that the clashes began at about 8 am and lasted until 5pm. The clashes began in Kyauk Pya when a convoy of 14 trucks carrying rations and military supplies was passing through the area. The convoy which appeared to be headed to Kai Htik was protected by a large group of soldiers from Light Infantry Division No. 88.

KIA troops from Battalion 1 and 27 under the group's 3rd Brigade were able to halt the convoy's progress. By Thursday evening Burmese troops retreated to nearby Bang Hkam Pa military base. The

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<sup>6</sup> Wa official dispels claim of Wa State "Crimea Style" secession – <http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/wa-official-dispels-claim-wa-state-crimea-style-secession.html?PageSpeed=noscript> (Irrawaddy) 12 May 2014

<sup>7</sup> Police accuse SNLD member of violating Unlawful Association Act – [http://www.english.panglong.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5818:police-accuse-snld-member-of-violating-unlawful-association-act&catid=85:politics&Itemid=266](http://www.english.panglong.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5818:police-accuse-snld-member-of-violating-unlawful-association-act&catid=85:politics&Itemid=266) (S.H.A.N.) 9 May 2014

convoy was still unable to move on 9 May according to Zau Shan, a senior officer with the KIA 3rd Brigade. More fighting is expected if the Tatmadaw tries another push on Kyauk Pya, Zau Shan said.<sup>8</sup>

### **GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW CITIZENSHIPS APPLICATIONS FOR FORMER EXILES**

The Burmese government is now reviewing citizenship applications for people who left the country for various reasons under the former military regime, according to the Minister of Immigration and Population. Khin Yi said three ministries were involved in the screening process and were forwarding applications to the President's Office, which would make a decision for each applicant. "But the whole process does not end there. There are still more steps to be done," he said at a press conference held in Rangoon on 7 May. Dual citizenship is not allowed in Burma, according to the 1982 Citizenship Law, so applicants will be required to give up their foreign citizenship, the minister said. He added that anyone who committed a crime before leaving Burma would not be eligible. Ministry officials told local news media that the process of verifying the information would take time.

In the years after the failed 1988 uprising, tens of thousands of Burmese people fled the country. Many were dissidents, while others went abroad for social reasons or to pursue an education. After President Thein Sein came to office in 2011, ushering in a series of political reforms, many exiled elites, including technocrats and journalists, returned home. In 2012, some famous political activists returned after the quasi-civilian government removed their names from a blacklist. A large number of the former exiles had applied for foreign citizenship while living abroad, effectively losing their Burmese citizenship. When they moved back to Burma under Thein Sein's government, they were required to apply for visas, like foreign visitors.

Maung Maung Than, Director-General of Burma's Immigration Department, said 138 citizenship applications have been received thus far. Of these, the President's Office has endorsed 43 applications and is continuing to review another 22. The ministries of immigration and population, foreign affairs and home affairs are reviewing the remaining cases.

One applicant, Moe Thee Zun, criticized some of the application requirements. "They demand in the application that we stay clear of political activities—not only us, but also our parents. I don't understand this," he told The Irrawaddy. "I joined political activities just because of their oppression," he said, referring to his activism against the former junta.

However, Maung Maung Than from the Ministry of Immigration and Population said the government would not discriminate against applicants with a history of political involvement. "There are some misunderstandings," he said. "We are not asking the applicants about their political background. But we ask whether or not they have a criminal record. We do not discriminate based on political background."

Khin Ohnmar, chairwoman of the Network for Democracy and Development, a Burmese political organization based on the Thai-Burma border, said it would be important for the government to be as receptive to citizenship applications as possible. "There are many learned professionals among Burmese people living abroad," she said. "The government must be transparent in its policy for reaccepting the exiles and allowing them to return decently." 'They need to declare a general amnesty,' she added. "It is hard for us to return because they have not done so."<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Burma Army and KIA fight whole day in southern Kachin State – <http://www.kachinnews.com/news/2650-burma-army-and-kia-fight-whole-day-in-southern-kachin-state.html> (KNG) 9 May 2014

<sup>9</sup> Burmese Govt Reviews Citizenship Applications for Former Exiles – <http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/burmese-govt-reviews-citizenship-applications-former-exiles.html> (Irrawaddy) 12 May 2014



## **SUU KYI ASKS KNU TO FOCUS ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM**

National League for Democracy (NLD) Chairperson Aung San Suu Kyi has urged the Karen National Union (KNU) to join with her in pushing for constitutional amendments. Speaking at her lakeside home in Rangoon on 9 May, the Burmese opposition leader addressed a delegation of KNU representatives headed by Vice-chairperson Zipporah Sein. According to Pado Saw Thamein Tun, a KNU delegate who attended the meeting, Suu Kyi asked the KNU leadership to focus its efforts on amending the 2008 Constitution and enforcing rule of law in Burma. Suu Kyi allegedly referred to the ongoing peace talks between the KNU, other ethnic armed groups and the Burmese government, saying that constitutional reform would bolster the peace process. “She asked that we focus on rule of law issues,” said Pado Saw Thamein Tun, “and reiterated that the Constitution would need to be amended in order to allow true political dialogue to take place; otherwise we would face constraints. “She went on to advise us to focus on dialogue during the peace talks rather than the development programs,” he said.

