



# BURMA REPORT

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**Free all political prisoners, free Aung San Suu Kyi, free Burma.**

Naing Aung <[dna\\_freeburma@yahoo.com](mailto:dna_freeburma@yahoo.com)>, [NLDmembersnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK] Fwd: US President, Senate and Ireland on Daw Suu's birthdayDatum:Sat, 19. Jun 2010

The White House, Office of the Press Secretary, June 18, 2010

## Statement by the President on the Birthday of Aung San Suu Kyi

<<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/statement-president-birthday-aung-san-suu-kyi>>

I wish to convey my best wishes to Aung San Suu Kyi, the world's only imprisoned Nobel Peace Laureate, on the occasion of her 65th birthday on June 19. Her determination, courage, and personal sacrifice in working for human rights and democratic change in Burma inspire all of us who stand for freedom and justice. I once again call on the Burmese government to release Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners immediately and unconditionally and to allow them to build a more stable, prosperous Burma that respects the rights of all its citizens. Towards this end, I encourage all stakeholders in Burma to engage in genuine dialogue towards national reconciliation, a vital step to set Burma on a more positive course for the future

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"EBO" <[burma@euro-burma.be](mailto:burma@euro-burma.be)>, "BurmaNews" <[burma\\_news@verizon.net](mailto:burma_news@verizon.net)>, Burma News - 21 June 2010, Tue, 22. Jun 2010 04:06:43

AFP - 19 June 2010 - <<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g23YVBVr4fzXW2CThNOyl4MhjmGA>>

## PM salutes Suu Kyi on 65th birthday

LONDON - Prime Minister David Cameron paid tribute to Myanmar democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi on Saturday as she marked her 65th birthday under house arrest.

In an open letter to Suu Kyi, Cameron described the Nobel laureate as "a powerful symbol of the strength of the human spirit" and promised that Britain's coalition government would "do all it can ... to bring a brighter future for Burma (Myanmar)".

In the letter released by Cameron's office, the British leader wrote: "Today you will mark yet another birthday under house arrest -- cut off from your children and your family.

My thoughts, and thoughts of so many people in Britain and across the world, will be with you and with the people of Burma. "The injustice of your continuing detention mirrors the injustice that the regime has inflicted on your country and your people for so many years. Throughout that time, you have stood firm, at enormous personal cost, for the principles of liberty and justice.

"You have become a powerful symbol of the strength of the human spirit ... I personally have long found your example deeply inspiring. I want to assure you that as Prime Minister, I will maintain a close interest in Burma.

"The British Government I lead will do all it can, both internationally, working through the United Nations, and bilaterally, to bring a brighter future for Burma and your people, in which they enjoy full human rights and true democracy.

"I have never forgotten your own request: that we should use our liberty to help the Burmese people to obtain theirs. I promise we will do everything we can to achieve that," Cameron added.

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Tin Kyi <[mtinkyi7@yahoo.com](mailto:mtinkyi7@yahoo.com)>, [NLDmembersnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK] Burma Related News - June 18, 2010.

AFP - <<http://www.france24.com/en/20100618-suu-kyi-supporters-worldwide-mark-65th-birthday>>

## Suu Kyi supporters worldwide mark 65th birthday

AFP - From tree planting in Myanmar to a solidarity rally in Washington and flash mobs in Britain, people around the world are holding events to mark the 65th birthday Saturday of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Supporters of Myanmar's iconic democracy leader plan to throw a small party for her at one of their houses in northern Yangon, but Suu Kyi won't be there.

Instead the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, in detention for almost 15 years, is expected to spend a quiet day at her lakeside mansion where she is kept without telephone or Internet access, cut off from the outside world.

Members of her National League for Democracy are planting about 20,000 saplings around Myanmar to mark her birthday.

"It's difficult without Daw Suu in a leading role. But we try our best with our belief because we have seen Daw Suu struggling for the people," Min Zaw Oo, a 29-year-old NLD youth member, told AFP.

"She's our role model. So we will continue to believe in her. We always pray for her release. Not only on her birthday."

Nandar Lin, 22, said women NLD youth members would recall Suu Kyi's past speeches on Saturday "as a birthday present to her".

"I haven't seen Daw Suu in person since I joined the party in 2007," she lamented. "Daw" is a term of respect in Myanmar.

Suu Kyi's soft voice and demeanour belie her status as the biggest threat to the ruling junta ahead of elections planned for sometime this year.

Her party won the last vote in 1990 but was never allowed to take office, and she is barred from standing in the upcoming polls -- the country's first in two decades.

"Aung San Suu Kyi is a global symbol of moral courage in the face of repression," said former US president Jimmy Carter, who attended a recent gathering in South Africa of eminent former leaders to mark her birthday.

