



# PRESS RELEASE

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On December 17 and 18, U.S. Ambassador Derek Mitchell and Special Representative and Policy Coordinator (Acting) W. Patrick Murphy visited Myitkyina and Waingmaw in Kachin State to speak with Government and security officials, internally-displaced persons (IDPs), and civil, political and religious leaders about the ongoing conflict in Kachin State.

Ambassador Mitchell and Special Representative Murphy focused on the challenges stemming from ongoing conflict and the prospects for halting violence and advancing national reconciliation. The delegation heard numerous accounts of the mutual and deep-seated mistrust which is impeding prospects for a ceasefire and a meaningful reconciliation process. In addition, reports of a recent and significant increase in violence in Kachin State, along with questions about the safety and well-being of about 80,000 IDPs throughout Kachin State, remain of deep concern.

The United States Government, having consulted with many members of the international community, urges both sides in this conflict to take immediate steps to establish a dialogue process that will build trust, address the underlying causes of the conflict, and facilitate international access to all IDP camps in Kachin State to address the humanitarian needs of its most vulnerable populations.

To date, the United States has provided approximately \$5 million in assistance to IDPs in Kachin State, including funding for food, water and sanitation, shelter, non-food items, camp management, psycho-social trauma counseling, protection services, and empowerment training.

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