MONTHLY UPDATE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE KACHIN ALLIANCE

MARCH 2019

Conflict and Peace Process Updates:

- February 14: Skirmishes between the Northern Alliance and Burmese Army have been reported in Lashio township.
- February 16: Multiple skirmishes between Northern Alliance troops and RCSS/SSA have been reported in Namtu and Kyaukme townships.
- February 20: The Kachin Independence Army (KIA)'s 9th Battalion and Burma Army (BA)'s 10th Light Infantry Battalion troops engaged in armed battle at old Lai Ba Zung village in Kutkai township in northern Shan state.
- February 25: Representatives from KIO/KIA, PSLF/TNLA, ULA/AA, and MNTJP/MNDAA met members of the government's peace commission to discuss bilateral ceasefire in Kunming, China.



Windstorm caused damages to IDPs shelters at Salang Yang IDP Camp

Humanitarian Crisis and Human Rights Violations:

- February 17: A windstorm swept through Pa Kahtawng IDP Camp, Nhkawng Pa IDP Camp and Li Je IDP Camp causing damage to temporary shelters.
- February 18: Rain and hailstorms damaged houses and rooftops in Gat Shang Yang, Mali Hka, Mayan, LoiHkaw, and Namti.
- February 26: Two journalists from the Myitkyina News Journal were detained and assaulted by Takhinsit Company employees.
- February 27: IDPs taking refuge in Tang Hpre village, after fleeing the Mali Nmai Walawng area, will move to a new IDP camp at Pa La Na quarter in Myitkyina.

Other Updates:

- February 5: During Sr. Gen. Min Aung Hlaing's visit to Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) headquarters in Myitkyina, the KBC leaders brought up the issue of the Myitsone dam project, requesting that the project be discontinued in accordance with the people's wishes.
- February 5: Facebook bans the Arakan Army, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, the Kachin Independence Army and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army. Local and diaspora Kachin organizations strongly opposed Facebook's move and US Senator Markey questions Facebook's action.
- February 7: Thousands of Myitkyina residents held a protest rally to demand a stop to the Myitsone Dam project. Leaders of Kachin political parties, faith-based organizations and CSOs attended the protest.
- February 10: At least 6 people were killed by the collapse of a jade mine at Sabaw village in Hpakant township.



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- February 11: Nhkum Ja Hkawn, a protest leader against the Myitsone Dam project, was fined 10,000 kyats for violation ofthe peaceful assembly law.
- February 12: Leaders of the Kachin Baptist Convention met with European Union representatives in Yangon.
- February 14:The Kachin State Agriculture Minister said its department will tighten regulations against banana plantations.
- February 15: The KIO sent aletter to Jeremy Douglas, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Regional Representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), officially protesting a UNODC report which stated that "the highest density of poppy cultivation took place in areas under the control or influence of the Kachin Independence Army."
- February 19: Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi visited China-Burma border post no. (1) in Hting Chung, Yunnan province.
- February 19: The Kachin Humanitarian Concern Committee, a joint committee of Kachin faith-based, community-based and civil society organizations, held a meeting on the safe return of Kachin refugees.

RECAP is a monthly newsletter that aims to inform policymakers and relevant advocacy organizations of Kachins' struggles and humanitarian crisis in the Kachin region. It is based on a wide-ranging news outlets and trustworthy local sources. It is in no way comprehensive.



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