



5.11.2010

BURMA CSW and Burmese Rohingya delegation meet US State Dept and Congressman

A delegation organized by Christian Solidarity Worldwide (CSW) and including the President of the Burmese Rohingya Organization UK (BROUK) met officials in the U.S. State Department today, to brief them on the human rights and humanitarian crisis in Burma. The delegation also met Congressman Chris Smith, on the second day of their three-day advocacy visit.

Maung Tun Khin, President of the Burmese Rohingya Organization UK (BROUK), and Benedict Rogers, CSW's East Asia Team Leader, briefed the State Department, staff in Senator Diane Feinstein's office, and Congressman Smith on the overall situation in Burma, including the plight of the ethnic nationalities. Benedict Rogers provided evidence from his recent visits to the Karen on the Thailand-Burma border, the Chin on the India-Burma border, the Kachin on the China-Burma border and the suppression of democracy inside Burma. Maung Tun Khin presented detailed evidence of the systematic persecution of the Rohingya people and the refugee crisis on the Bangladesh-Burma border.

The delegation will meet Congressman Joseph Pitts tomorrow, and testify at a briefing organized by the International Religious Freedom Caucus in the U.S. Congress.

Maung Tun Khin said: "It was a great opportunity today to meet Congressman Smith and officials at the State Department. We were able to present first-hand information about the desperate situation in Burma, including the plight of the Rohingya people."

Benedict Rogers said: "We have had detailed discussions with the State Department, and a very good opportunity to brief Congressman Smith today. We hope that the US will support calls for a UN commission of inquiry to investigate crimes against humanity in Burma, and take urgent action to address the plight of the Rohingya people and all ethnic groups in Burma."