

# Burma 2010 Election Results

## One small step for democracy?

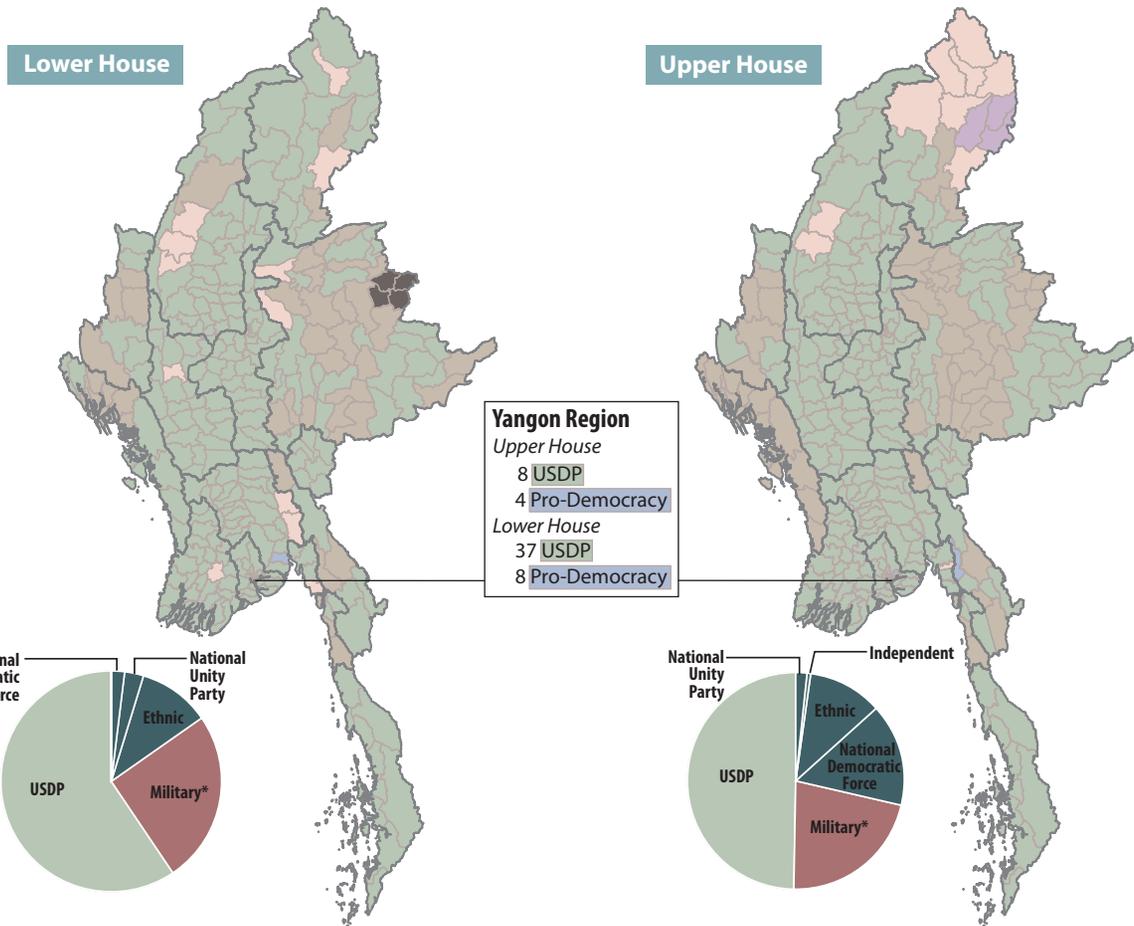
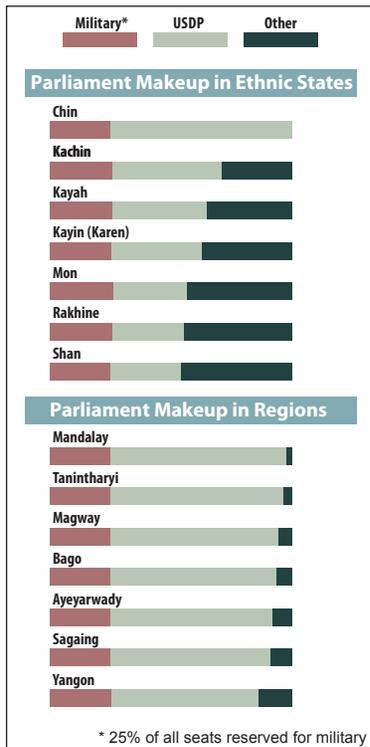
Amid allegations of election irregularities, including ballot stuffing, coercion, fraud, intimidation, and violence (see Burma 2010 Election Irregularities, page 2), the regime-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) won national, regional, and state elections.

