

HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION

- Write a letter to the NHRC asking for a meeting or for more information about their mandate.
- Write a letter to MPs asking them to raise the issue in Parliament.
- Organize public events on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and human rights institutions and invite the NHRC to participate and respond to the public's calls.
- File complaints with the NHRC.
- Call on the media to monitor and report on the NHRC.



HOW TO FILE A COMPLAINT WITH BURMA NHRC

Any citizen may send a letter to the NHRC when his or her fundamental rights are violated. The rights must be guaranteed under the 2008 Constitution.

The letter must include the following information:

- Complainant's name, full address, phone, fax, email (if any).
- A description of how his/her rights were violated.
- A signed statement that the information provided is true.
- A copy of the complainant's national registration card.

Mail or delivered at the NHRC's office: No. 27, Pyay Road, Hline Township, Yangon

TO FIND OUT MORE:

Go to: <http://www.burmapartnership.org/nhrc-monitor/>



CAMPAINING FOR AN INDEPENDENT, EFFECTIVE AND TRANSPARENT

NHRC IN BURMA

Burma's National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is not functional and does not comply with the "UN Paris Principles". These principles are minimum conditions that must be met for a NHRC to be considered independent, effective, transparent and accessible to victims of human rights violations.



CAMPAIGNING FOR AN INDEPENDENT, EFFECTIVE AND TRANSPARENT NHRC IN BURMA

THE PARIS PRINCIPLES

In 1991, previous OHCHR, convened a conference of national human rights institutions (NHRI) to define common attributes that all new or existing NHRIs should possess. Because the meeting was held in Paris, the resulting standards came to be known as the “Paris Principles”.

The Paris Principles were adopted by a United Nations General Assembly resolution in 1993. These principles are minimum conditions that must be met for a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) to be considered independent and effective in protecting and promoting the rights of the people.

The following is a checklist to assess whether a NHRI meets the most important criteria set forth in the Paris Principles:

BROAD MANDATE

- The NHRI’s mandate should be based on universal human rights standards.
- The NHRI’s mandate should include the promotion and protection of human rights.
- The NHRI’s mandate should include at minimum:
 - Providing opinions, reports to the government, parliament, etc.
 - Encouraging the compliance of national legislation with international human rights standards.
 - Encouraging the ratification and implementation of international human rights instruments.
 - Organizing education and training programs, etc.

AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE FROM GOVERNMENT

- The NHRI’s mandate and competence should be set out in the constitution or in legislation.
- The selection, appointment and dismissal process of the NHRI’s members should be transparent, set out in a law and should include input from the civil society and the Parliament.
- The composition of the NHRI should reflect pluralism and diversity and include people from universities, civil society, unions, etc.
- The NHRI should report to the Parliament.
- The NHRI reports and rules of procedure should not be subject to external approval.
- The NHRI should have sufficient funds to work independently.

IN REALITY

Burma’s NHRC does not comply with the Paris Principles:

- Its mandate is based on the 2008 Constitution, which violates people’s human rights.
- No information about its mandate, its funding, its rules of procedure are available.
- It was established by a government notification and not by law.
- The members of the NHRC are all retired regime civil servants.
- The recruitment process of the members did not involve civil society or the Parliament.

Burma’s NHRC is not a functional, independent or transparent institution accessible to victims of human rights violations.

