

**SYSTEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST
ETHNIC MINORITIES IN BURMA:
ROOT CAUSE AND REMEDIES**

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M.A. HUMAN RIGHTS

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ABSTRACT

Burma is a multi-ethnic country where the Burman ethnic group, constituting at least 60 per cent of the total population, has been in control of national politics since independence from the British in 1948. The demands of non-Burman ethnic groups for political equality with the Burmans have been marginalized for several decades. There is a link between the ethnic politics, which have turned into insurgency movements, and on-going human rights violations against non-Burman ethnic minorities. Among several different types, violations against non-Burman ethnic groups, which have been occurring for decades, are the most grave and systematic.

The purpose of this research is to study the root causes of these systematic violations. The research paper documents how and why the violations against ethnic minorities are categorised as systematic violations, as well as their characteristics. The study also finds that these human rights abuses violate existing human rights norms currently present in Burmese society, which, if adhered to, would be sufficient to protect the human rights of all the peoples of Burma.

The on-going systematic human rights violations are caused by a series of actions that collectively constitute a "strategy of total control", initiated by the government to eliminate ethnic politics. The series of actions and consequences leading to systematic human rights violations, which have their root causes in ethnic politics, are thoroughly discussed. The study also demonstrates that reaching solutions to unresolved ethnic problems is essential for the protection and promotion of the human rights of the ethnic groups in the long run. Certain underlying issues to be resolved in search for durable solutions to the ethnic politics are also examined.

**KEY WORDS : SYSTEMATIC HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION/ STRATEGY OF
TOTAL CONTROL/ ETHNIC POLITIC/ INSURGENCY/ ETHNIC
MINORITIES/ FEDERALISM/ POLITICAL EQUALITY**

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