Zipporah Sein has been leading a KNU team recently on a tour of ethnic groups and stakeholders in the peace process, including a visit to the Panghsang headquarters of the United Wa State Army and holding discussions with ethnic Karens in the Irrawaddy Delta. The Karen delegation also met leaders from the 88 Generation group and sat for talks with Khun Htun Oo of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy. The KNU said it had reached agreements at both meetings to work together to achieve a nationwide ceasefire and to collaborate on proposing amendments to the Constitution.<sup>10</sup>

## **BRITISH AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH MON POLITICAL PARTIES**

The British Ambassador to Burma, Andrew Patrick, British Defence Attaché Colonel Tony Stern and party met with representatives of the New Mon State Party (NMSP) the Mon National Party (MNP) and the All Mon Regions Democracy Party (AMDP) on 6 May in Moulmein, the capital of Mon State.

According to Dr. Min Soe Linn, the MNP General Secretary, topics discussed at the meeting included amendment of the 2008 constitution, the 2015 election, current political conflicts, ceasefires and the peace process. He said: “The ambassador asked us about the political situation in Mon State. From our [MNP] side we talked about how hard it is to amend the 2008 constitution and asked him what he thought of it. As well as discussing the constitution we also discussed the Tatmadaw [Burmese Army].

The British ambassador and defence attaché also held separate meetings with the AMDP General Secretary Dr. Min Nwe Soe (Mon State Minister of Planning and Economics) and Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr. Banyar Aung Moe. According to Dr. Banyar Aung Moe the ambassador explained the relationship between the British and Burmese armies and governments. Dr. Banyar Aung Moe said: “At the start of the discussion they asked us about the current political and peace situations and the ambassador said that it was a priority for Britain to support civil society and democracy and the ethnic language teaching.”<sup>11</sup>

## **WOMEN WANT THEIR SHARE OF PEACE**

Sixty women’s rights organisations gathered in Shan State, eastern Burma, on 18-19 May to discuss further inclusion of women in the country’s peace process. The two-day seminar in the Shan capital Taunggyi was joined by more than 150 representatives from throughout the region. The meeting culminated with the release of a six-point plan to step up efforts towards a nationwide ceasefire

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<sup>10</sup> Suu Kyi asks KNU to focus on constitutional reform – <https://www.dvb.no/news/suu-kyi-asks-knu-to-focus-on-constitutional-reform-burma-myanmar/40546> (DVB) 10 May 2014

<sup>11</sup> British Ambassador meets with Mon political parties – <http://monnews.org/2014/05/09/british-ambassador-meets-mon-political-parties/> (IMNA) 9 May 2014

while providing women a decision-making role in the process; creating effective security; and increasing protection for women and children in conflict areas.

The group also strategized effective implementation of the Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which Burma signed in July 1997. The convention aims to tackle issues of rape, domestic violence, drugs and human trafficking. Discussion centred mainly on issues most deeply felt by women in ethnic communities, and how their voices could be more meaningfully integrated into the peace process.

“Ethnic women are made to suffer oppression during conflicts, and so it will be more effective to have them involved in the peace process,” said Ja Kai, a Kachin woman from Namtu town in northern Shan State. Thandar Oo of the civil society group New Generation Shan State, which organised the seminar, reiterated the need for female representation in the process. “Leaving women out will make the peace process lopsided,” she said.

May Sabe Phyu, senior coordinator of the Gender Equality Network, said that the government should find a better way to incorporate women into the process, which she believes will bring peace more swiftly while ensuring accountability throughout the process.

Burma’s decades of civil war have taken an enormous toll on women’s rights in ethnic areas. Rights groups claim that sexual violence is still being used to intimidate and torture ethnic women, particularly in troubled parts of Kachin, Karen and Shan states. While a lasting peace could eventually temper abuses against women, so far all of the nation’s peace efforts have been overwhelmed with male representation.<sup>12</sup>

## ANALYSIS

The latest round of peace talks between the government and NCCT saw progress being made on the single draft text with the aim of achieving a national ceasefire accord (NCA), the on-going skirmishes in south eastern Kachin state between government forces and ethnic armed organisations as well as the recent detention of Sai Ail Keng, head of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) in Naminlai, Keng Tung are unwarranted as such a crucial time when peace process is making headway and such incidents can only be detrimental and create further tensions and mistrust between the two sides.

Burma’s assumption of ASEAN chair and hosting of the 24<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit in Naypyitaw should be seen as step in the right direction and will indeed have helped it regain political legitimacy as well as the opportunity to become a responsible member of the international community. But more importantly it will be a test on the Burmese government’s democratic reforms and if Naypyitaw is capable in leading and resolving issues of concern during its tenure as to ASEAN chair.

And at such a crucial stage in time, Burma as ASEAN Chair will need to maintain the momentum of the ASEAN integration process but more importantly balance its relationships with fellow ASEAN members and extra-regional powers including China and the United States. Whether Burma can achieve a balanced international stance as well as achieving political, economic and social stability domestically remains to be seen in the coming months ahead.

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<sup>12</sup> Women want their share of peace –

<http://english.dvb.no/news/women-want-their-share-of-peace-burma-myanmar/40884> (DVB) 21 May 2014