

October 30, 2025

The Honorable Vicky Hertzler, Chair USCIRF 732 North Capitol St St, NW Suite A714 Washington, DC 20401

Dear Ms. Hertzler and Commission Members,

The Burma Advocacy Group applauds your recent press release advocating for the extension and redesignation of TPS for Burma.

As we approach Feb 1, 2026, which will mark the fifth year of the junta's overthrow of Burma's free and fair elections, the junta's attacks upon civilians and religious sites has increased as they have continued to lose their struggle against the democratic revolutionary forces. As you point out, no religious group that opposes the junta is spared these assaults. Churches, temples and mosques alike, have been attacked. It is a sign of their callous inhumanity that the junta has chosen religious festivals in which attendance is expected to be high as targets for their attacks.

Those in the US diaspora who have opposed the junta will be in grave danger of reprisals against them, including torture and imprisonment, not to mention execution, if TPS for Burma is not extended and reauthorized and they are forcefully repatriated back to Burma.

We are also grateful for your statement against the sham election the junta proposes to hold in a bid to claim legitimacy for its regime. As three delegates from the Burma Advocacy Group attended the UN High Level Meeting on the Situation of the Rohingya and Other Minorities in Myanmar, they were heartened to hear strong condemnation of the election by member states. We strongly urge our government to do the same.

We decry the junta's atrocities and war crimes against the people of Burma and its attacks upon all religious faiths.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. Dr. A. Roy Medley, Executive Director

Burmese American Community Institute / Burmese Community of N America / Burma Research Institute / Chin Baptist Association of North America / Chin Baptist Churches USA / Chin Community of Indiana / Chin National Unity Organization Chin Presbyterian Council / Hope for Tomorrow / Kachin Alliance USA / Kachin American Baptist Association / Kachin Baptist Churches USA / Karen Baptist Churches USA / Karen Organization of America / Karenni American Organization / Milwaukee Burmese Christian Churches / Mon Business Association of America / US Campaign for Burma / US Chin Coalition / Zo Chin Ministers Union of USA / American Baptist Churches, Office of General Secretary / American Baptist Home Mission Societies / American Baptist Churches, International Ministries / American Baptist Churches of Greater Indianapolis / American Baptist Churches of Nebraska / Baptist World Alliance / 21Wilberforce / General Board of Global Ministries, United Methodist Church