



Embassy of Thailand in London

29-30 Queen's Gate
London SW7 5JB
United Kingdom

Date: 4th March 2025

Subject: Urgent Concern Over the Deportation of Burmese Migrants to Myanmar

Dear Ambassador,

We, Stars of Myanmar Friendship UK, would like to express our sincere gratitude to the people and government of Thailand for their support and acceptance of Burmese migrants since February 2021. We understand that hosting a large number of migrants presents both opportunities and challenges for your country. However, Thailand's humanitarian efforts in saving countless lives cannot be overlooked, and we deeply appreciate this gesture of kindness.

At the same time, we are gravely concerned about the increasing arrests of Burmese people in Thailand. Many undocumented Burmese migrants are being detained and deported, only to be handed over to the Myanmar military regime, where they face forced conscription, severe human rights violations, and, in many cases, death on the battlefield.

Under international law, particularly the principle of non-refoulement enshrined in the 1951 Refugee Convention and customary international law, no country should deport individuals to a place where they are at risk of persecution, harm, or death. While Thailand is not a signatory to the Refugee Convention, it remains bound by fundamental human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which prohibits forced labour and arbitrary detention.

We understand that every country has its own immigration laws and that all migrants are expected to abide by them. However, the situation faced by Burmese migrants is exceptional. The military regime in Myanmar has recently begun enforcing a conscription law due to its battlefield failures. As a result, forcibly returned Burmese nationals face the grim reality of being used as human shields, deployed in landmine clearance, and subjected to forced military service.

Deporting Burmese migrants-fully aware that they will be forcibly recruited into an abusive military, often used as human shields-may constitute complicity in war crimes under the Geneva Conventions. Therefore, we strongly urge the Thai government to immediately halt these deportations and provide humanitarian protection to those fleeing conflict and oppression in Myanmar.

As a neighbouring country with deep historical and cultural ties to Burma, we call upon Thailand to consider this matter on a humanitarian basis and continue to extend its support to those suffering under the military regime. We trust that Thailand upholds its moral and legal obligations in alignment with international human rights standards.

We request an urgent response clarifying Thailand's position and the steps it will take to protect Burmese migrants.

We appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Stars of Myanmar Friendship UK

Email - starsofmyanmarfriendship@gmail.com

The following organisations share our concerns and have also agreed to support our requests to the Thai government to protect the Burmese people.