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**From the Selected Works of Reverend Lawrence E. Frizzell, S.T.L., S.S.L., D.Phil.**

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## Myanmar Muslims

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## Myanmar Muslims

In recent months the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* have carried accounts of serious tensions between the Buddhist and Muslim communities in Myanmar (Burma). The May 30, 2013 issue of *USA Today* offers a reflection, "Anti-Muslim attacks mar Burma's transition," with examples of efforts to foster good will and overcome discrimination. On May 31, 2013 the *Times* carried an editorial on the severe tensions, under the title "Attacks on Myanmar's Muslims." They constitute a small percentage of the population in a nation recently emerging from a military dictatorship.

In the South Asian neighborhood with a large Muslim majority, Bangladesh and Indonesia are in a position to influence the political and social developments of Myanmar. Will the encouragement of these nations be instrumental to protect their coreligionists and develop the harmony needed for regional peace and prosperity? Will the newly established Embassy of the United States be able to contribute to this endeavor? What can other organizations contribute to the process needed to overcome this persecution?

Those concerned about the well being of Christians and other minorities in many Muslim lands may ask another question. Will the commitment to safety and freedom of this minority lead people of good will to recognize the legitimate interests of minorities in their own countries? The challenges are enormous but each of these problems can be overcome. As has been said in other contexts, "justice delayed is justice denied!"

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