

Agenda

December 3, 2007 The hearing by the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom will examine how religious freedom abuses perpetuated by the Burmese military contribute to violent repression of peaceful dissent, ongoing abuses against ethnic minorities, and regional instability. The hearing also will assess recent U.N. diplomatic efforts as well as U.S. policy options for bringing about democratic change in Burma.

Opening Statement _ Richard Land, USCIRF Vice Chair
Videotaped Account of Monk Ashin Kavida
Panel One: A discussion of the role of Buddhist monks in the recent demonstrations, the military's manipulation of Buddhism to bolster its political legitimacy, and the monks' fate since the crackdown.
Witnesses: Paul Rush, F24 News, an eyewitness to the demonstrations and subsequent crackdown
Ashin Nayaka, Columbia University, an exiled Burmese monk and Buddhist scholar
Panel Two: An examination of how the military's ethnic policies have led to civil war, communal violence, drug trafficking, refugee flows, and massive religious freedom and other human rights problems.
Witnesses: Aung Din, US Campaign on Burma
Chris Lewa, Arakan Project
Salai Bawi Lian, Chin Human Rights Organization
Panel Three: An assessment of the prospects for recent UN diplomacy in Burma, suggestions for additional multilateral diplomatic action, and evaluation of U.S. sanctions and other U.S. policy options for bringing about democratic change in Burma.
Michael Green, Center for Strategic and International Studies
Jared Genser, Freedom Now