

PRESS RELEASE  
(for immediate release)

**MYANMAR:  
Business & Human Rights Resource Centre  
launches briefing on Myanmar**

(Bangkok and London, 5 August 2013) – Today the non-profit [Business & Human Rights Resource Centre](http://www.business-humanrights.org) is launching its first briefing on Myanmar: “Business & human rights in Myanmar – a round-up of recent developments”.

**[Download the twelve-page briefing here.](#)**

The briefing covers the positive and negative impacts of companies operating in the country. It draws on a range of reports that the Resource Centre has featured on its website and in its Weekly Updates, from local NGOs, community groups, business organizations and the media. It also refers to responses we received from companies when we asked them to reply to concerns raised by civil society, and notes which companies failed to respond.

Bobbie Sta. Maria, the Resource Centre’s Southeast Asia Researcher & Representative who is based in Thailand, commented:

*“This briefing shows how community members and civil society groups in Myanmar have made use of newfound freedoms to raise their concerns, and how companies and the government have responded.”*

The briefing provides a snapshot of how major projects – the Shwe gas pipeline, Myanmar-China oil pipeline, Dawei Special Economic Zone, Monywa copper mine, and Myitsone Dam – are affecting communities in Myanmar. Reported abuses include forced labour, displacement of communities, violent attacks on protesters by police and security forces, and the arbitrary arrest and detention of protesters. The briefing also draws attention to freedom of association concerns, and the problem of child labour in factories and local small-scale industries. A section of the briefing points to positive initiatives that some companies have taken in Myanmar.

Also highlighted are relevant domestic and international policy developments. The briefing provides links to guidance materials for companies investing in Myanmar, flagging steps that should be taken to avoid contributing to human rights abuses.

Joanne Bauer, Senior Researcher of the Resource Centre, said:

*“This briefing is a snapshot of the Myanmar situation today, indicating how far the country has come and the significant work that remains to ensure that business does not contribute to human rights harms.”*

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre is disseminating the briefing in Myanmar and worldwide, including to companies operating in or considering operating in Myanmar, civil society groups, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, UN Working Group on business & human rights, ASEAN, Asian Development Bank, ILO, UNDP, IFC, World Bank and IMF.

Companies mentioned in the briefing include Air Bagan, China North Industries Corporation, China Power Investment Corporation, Chinese National Petroleum Corporation, Cisco Systems, CITIC Group, Daewoo International, Google, Hyundai Heavy Industries, Italian-Thai Development Company, KOGAS, Myanmar Wanbao Mining Copper Company Limited, Vodafone, and Yangon Bakehouse.

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*Business & Human Rights Resource Centre welcomes receiving information about business & human rights developments in Myanmar from civil society groups, companies and others. To send materials, or for more information about this briefing or our work in Myanmar, contact Bobbie Sta. Maria, Southeast Asia Researcher & Representative, [stamaria@business-humanrights.org](mailto:stamaria@business-humanrights.org), or the Resource Centre’s London headquarters: telephone +44 20 7636 7774.*

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*Business & Human Rights Resource Centre tracks the human rights impacts (positive & negative) of over 5000 companies in over 180 countries. The site is updated hourly and receives 1.5 million hits per month. We seek responses from companies when concerns are raised by civil society. The response rate is over 75% globally. Advocates thank us for bringing global attention to their concerns and for eliciting responses from companies. Companies thank us for providing them the opportunity to present their responses in full. This process often leads to real improvements on the ground.*

*Special portals on the Resource Centre's website include:*

- ["Getting Started – an introduction to business & human rights"](#)
- ["Tools & Guidance"](#)
- ["UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights"](#)
- ["UN Working Group on business & human rights"](#)
- ["UN Special Representative on business & human rights"](#)
- ["Corporate Legal Accountability"](#)
- ["Business, Conflict & Peace"](#)
- ["Business & Children"](#)
- ["Business & Freedom of Association"](#)
- ["Human rights impacts of oil pollution: US Gulf Coast, Ecuador, Nigeria"](#)

*Mary Robinson chairs the Resource Centre's 70-member International Advisory Network. Its 23 Academic Partners include leading academic institutions in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and North America.*

*The Centre has 14 regional researchers:*

- *Sa'eda Al-Kilani, Middle East & North Africa Researcher, based in Jordan*
- *Lowell Chow, East Asia Researcher, based in Hong Kong*
- *Aliou Diouf, Francophone Africa Researcher, based in Senegal*
- *Rania Fazah, Middle East & Gulf Region Researcher, based in Lebanon*
- *Eniko Horvath, Europe Researcher, based in UK*
- *Harpreet Kaur, South Asia Researcher, based in India*
- *Joseph Kibugu, Eastern Africa Researcher, based in Kenya*
- *Danielle McMullan and Irene Pietropaoli, UK, Ireland, and Israel & Palestine Researchers, based in UK*
- *Nokukhanya (Khanya) Mncwabe, Anglophone Africa Researcher, based in South Africa*
- *Julia Mello Neiva, Brazil, Portugal & Portuguese-speaking Africa Researcher, based in Brazil*
- *Gregory Regaignon, Research Director & North America Manager, based in USA*
- *Amanda Romero, Latin America & Caribbean Researcher, based in Colombia*
- *Ella Skybenko, Eastern Europe & Central Asia Researcher, based in Ukraine*
- *Bobbie Sta. Maria, Southeast Asia Researcher, based in Thailand*

*For further information about the Resource Centre, see the ["About us"](#) section of the website.*

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