Despite USDP using election apparatus and military force to manipulate votes, some people voted for the party of their choice. Ethnic states in particular voted for non-USDP candidates (see table below).

**National Parliament election results, 2010\***

	USDP	Ethnic	Pro-Democracy	National Unity Party	Independent	Canceled
People's Parliament (Lower House)	258	47	9	12	0	4
Nationalities Parliament (Upper House)	129	26	7	5	1	0

\* The military appoints 25% of all seats to its soldiers: 56 additional seats in the Nationalities Parliament, 110 additional seats in the People's Parliament



Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.

Sources: Democratic Voice of Burma, Burma News International, Irrawaddy, International Crisis Group, AltASEAN.org

# Burma 2010 Election Irregularities

## Neither free nor fair?

### Legal framework

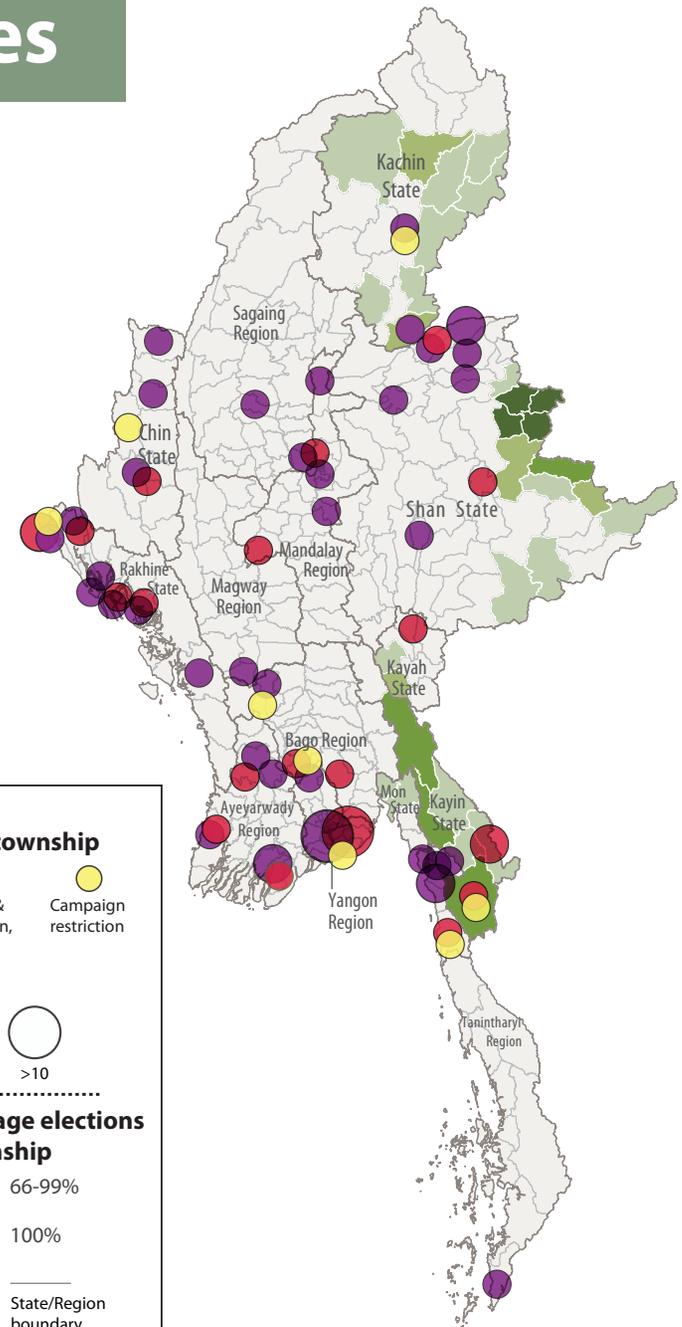
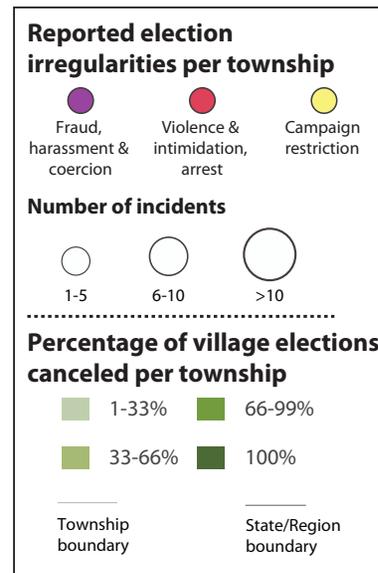
The 2008 Constitution, approved in a discredited referendum, reserves 25% of all Parliament seats for members of the military. It also allows the government to create lists of "ghost voters" and assign these votes to the regime-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP).

