

Burma & Peacock Project Fact Sheet

What's been happening in Myanmar? Myanmar is under the control of a military dictatorship. Individuals cannot safely practice the right to free speech. In October 2007 when monks led a peaceful protest against government sanctioned rises in fuel costs, government forces responded with violence. Monks, who are considered holy in Burma, and others were assaulted, beaten and arrested.



Myanmar or Burma? Myanmar is the name that the current government uses. Many pro-democracy groups and dissidents continue to refer to the country as Burma.

Why a peacock? The peacock appears on the historical flag of Burma. The Peacock is also considered sacred in India.

Why are we sending the peacocks to India? The greatest hope for change in Burma is through the pressure of trade partners. India is economically invested in Burma and can exert political pressure there. Also, many refugees from Burma are fleeing to India and they need to be awarded refugee status so that they are not sent back to a country where they might be imprisoned, beaten and tortured.

Who is Aung San Suu Kyi? She was elected prime minister of Burma in 1989 but has never been allowed to act as such by the current military government. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. She has spent the majority of the last twelve years under house arrest with minimal medical access or family visits.

Postage: The postage for a single peacock to India is \$0.90. However, you can collect several peacocks to mail together. Check with the post office for rates.

Where can I learn more? Go to www.amnestyboston.org and follow the peacock to more links on the situation in Burma.