



SEAFORB

SEAFORB Webinar 5: Myanmar in Crisis: What the Coup and Conflict Mean for Freedom of Religion or Belief

Date: December 1st, 2021

Time: 14.00-15.30 GMT/21.00-22.30 Bangkok (GMT +7). Find your time zone [HERE](#)

Meeting link: <https://www.facebook.com/123401657152/posts/10158771832667153/>

Religious intolerance has been increasing in Myanmar (Burma) over recent years, fuelled by the combination of the military's repression and the rise of Buddhist nationalism. However, since the coup on 1 February 2021, in which the military under General Min Aung Hlaing overthrew the democratically elected government and reversed over a decade of political reform, freedom of religion or belief is under even greater assault. As the military intensifies its attacks on opposition in Chin, Kachin, Karenni and Karen states in particular, Christian churches, priests and pastors have been targeted, while the persecution of Muslims continues. This webinar will explore what exactly the impact of the coup and the escalating ethnic conflict means for freedom of religion or belief in the country, and what the international community can and should do in response.

The panel will be moderated by Benedict Rogers, Senior Analyst for East Asia at CSW and author of three books on Myanmar. Ben has visited Myanmar and its borders more than fifty times, has testified in hearings in the US Congress, the UK Parliament and the European Parliament, and is a regular contributor to international media. He is also a founding member of SEAFoRB and previously served on the SEAFoRB Steering Committee.

Speakers



Nadine Maenza has served as the Chair of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom since June 2021, having served as Vice Chair in 2019. She has represented USCIRF in delegations to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Azerbaijan, Thailand, Taiwan, and Uzbekistan.



Salai Za Uk Ling is Deputy Executive Director at Chin Human Rights Organisation. In this capacity, Za Uk has been advocating for religious freedom for Chin and other ethnic and religious minorities in Myanmar for the past 22 years.



Kyaw Win is founder and Executive Director of the Burma Human Rights Network with base in London. Kyaw Win is a reputable advocate for Burmese Muslims and frequents international media such as Al Jazeera, ABC News, Sky News, BBC World Service. Burma Human Rights Network is working for human rights, minority rights and religious freedom in Burma through human rights documentation and international advocacy.



Khin Ohmar is Chairperson at Progressive Voice. Khin Ohmar has been a human rights practitioner and advocate since 1988, when she began her human rights work as a student activist in the nationwide democracy uprising. For the past 30 years, she has lived her life in exile continued to campaign for democracy in Burma internationally and regionally, as the founder of a number of civil society organizations.

This event is organized by



The Southeast-Asia Freedom of Religion or Belief (SEAFORB) Network is a coalition of organizations working to protect and promote the Human Right of Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) in Southeast-Asia. Members come from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds, nevertheless they stand together in unity to promote FORB for all.