

## THAILAND

4 – 16 December 2015

### MEDIA MONITORING REPORT #139

#### PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

##### Former Myanmar military ruler Than Shwe 'supports new leader'

BBC News, 6 December 2015

Myanmar's former military ruler sees erstwhile

foe Aung San Suu Kyi as the country's "future leader" and has pledged support for her in a secret meeting, the general's grandson said.



Credit: RFA

Details of Friday's meeting between the two was revealed by General Than Shwe's grandson, who acted as intermediary.

His grandson Nay Shwe Thway Aung quoted him as having said in the meeting: "It is the truth that she will become the future leader of the country," and "I will support her with all of my efforts".

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-35019032>

##### Burma Army, Karen Rebels Visit Colombia

The Irrawaddy, 4 December 2015

A joint delegation representing the Burma Army, ethnic Karen rebels and the government-affiliated Myanmar Peace Center arrived in Colombia this week to study the country's peace process.

The delegation from Burma included senior Burmese military officials Lt-Gen Ye Aung and Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naug; Tu Tu Lay, an advisor for the Karen National Union (KNU); Maj. Paw Doh of the KNU; and Maj-Gen Saw Moses, second-in-command of the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA).



At least one representative of the KNU/KNLA Peace Council, a breakaway faction of the Karen minority's dominant rebel group, as well as members of the MPC also joined the study mission, according to MPC official Hla Maung Shwe.

"It was the first time that Burma Army officials and armed ethnic groups have joined a delegation together. They will study the peace process and conflict resolution in Colombia," Hla Maung Shwe said.

<http://www.irrawaddy.com/burma/102296.html>

### [NCA approved by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw](#)

The Global New Light of Myanmar, 8 December 2015

The incoming government would be able to implement the peace process more successfully, participants of the meeting of non-signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement announced in a statement.

The fact that they would cooperate with the new government emerged following the general election and the new government's participation in the nationwide political dialogue, Union Minister U Aung Min told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Tuesday.



He noted that representatives had pointed out that it was necessary to abide by the terms and conditions of the agreement. He said that the ceasefire agreement is aimed at national reconciliation, solidarity and the people's interests.

The session approved the truce agreement.

<http://globalnewlightofmyanmar.com/nca-approved-by-pyidaungsu-hluttaw/>

### [Suu Kyi Tells Ethnic Lawmakers, 'We Need to Work Together'](#)

The Irrawaddy, 8 December 2015

Aung San Suu Kyi met ethnic lawmakers in Naypyidaw Monday, urging all members to work together under a National League for Democracy-led government.

Dozens of incumbent ethnic MPs, including outgoing and re-elected lawmakers, from various political parties joined the meeting in the country's capital on Monday afternoon.

Suu Kyi said the country should be built on the spirit of the Panglong agreement, signed by her father Gen Aung San and a handful of ethnic leaders in 1947 and seen as affording significant autonomy to ethnic nationalities.



One month after her party's convincing victory in the Nov. 8 general election, the NLD chairwoman stressed the importance of unity and of working to achieve a permanent peace.

<http://m.irrawaddy.com/election/news/suu-kyi-tells-ethnic-lawmakers-we-need-to-work-together>

### [Myanmar Chief Negotiator Briefed Aung San Suu Kyi on Peace Process: NLD](#)

Radio Free Asia, 9 December 2015

Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi met with the country's chief peace negotiator Aung Min to discuss reconciliation with armed ethnic groups as her National League for Democracy (NLD) prepares to form a new government after sweeping general elections last month, a party official said Wednesday.



Service.

<http://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/peace-12092015161421.html>

### **Non-ceasefire groups pin hopes on next govt**

Myanmar Times, 14 December 2015

The Union Peace and Dialogue Joint Committee – representing the government, political parties and the eight signatories – is due to start a final round of discussions in the capital today on the framework. Under the tough deadlines set out in the nationwide ceasefire agreement, the framework is to be agreed by today, and the actual dialogue is to start 30 days later.

The main hope of the non-signatories, mainly based in Shan and Kachin States, is that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's incoming government will give them a full seat at the negotiating table.

Ethnic armed groups believe Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will allow the three excluded factions to become part of the agreement, said U Khun Okkar, chair of the PNLO. They also think the peace process will move faster under an NLD government than the current regime.



Credit: Irrawaddy

<http://www.mmmtimes.com/index.php/national-news/nay-pyi-taw/18113-non-ceasefire-groups-pin-hopes-on-next-govt.html>

### **700 representatives to participate in political dialogue**

Mizzima News, 16 December 2015



The third session of the Union Political Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) concluded yesterday with the committee approving a draft political dialogue framework and determining the ratio of representation of stakeholders.

The UPDJC said it would hold the upcoming political dialogue no later than 14 January 2016 with the participation of 700 representatives.

<http://www.mizzima.com/news-domestic/700-representatives-participate-political-dialogue>



## ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT

### US temporarily lifts Myanmar shipping restrictions

Bangkok Post, 8 December 2015

The United States has temporarily eased restrictions on trade through Myanmar's ports, a post-election move welcomed on Tuesday by business leaders in the economically booming Southeast Asian nation.

The policy shift comes after Myanmar held landmark polls last month swept by the pro-democracy opposition party of Aung San Suu Kyi and will make it easier for US companies to deal directly with the country's crucial ports and airports.

Washington lifted most trade sanctions against Myanmar after decades of brutal junta rule gave way to a quasi-civilian reformist government in 2011.



<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/asean/788597/us-temporarily-lifts-myanmar-shipping-restrictions>

### Youths in border areas enjoy access to technical, vocational training

The Global New Light of Myanmar, 13 December 2015

The Ministry of Border Affairs currently runs a technical and vocational training school in Hpa-An town of Kayin State in partnership with Japanese non-government organization Bridge Asia Japan (BAJ).

The training school plans to spend US\$1.5 million over six years from 2013-14 to 2018-19 fiscal years with the ministry saying that the school has provided training to 319 young people from border areas.

[http://issuu.com/gnlm7/docs/13\\_dec\\_15\\_gnlm](http://issuu.com/gnlm7/docs/13_dec_15_gnlm)

The content of the UNHCR Thailand Media Monitoring Reports does not reflect the official view or opinion of the UNHCR.

**Links:** Thailand-Myanmar Cross Border Web Portal: [www.commonservice.info](http://www.commonservice.info)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/commonservice](https://www.facebook.com/commonservice)

[www.facebook.com/commonserviceburmese](https://www.facebook.com/commonserviceburmese)

[www.facebook.com/commonservicekaren](https://www.facebook.com/commonservicekaren)