

Burma Refugee Commission Report January – June 2023

The Burma Refugee Commission (BRC) had the following activities:

Participated in the International Religious Freedom (IRF) Summit from January 30 to February 1, 2023, in Washington Hilton. The Summit aimed to connect coalitions and faith organizations to share resources and advocate for religious freedom and highlight personal testimonies of survivors of religious persecution and restrictions on religious freedom.

Held a Special Prayer Service for Burma on January 31 at 8:30 p.m. eastern time zone. Over 100 people joined from overseas and domestically. Three highlights for prayer were lifted up during the Service.

1. 2nd Anniversary of Military Coup on February 1, 2021 in Burma
2. President Biden signed Burma Act into Law, December 23, 2022
3. Remember Detained Rev. Dr. Hkalam Samson & Rev. Thian Lian Sang

Supported the Burma Advocacy Group (BAG), a sub-group of BRC, to launch the Burma Act campaign. Numerous U.S. Senators were contacted, face-to-face meetings have been held via virtual meetings to ensure the Burma Act being passed by the Congress. The Burma Act was passed into law in December 2022 under the National Defense Authorization Act.

Continued to support BAG to launch another signature campaign for funding level of \$270 million from the U.S. Congress Appropriate Committee, to fund humanitarian aid for the people in Burma.

Sponsored an Exhibit Table at the upcoming Biennial Mission Summit in Puerto Rico. Recruited volunteers to staff the table and coordinated display materials and personal stories.

Working on a “renewed” proposal to differentiate the work of BRC and BAG to be submitted to BGM in the fall of 2023.

Submitted by Florence Li and Leslie Turley on behalf of Burma Refugee Commission.