



U.S. Department of State
BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS AND
LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS (INL)

STATE/INL BURMA PROGRAM

Background:

From 1962 to 2011, Burma was ruled by a military-led government that isolated the country from the rest of the world. Burma's economy is extremely under-developed, its civilian institutions are weak, and the criminal justice system is broken. Burma's population has suffered from decades of severe poverty, discrimination, and a lack of access to government services. The country has also been severely threatened by and vulnerable to its growing narcotics problem which has contributed to a rise in criminal activity. Recognizing the need for large-scale reform, the military began seceding power to civilian authorities in 2010 by holding the country's first general election in 20 years. The United States government has recognized Burma's concrete steps towards democracy and is employing an engagement strategy which supports and incentivizes further reform throughout the country. As a component of this engagement, INL is working with U.S. Embassy Rangoon, the U.S. government inter-agency, and the multilateral community to develop and implement counternarcotics and law enforcement programming in Burma.

Program Goals:

- To increase Burmese capacity to address and combat the cultivation, trafficking, and use of drugs throughout the country. To increase the institutional capacity of the police to fight national and transnational security threats, counter violent-extremism, and promote principles of human rights and democracy.
- To increase Burmese capacity to effectively and professionally counter threats to Burmese security and stability in a manner that respects human rights.

Program Components/Accomplishments:

Law Enforcement Skills Development

In 2014, INL coordinated two joint study tours for law enforcement in the United States focused on immigration and port control processes; supported the training of nine Burmese law enforcement officials at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok; and supported a law enforcement initiative focused on addressing local conflict in the region. INL is in the process of a developing an in-country training program for law enforcement on criminal investigations.

Also Implemented in 2014:

1. U.S. Study Tour on Immigration Processes: Burma, Thailand (Texas)
2. U.S. Study Tour on Port Control Processes: Burma, Bangladesh (New Jersey, Washington DC)
3. Human Trafficking/Child Exploitation Course (ILEA Bangkok)
4. Fraud and Public Corruption Investigation Course (ILEA Bangkok)
5. Law Enforcement Technique to Combat Terrorism Course (ILEA Bangkok)

6. Addressing Local Conflict Initiative, Phase 1 for Burmese (Phnom Penh)
7. Addressing Local Conflict Initiative, Phase 2 for Burmese (Rangoon)

Counternarcotics

To date, INL has supported the training of over 60 counternarcotics officials at the International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA) in Bangkok. INL has also supported poppy cultivation and opium yield surveys in Burma.

Implemented in 2013, 2014, and 2015

1. Drug Unit Commanders Course (ILEA Bangkok)
2. Tactical Planning and Safety (ILEA Bangkok)
3. Counternarcotics Instructor Development (ILEA Bangkok)
4. Airport Interdiction for Counternarcotics Police (ILEA Bangkok)
5. 2013 U.S.-Burma Joint Opium Yield Survey (Rangoon)
6. 2013 UNODC Burma Opium Survey (Rangoon)
7. 2014 UNODC Burma Opium Survey (Rangoon)
8. Hired LES for INL program coordination (Rangoon)
9. Assessment of Burma's counternarcotics capacities

Justice Sector Reform

INL continues to support justice sector reform as an integral part of improving law and order by enhancing the capacity of criminal justice sector actors and institutions to deliver equitable justice system services and effectively prosecute transnational crime. Burmese leadership has been receptive to INL assistance and continues to emphasize the need for greater reform of Burma's criminal justice sector.

Implemented in 2013

1. Interagency Rule of Law Needs Assessment in Burma

Activities to be implemented in 2015:

1. In-country training on basic counternarcotics skills for Burma's Drug Enforcement Division
2. In-country training on criminal investigative skills for the Myanmar Police Force's Criminal Investigative Division
3. Treatnet Programme (Rangoon)
4. Asian Centre for Certification and Education of Addiction Professionals Training for Drug Treatments Providers (Colombo Plan, Rangoon)
5. Drug Demand Reduction Stakeholders Conference (UNODC, WHO, Colombo Plan)