### Rules and restrictions

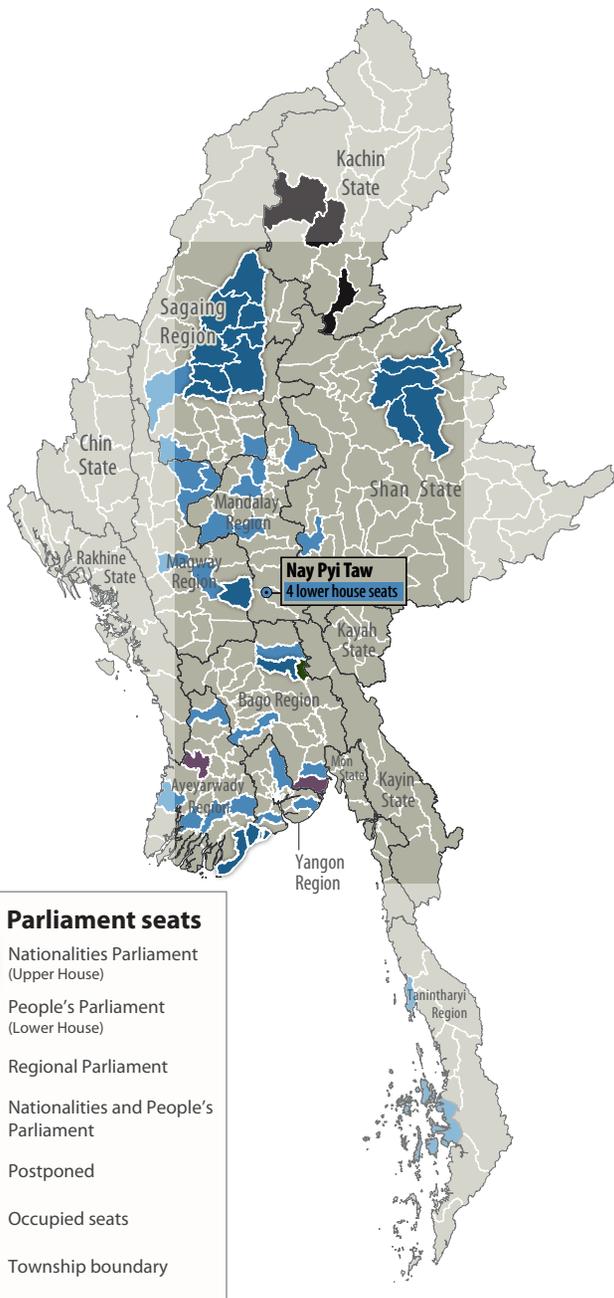
The constitutionally-mandated Union Election Commission (UEC) rejected 10 of 47 political parties and banned Aung San Suu Kyi from participating. Her National League for Democracy (NLD), which won a landslide victory in the ignored 1990 elections, subsequently boycotted the 2010 election. One-third of the 3,153 approved candidates were members of the USDP. The UEC banned election commentary and analysis in the media, prohibited outside monitors and foreign journalists, vetted and rejected candidates, reviewed all campaign speeches, and significantly restricted campaigning.

