

<http://www.rightsidenews.com/201001228302/global-terrorism/spike-in-anti-christian-violence-feared-before-burma-elections.html>

The 2009 annual report of the **United States Commission on International Religious Freedom** states that Burma's military junta had "one of the world's worst human rights records."

"Burma's Christian populations face forced promotion of Buddhism and other hardships in ethnic minority areas where low-intensity conflict has been waged for decades," the report states. "In addition, a new law passed in early 2009 essentially bans independent 'house church' religious venues, many of which operate because permission to build church buildings is regularly denied."

The report also pointed out that in January 2009, authorities in Rangoon ordered at least 100 churches to stop holding services and forced them to sign pledges to that effect. Burma, which the ruling junta describes as "The Golden Land" on its official website, has been designated as a Country of Particular Concern by the U.S. Department of State since 1999.