

Tom Kramer

Researcher Drugs & Democracy Project, Amsterdam, Netherlands
e-mail: tkramer@tni.org

Tom Kramer (1968) is a political scientist and with over 15-years of working experience on Burma and its border regions, which he has visited regularly since 1993. As of 2003 he works as a researcher for TNI's Drugs & Democracy Programme on Burma. Since 2005 work has expanded to cover Burma's neighboring countries Thailand, Laos, China's Yunnan province and North-east India. Work focuses on developing a better understanding of the drugs market in the region as a whole (instead of just country-specific studies) and the relationship between production and consumption, and on the issue of alternative development (AD). The project has created a regional network of local researchers, and it also carrying out advocacy towards policy makers in the region for more sustainable and human drug policies. Since 2005 he also works on Afghanistan, where the focus is on relationship between drugs & conflict, and involvement of western security forces in counter narcotic activities. Apart from his work for TNI, he is also a writer and free-lance consultant, specializing on ethnic conflict and civil society in Burma. He has carried out field research and written reports for a wide range of international NGOs, institutes and UN organizations.

Recent work

Neither War nor Peace; The Future of the Cease-fire agreements in Burma, TNI, July 2009.

From Golden Triangle to Rubber Belt? The Future of the Opium Bans in the Kokang and Wa Regions, TNI Drug Policy Briefing No.29, Amsterdam July 2009.

Areas of interest

Drugs & conflict in Burma and Afghanistan, alternative development (AD), and harm reduction; and ethnic conflict and civil society in Burma.

Publications

Contributions to books

Ethnic Conflict and Dilemmas for International Engagement, in: *Trouble in the Triangle; Opium & Conflict in Burma*, Transnational Institute and Burma Center Netherlands, Martin Jelsma, Tom Kramer & Pietje Vervest (editors), Silkworm Books, Chiangmai June 2005.

Burma/Myanmar; Ethnic Conflict and Military Rule, in: 'Searching for Peace in Asia Pacific; an Overview of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding Activities', European Centre for Conflict Prevention (ECCP), Utrecht 2004.

Reports and briefings

Neither War nor Peace; The Future of the Cease-fire agreements in Burma
TNI, July 2009.

From Golden Triangle to Rubber Belt? The Future of the Opium Bans in the Kokang and
Wa Regions, TNI Drug Policy Briefing No.29, Amsterdam July 2009.

Withdrawal Symptoms in the Golden Triangle, A Drugs Market in Disarray, (co-author
with Tom Blickman and Martin Jelsma), TNI, January 2009.

Withdrawal Symptoms; Changes in the Southeast Asian Drugs Market, (co-author with
Martin Jelsma), TNI Drugs & Conflict Debate paper No.16, Amsterdam August 2008.

Narco-Army or Ethnic Nationalist Party? The United Wa State Party and Statebuilding in
Burma. East West Center, Washington 2007.

Missing Targets; Counterproductive Drug Control Efforts in Afghanistan (co-author with
Martin Jelsma), TNI Drug Policy Briefing No.24, Amsterdam September 2007.

Loosing Ground; Drug Control and War in Afghanistan (co-author with Martin Jelsma),
TNI Drugs & Conflict Debate paper No.15, Amsterdam December 2006.

HIV/AIDS and Drug Use in Burma/Myanmar, TNI Drug Policy Briefing No.17, May 2006.

Downward Spiral; Opium Bans in Afghanistan and Burma, (co-author with Martin
Jelsma), TNI Drugs & Conflict Debate paper No.12, Amsterdam June 2005.

Drugs and Conflict in Burma (Myanmar); Dilemmas for Policy Responses, (co-author
with Martin Jelsma and Pietje Vervest), TNI Drugs & Conflict Debate paper No.9,
Amsterdam December 2003.

Strengthening Civil Society in Burma; Possibilities and Dilemmas for International NGOs
(co-editor with Pietje Vervest), TNI and Burma Centre Netherlands (BCN), Silkworm
Books, Thailand, 1999.

Articles

De Triángulo de Oro a anillo de caucho, La prohibición del opio en Birmania, Cañamo,
Septiembre 2009.

Around the Triangle, (Book review of: The Golden Triangle, Inside Southeast Asia's
Drug Trade, Ko-lin Chin. Cornell University Press, 2009), The Irrawaddy, July 2009,
Vol.17, No.4.

Drogas y conflicto en Birmania, Veinte años de paz armada en un contexto altamente
narcotizado, Cañamo, Junio 2009.

Twenty Years on, the Wa-Burmese Cease-fire looks shakier, The Nation (Thailand),
April 23, 2009.

Represión contraproducente en el sueste asiático, Martin Jelsma and Tom Kramer, Cañamo, Marzo 2009.

Drug Report in Southeast Asia, Martin Jelsma and Tom Kramer, The Nation (Thailand), 16 January 2009.

Alternative Development in the Golden Triangle, Reality or Myth? Martin Jelsma & Tom Kramer, Matters of Substance, February 2009, Vol.19, no.1.

Síntomas de abstinencia en el Triángulo de Oro, Martin Jelsma and Tom Kramer, Cañamo, Octubre 2008.

Withdrawal Symptoms for Golden Triangle Drug Trade, Martin Jelsma & Tom Kramer, The Nation (Thailand), August 23, 2008

Burmese Daze, The Irrawaddy, November 2008, Vol.16, No.11.

Opium Jihad, Martin Jelsma and Tom Kramer, Red Pepper, July 2007.

Opiumbestrijding in Afghanistan, Uncle Sam Maait Papavers, Martin Jelsma & Tom Kramer, Vrij Nederland, 8 June 2007.

Por los caminos de Afganistán, Martin Jelsma and Tom Kramer, Cañamo, 1 June 2007.

Geen opiumoorlog tegen Afghaanse boer, Martin Jelsma en Tom Kramer, NRC Handelsblad, 5 December 2006.

A Downward Spiral, The Irrawaddy, October 2005, Vol.13, No.1.

Kicking the Habit, Drug use and harm reduction policies in Burma, The Irrawaddy Vol. 13, No. 10, October 2005

War, History and Identity (book review: Mon Nationalism and Civil War in Burma: The Goldensheldrake, Ashley South, Routledge Curzon, 2002), April 2003, Vol.11, No.3.

Kachin Cease-fire: Killing the KIO Softly? Htun Myat (Tom Kramer), The Irrawaddy February-March 2002, Vol.10, No.2.

The War on Kachin Forests, Htun Myat (Tom Kramer) & John S. Moncreif, The Irrawaddy, October 2001, Vol.9, No.8.