### Results and irregularities

The government's official voter turnout was 76.48% at 40,000 polling stations in 325 townships. Though this figure may be inflated, in comparison, the regime claimed a 99.07% turnout (and 92.48% approval) for the 2008 constitutional referendum. Foreign-based Burmese news organizations collected more than 500 reports of fraud, protests, illegal activity and other election irregularities.



# Burma Reforms and 2012 By-elections



**Open Parliament seats**

- Nationalities Parliament (Upper House)
- People's Parliament (Lower House)
- Regional Parliament
- Nationalities and People's Parliament
- Postponed
- Occupied seats
- Township boundary

Since its discredited 2010 elections, the nominally civilian Government of Burma has made a number of political reforms. Officials state the April 1 by-elections will be more free and more fair than previous elections, though less than 4% of all seats are open (see map). The Union Election Commission has made voter registration lists publicly available, offered all parties an opportunity to broadcast TV and radio messages at government expense, and publicly called for an end to informal campaign restrictions. Western governments have said they will heavily scrutinize the election conduct in the context of considering further easing of sanctions.

## Burma reform timeline

<p>Discredited referendum approves the 2008 constitution. It guarantees 25% of parliamentary seats to the military, allows the military to take over government during a state of emergency, and creates many administrative bodies, including the Union Election Commission</p>	<p><b>5/10/2008</b></p>	<p>Regime-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party sweeps first Burmese general election in 20 years</p>
<p>ASSK says she is willing to work with the government</p>	<p><b>11/19/10</b></p>	<p>Aung San Suu Kyi (ASSK) freed from seven years of house arrest</p>
<p>Thein Sein announces an amnesty, cutting one year from all sentences and commuting death sentences</p>	<p><b>3/30/11</b></p>	<p>Burma inaugurates its first civilian government in nearly 40 years, led by President Thein Sein</p>
<p>Burma lifts bans on prominent news websites, including some critical of the government</p>	<p><b>5/17/11</b></p>	<p>The government establishes the Myanmar Human Rights Commission to investigate abuses under the 2008 Constitution</p>
<p>Burma frees about 200 political prisoners including several prominent dissidents</p>	<p><b>9/15/11</b></p>	<p>Myitsone Dam project suspended, widely seen as a response to public opposition</p>
<p>UEC approves 19 political parties, including eight new parties, for the by-election and approves ASSK's candidacy for the Lower House seat in Kawhmu township, Yangon South. Only USDP and National League for Democracy (NLD) are contesting all 48 seats.</p>	<p><b>10/12/11</b></p>	<p>Burma releases 651 prisoners, including hundreds of high-profile activists</p>
<p></p>	<p><b>2/7/2012</b></p>	<p>UEC eases some restrictions on political rallies amid NLD complaints</p>
<p></p>	<p><b>2/20/2012</b></p>	<p>Government postpones by-elections in Kachin State</p>
<p></p>	<p><b>3/26/2012</b></p>	<p></p>

**4/1/2012 Election Day**