

KACHIN YOUTH SOLIDARITY NETWORK

Kachin Churchgoers Arrested by Security Forces in Northern Shan State

Tuesday, 2 March 2021

Joint police and military forces arrested at least 13 people from inside the Lashio Kachin Baptist Church on Monday afternoon, as part of a brutal ongoing crackdown on civilians in the northern Shan State town of Lashio.

During a morning demonstration in downtown Lashio, police and military fired on protesters with water cannons and tear gas, sending them fleeing down side roads. Protesters said that it then became apparent that embedded among them were plainclothes security forces, who chased them through the city's streets in an attempt to capture them.

Down one such side street is the Baptist church. According to eyewitness statements, at 1:00 p.m., around 50 police officers and soldiers surrounded the church, located on Myawaddy Road, Block 1, with multiple vehicles. They proceeded to break down the gate to the church compound, and question those inside. They were overheard by eyewitnesses as saying, "We are looking for the ethnic youth group."

Security forces then forced themselves into a room in which people were studying and arrested 13 of the people present.

The Kachin Youth Solidarity Network condemns Monday's actions and demands that the military and police immediately release these innocent detainees and halt arrests and abuse at and around protests.

Those who were arrested in the crackdown on the church include theological students who were participating in an online biblical study course at the time, as well as members of the Sattung Baptist Association (SGZ).

Immediately following this incident on 1 March, the Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) listed on its Facebook page the names of 11 of the people who had been arrested. The Kachin Youth Solidarity Network has now added two additional names to this list, after it was discovered that more people had been taken away by security forces than was originally thought:

1. Sara Zau Doi Awng
2. Sara Maw She
3. Sara Hkangda Naw Mai
4. Mr. Lagang Dau Gying
5. Mr. Hakangkum Hkawng Gyung
6. Mr. Gum Sut Nan
7. Mr. Peter
8. Mr. Hawng Hkawng
9. Mr. Seng Ra Awng
10. Mr. Zau Ja Hpraw
11. Mr. Dan Seng Awng
12. Mr. Ah Sut
13. Mr. Hkaw Bawm

They are now believed to be in detention at the No. 1 police station in Lashio.

The Kachin Youth Solidarity Network are Kachin youth activists who remain anonymous for our own security. We are united by three demands:

1. *To terminate the current military dictatorship and tyranny of the majority*
2. *To achieve self-determination based on the Panglong Agreement*
3. *To abolish the 2008 Constitution*

For further information on this incident, please contact the Sattung Baptist Association at: +95 926 880 6734 (Jinghpaw, Burmese, English languages)



KBC KACHIN

13 Std. · 🌐



Prayer Request

✅ Our members of Kachin Baptist Convention, and Christian brothers and sisters in Christ, we humbly call for your participation in prayer for Christian ministers and youth from Sammung Baptist Association (SGZ), who are arrested brutally on 1st March 2021 at broad day light. Military coup police and soldiers raided the religious compound by breaking the association's gates and arrested 3 Christian ministers and Eight youth. Please pray for the immediate release of the following:-

March 1, 2021 📌

Gebetsanfrage

✅ Unsere Mitglieder der Kachin Baptist Convention und christliche Brüder und Schwestern in Christus rufen demütig zu Ihrer Teilnahme am Gebet für christliche Minister und Jugendliche von Sammung Baptist Association (SGZ) auf, die am 1 März 2021 brutal verhaftet werden. bei hellichtem Tag. Militärische Putschpolizei und Soldaten haben das religiöse Verbund durch die Tore des Verbandes gebrochen und 3 christliche Minister und acht Jugendliche festgenommen. Bitte beten Sie für die sofortige Freilassung des Folgenden :-