

RELEASE IN FULL

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**From:** Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 16, 2011 11:47 AM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** FW: Burma seeks final peace pacts with ethnic rebels (AP)

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**From:** OpsNewsTicker  
**Sent:** Friday, December 16, 2011 10:23 AM  
**To:** NEWS-EAP; NEWS-Mahogany  
**Subject:** Burma seeks final peace pacts with ethnic rebels (AP)

YANGON (AP) - A top Burmese official assigned to negotiate an end to fighting with ethnic minority rebel groups says the government is determined to achieve a permanent peace with them in three to four years.

Aung Thaung, who heads the government's Peace Committee, said December 16 that peace talks are being held with the Shan, Mon, Karen, Kayah and Kachin groups based on mutual respect and without any preconditions.

He told reporters that President Thein Sein ordered an end to fighting with Kachin rebels in the north last week but skirmishes continued because communicating with troops in remote areas was difficult.

*NewsTickers alert senior Department officials to breaking news. This item appears as it did in its original publication and does not contain analysis or commentary by Department sources.*