

Short Bios

Paul Rush was one of the few foreign journalists who covered the protests and demonstrations in Rangoon from early September and remained in the area to report on the subsequent crackdown into October. He continued sending reports from Rangoon until he was nearly arrested himself and forced to leave the country later in October. Paul is currently a regular English language contributor on Southeast Asian news for France 24. Ashin Nayaka received his Ph.D. in India in 2000, and is currently Visiting Scholar in the Department of History, Columbia University of New York. His doctorate dissertation focused on the role of Buddhism in social, cultural and political developments of Burma. He is also founder and Director of the Buddhist Missionary Society in New York. Aung Din is the Policy Director and Co-founder of the United States Campaign for Burma. He served over four years behind bars as a political prisoner in Burma after organizing and helping to lead the country's nationwide pro-democracy uprising in 1988. He is also country representative of the Thai-Burma border based "Assistance Association for Political Prisoners-Burma" (AAPP). Chris Lewa is coordinator of the Arakan Project. Since 1999, Ms. Lewa has focused her attention on the Rohingya minority of Burma, whose plight remains largely ignored. She travels extensively to Bangladesh and Malaysia to monitor the Rohingya refugee situation. She has also worked as a consultant for Amnesty International, Refugees International, the Norwegian Refugee Council as well as UNHCR. Salai Bawi Lian is co-founder of Chin Human Rights Organization. He has participated in the UN Human Rights Commission, lobbied the UN General Assembly at the Third Committee, briefs the U.S. Congress on human rights issues in Burma. As a student of Rangoon University, he actively participated in the 1988 pro-democracy uprising till he left the country after the military coup in September 1988. Michael Green is a senior adviser and holds the Japan Chair at the Center for International Studies, as well as being an associate professor of international relations at Georgetown University. He served as special assistant to the president for national security affairs and senior director for Asian affairs at the National Security Council from January 2004 to December 2005. He joined the NSC in April 2001. From 1997 to 2000, he was senior fellow for Asian security at the Council on Foreign Relations. He served as senior adviser in the Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs at the Department of Defense in 1997 and as consultant to the same office until 2000. Jared Genser is the President of Freedom Now and an attorney in the global government relations group of DLA Piper US LLP. His human rights clients have included former Czech Republic President Václav Havel, former Norwegian Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik, and Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Aung San Suu Kyi, Desmond Tutu, and Elie Wiesel. Jared holds a B.S. from Cornell University, a Master in Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a J.D., cum laude, from the University of Michigan Law School. He is a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations.