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News Release

Russ Hiebert
Member of Parliament



Stop Shelling Kachin State

(Ottawa) - Conservative MP Russ Hiebert made the following statement in the House of Commons today:

"Despite committing to a cease-fire last week, the Burmese military continues to shell Kachin State using heavy artillery and mortars, causing thousands to flee for their lives.

Last Thursday, the state capital, Laiza, was hit by mortars, killing three and injuring four more. The mayor reports that this city of 15,000 is largely deserted as people have fled into the countryside or into refugee camps. One camp, in a school on the edge of town, is now home for 7,500 people.

Some relief groups estimate as many as 100,000 people have been displaced within Kachin State. Without access to crops, clean water and proper sanitation, disease will be next. This is a disaster in the making.

I call on the Burmese military to live up to their commitments and immediately cease offensive military operations in Kachin State. And, hopefully, as peace talks happen, bargain with the Kachin people in good faith."

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