

Agenda - December 3, 2007

Public Hearing:

After the Saffron Revolution: Religion, Repression, and the U.S. Policy Options for Burma

Rayburn House Office Building, Room 2200

Monday, Dec. 3, 2007, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

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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