

Myanmar Terrorism Risk Review

Executive Summary

Myanmar has thus far been largely immune to radical Islamic terrorism, and has remained off the radar of large transnational organizations such as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), due in part to Muslims' accounting for only 4% of the country's population. While several militant groups continue to wage low-intensity insurgency against the central government in various states across Myanmar, most of these have no Islamic influence.

Key findings include:

- Myanmar is home to dozens of armed ethnic groups, the two largest being the United Wa State Army (UNWSA) and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA). Both of these consist of ethnic Chinese populations near the border with China, and **neither has Islamic influence or is deemed susceptible to overtures from jihadist groups.**
- Heightened international attention to the plight of Muslims in Rakhine state, which face discrimination and are denied citizenship, has elicited denunciations of the government by several foreign jihadist groups in recent years. While these groups have encouraged Rohingya Muslims to resort to violence, the Rohingya have been, thus far, unreceptive to violent jihad due to their peaceful disposition, intense state control of their communities, and fears that terrorist attacks against the government or Buddhist majority groups could trigger violent retribution.
- While Islamic militant groups in neighbouring countries have occasionally operated within Myanmar, **only two of the 154 reported terrorist attacks reported in the country between 2001 and 2015 were believed to have been launched by these groups.**

To access the full report click here: <http://bit.ly/ISSRiskMyanmar>