

American

NEWS & VIEWS

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Burma: Conviction of Kyaw Zaw Lwin

Statement by P.J. Crowley, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Public Affairs

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesman
For Immediate Release
February 10, 2010

Burma: Conviction of Kyaw Zaw Lwin

The United States is deeply concerned by the Burmese authorities' decision today to convict U.S. citizen Kyaw Zaw Lwin (aka Nyi Nyi Aung) on politically motivated charges. We consider these actions unjustified. We continue to urge the Burmese regime to release him and allow him to return home to the United States.

Rome Meeting to Mobilize Support for Haiti's Agricultural Sector

By Kathryn McConnell
Staff Writer

Washington – Haitian Agriculture Minister Joanas Gue will convene a high-level international meeting at U.N. World Food Programme headquarters in Rome February 12 to coordinate support for Haiti's agricultural sector.

The meeting comes on the one-month anniversary of the devastating earthquake in Haiti.

Cheryl Mills, counselor to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, will represent the United States at the meeting, where Haiti's medium and long-term agricultural development will be discussed in terms of the country's overall redevelopment plan.

Mills and Milton Rondo, representing Brazil's foreign ministry, will participate in a discussion about the role of donors in rebuilding the agriculture sector.

Representing U.N. agencies will be Jacques Diouf, director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization; Josette Sheeran, executive director of the World Food Programme; and Kanayo Nwanze, president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

In addition to representatives of the private and nonprofit sectors, invitees to the Rome meeting are from the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the U.N. High-Level Task Force for the Global Food Crisis, the U.N. Haiti Special Envoy and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture.

The World Food Programme will carry the event live online at www.wfp.org from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Rome time (8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Eastern Standard Time).

"As daily requirements scream for immediate official attention, so too does the need for an agricultural development plan that will be able to address hunger and nutrition in Haiti," said the U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Agencies in Rome, Ertharin Cousin, in a posting on DipNote, the State Department's blog.

In a hint of the tenor of upcoming discussions in Rome, the International Food Policy Research Institute said in a recent statement that nutrition programs in Haiti need to focus on preventing malnutrition and to target children during their first two years of life, "a crucial time in a child's physical and cognitive development."

The United States is the largest donor to date to the World Food Programme's emergency relief efforts in Haiti, having given \$78 million and 4 million ready-to-eat meals, the U.N. aid agency said. Overall, the United States has contributed nearly \$523 million in humanitarian funds for Haiti, according to a February 7 U.S. Agency for International Development fact sheet (PDF, 53KB).

President Obama has committed \$3.5 billion over three years to establish a Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative to attack the root causes of hunger, poverty and malnutrition in the world.

Sanctions Against Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Affiliates

Treasury freezes assets of supporters of weapons proliferation, terrorism

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
OFFICE OF THE SPOKESMAN
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Media Note

Treasury Targets Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps

The U.S. Department of the Treasury today took further action to implement existing U.S. sanctions against Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) by designating an individual and four companies affiliated with the IRGC pursuant to Executive Order (E.O.) 13382, which freezes the assets of designated proliferators of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and their supporters. Today's action focuses in particular on Khatam al-Anbiya Construction Headquarters, an arm of the IRGC designated pursuant to E.O. 13382 in 2007.

Today's designations include IRGC General Rostam Qasemi, who is also the commander of Khatam al-Anbiya Construction Headquarters, the engineering arm of the IRGC that serves to help the IRGC generate income and fund its operations. Khatam al-Anbiya is owned or controlled by the IRGC and is involved in the construction of streets, highways, tunnels, water conveyance projects, agricultural restoration projects, and pipelines. Treasury also today designated four companies that are owned or controlled by, or that act on behalf of, Khatam al-Anbiya.

"As the IRGC consolidates control over broad swaths of the Iranian economy, displacing ordinary Iranian businessmen in favor of a select group of insiders, it is hiding behind companies like Khatam al-Anbiya and its affiliates to maintain vital ties to the outside world," said Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Stuart Levey. "Today's action exposing Khatam al-Anbiya subsidiaries will help firms worldwide avoid business that ultimately benefits the IRGC and its dangerous activities."

The following are subsidiary companies that are owned or controlled by Khatam al-Anbiya, or that act on its behalf, and directly support various mining and engineering projects:

- Fater Engineering Institute
- Imensazen Consultant Engineers Institute (ICEI)
- Makin Institute
- Rahab Institute

The IRGC has a growing presence in Iran's financial and commercial sectors and extensive economic interests in the defense production, construction, and oil industries, controlling billions of dollars of business. The profits from these activities are available to support the full range of the IRGC's illicit activities, including WMD proliferation and support for terrorism.

The U.S. has previously acted against the IRGC and the IRGC-Qods Force for their involvement in proliferation and terrorism support activities, respectively. In joint actions on October 25, 2007, the State Department designated the IRGC, under E.O. 13382, for having engaged, or attempted to engage, in proliferation-related activities, and Treasury designated the IRGC-Qods Force pursuant to E.O. 13224 for providing material support to the Taliban and other terrorist organizations. Treasury at that time also designated nine IRGC-affiliated entities, including Khatam al-Anbiya, and five IRGC-affiliated individuals as derivative designations of the IRGC. Those entities and individuals are:

- Khatam al-Anbya Construction Headquarters
- Oriental Oil Kish

- Ghorb Nooh
- Sahel Consultant Engineering
- Ghorb-e Karbala
- Sepasad Engineering Co
- Omran Sahel
- Hara Company
- Gharargahe Sazandegi Ghaem
- General Hosein Salimi, Commander of the Air Force, IRGC
- Brigadier General Morteza Rezaie, Deputy Commander of the IRGC
- Vice Admiral Ali Akhbar Ahmadian, in his former capacity as Chief of the IRGC Joint Staff
- Brigadier Gen. Mohammad Hejazi, in his former capacity as Commander of Bassij resistance force
- Brigadier General Qasem Soleimani, Commander of the Qods Force

Elements of the IRGC have also been designated for UN sanctions pursuant to UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) 1737 and 1747. All UN Member States are required to freeze the assets of entities and individuals listed in the Annexes of those resolutions, or designated by the UNSCR 1737 Committee, as well as assets of entities owned or controlled by them or by persons or entities acting on their behalf or at their direction and to prevent funds or economic resources from being made available for their benefit. The European Union has also designated IRGC-affiliated companies, including Khatam al-Anbiya, for their support to Iranian ballistic missile and nuclear programs.

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