

Assessing Burmas Ceasefire Accords

Institute of Southeast Asian Studies - Burma's general objectives

Description: The Burmese military government and numerous ethnic minority armed groups have entered a series of ceasefires since 1989 in spite of the fact that most previous talks between 1949 and 1983 failed. Why did the parties enter into ceasefire accords? What is the nature of the accords? What have been the consequences? What are the future scenarios? Written by two Burmese researchers, this study investigates the underlying factors of the secretive agreements, and identifies the consequences affecting stakeholders in the larger context of peacebuilding, political settlement, democratization, and the state-building process. The study concludes that recent ceasefires present a significant first step in solving the sixty-year old civil war. However after more than 17 years, they have not brought about peace of political settlement. The government-initiated ceasefires carry a heavy military focus, primarily seeking to reduce military threats and gain better control over the borderlands while placing greater emphasis on state building than on peacebuilding. Nevertheless, the accords have allowed many ceasefire groups to maintain or increase their strength, develop their areas, and more importantly, ceasefires have resulted in the local ethnic population having relatively better lives. Many ethnic armed groups will continue to pursue their goals through political means, but if at least some of their objectives are not met, a resumption of violence cannot be ruled out. This is the thirty-ninth publication in Policy Studies, a peer-reviewed East-West Center Washington series that presents scholarly analysis of key contemporary domestic and international political, economic, and strategic issues affecting Asia in a policy relevant manner.

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by Win Min, Zaw Oo (Paperback,
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Institute for Security and Development Policy. Then, on Christmas Eve in 1948, while the congregated inhabitants of two Karen villages were singing carols at midnight, the Burman policemen who had disarmed them launched hand grenades into their church, fired on the survivors, and torched every last structure.

Nationwide ceasefire accord collapses

But that appeared out of reach last night, even though government advisers in Yangon said it still marked a considerable achievement that some groups would sign. It was estimated that up to 160,000 people were displaced to Darfur since the beginning of 2007 alone.

Assessing Burma's ceasefire accords / Zaw Oo and Win Min

In the official publication of the then ruling military and its political wing Burma Socialist Program Party 1964 entitled The Policies and Attitude of the Revolutionary Council towards the Indigenous Races of the Union of Burma , Col. In Karen-administered areas, the army has put in new roads for deeper access, built up its stores of weapons, and seized land for large-scale development and commercial projects, displacing tens of thousands of villagers. From November 2013, the Myanmar government and armed ethnic groups have held nine rounds of peace talks and eventually reached a national cease-fire agreement.

Peace needs more than a ceasefire...

Then the parties have to figure out who will actually take part in the process. During the Konbaung period, the Shans, Chins, Kachins, Kayahs, and other peoples had been linked to the royal court in a tributary relationship that did nothing to limit the local authority of their rulers.

Peace needs more than a ceasefire...

Demonstrators marched through at least one area of Yangon despite reduced numbers in the face of the ever-climbing death toll.

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The SSA insurgents committed retaliatory killings, rapes, and other atrocities against civilians. The one that I am most familiar with in the Lashio area had a purported strength of 1. As far as I know, the KIA and everyone else...UWSA, NDA-K, etc is in a very different position.

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