Critics say the elections are a sham aimed at simply entrenching the generals' power, and a UN working group this week pronounced her detention a breach of international human rights law, prompting new calls for her release.

Suu Kyi's NLD is no longer recognised by the junta as an official party after refusing to meet a May 6 deadline to re-register -- a move that would have forced it to expel its leader and other members in detention.

Under election legislation unveiled in March, anyone serving a prison term is banned from being a member of a political party and parties that fail to obey the rule will be abolished.

Even so the woman known in Myanmar simply as "The Lady" remains the most powerful symbol of freedom in a country where the army rules with an iron fist.

"As long as she's in Burma and she's alive she's always going to be a threat to military rule," said David Mathieson of New York-based Human Rights Watch.

"She's always going to be standing up for the rights of her people and be the embodiment of the promise of a better future for the country," he said.

Among events planned worldwide, activists will stage a rally on Saturday outside the Capitol Building in Washington, while in London campaigners plan a demonstration on Friday in front of the Myanmar embassy.

Elsewhere in Britain, supporters are calling for flash mobs -- large groups of people who mass suddenly in public places -- to gather Saturday in different locations with Suu Kyi face masks to raise awareness of her plight.

And in Bangkok, opposition groups held a ceremony where they cut a birthday cake and delivered impassioned speeches calling for her release.

"She will spend another birthday under house arrest as a political prisoner," said Zipporah Sein, the general secretary of the Karen National Union, one of the biggest ethnic groups fighting Myanmar's junta.

"It is very sad that the upcoming sham election and the undemocratic election law have isolated her from the people of Burma. It is because of her vision, her courage -- her vision for freedom and democracy for Burma."

Suu Kyi had her incarceration lengthened by 18 months in August last year after being convicted over a bizarre incident in which a US man swam to her lakeside home, and there are fears her detention may be extended again.

"I think that they can constantly find reasons to extend it," said Mathieson of Human Rights Watch. "They'll only ever release her when they have the confidence that they can contain her."

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The Irrawaddy – Newsletter, May 31, 2010, [news@irrawaddy.org](mailto:news@irrawaddy.org), <http://www.irrawaddy.org/>

## Depayin Masterminds Wield Power in USDP

By WAI MOE - Monday, May 31, 2010 <[http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art\\_id=18591](http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=18591)>

Several of the Burmese junta officials who recently resigned their military positions to found the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) were responsible for the deadly ambush on pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her convoy in Depayin, Sagaing Division, in 2003.



USDP leaders together: Burma's Prime Minister Thein Sein (left) talks with Aung Thaung (center) and Rangoon Mayor Aung Thein Lin in Mandalay on April 29. (Photo: AP)

About 5,000 armed thugs recruited from rural areas under the authority of the pro-junta Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) ambushed Suu Kyi's convoy in the evening of May 30, 2003, and killed an estimated 100 people, according to independent observers. Suu Kyi narrowly escaped with her life.

Since the massacre, several of those involved in the incident have been promoted, have established close business relations with the junta or, in at least one case, have married their family members into the military elite.

Former Lt-Col Aung Thaung, a hardline minister who was a USDA leader in 2003, has seen his business interests grow exponentially since the Depayin Massacre. His family's IGE Co Ltd is now one of wealthiest and most diverse companies in the country with interests in banking, pipeline construction, exporting and logging.

Nowadays, he is not only personally close to Than Shwe, but also to junta No. 2 Vice Snr-Gen Maung Aye. One of his sons is married to Maung Aye's daughter. Aung Thaung is the current minister of Industry-1, but is expected to lead the USDP in this year's general election along with Prime Minister Thein Sein.

Another hardliner, Minister of Information Kyaw Hsan has also seen his star rise since he was the leader of the USDA in Sagaing Division at the time of the Depayin attack. He is now head of the junta's Spoke Authoritative Team and a powerful leader within the newly formed USDP.

The commander of Northwestern Regional Military Command in 2003 is the current minister of Hotels and Tourism Soe Naing. Both Kyaw Hsan and Soe Naing were among the more than 20 ministers who resigned from their military posts to become founder members of the USDP.

Perhaps the highest rising "butcher" of Depayin was Gen Soe Win. As secretary-2 of the junta in 2003, it is believed he ordered the attack on Suu Kyi's convoy without the knowledge of the Military Intelligence Service, which was led by Gen Khin Nyunt. Local sources in Sagaing Division have said that Soe Win commanded the attack from the headquarters of the Northwestern Regional Military Command.

Soe Win died of leukemia in October 2007, but not before serving as Burma's prime minister, personally appointed by Than Shwe, from 2004-07.

Another military commander accused of playing a role in the Depayin Massacre is the 2003 commander of the Central Regional Military Command Lt-Gen Ye Myint who is now the junta's chief negotiator with the ethnic cease-fire groups, as well as heading Military Affairs Security. Ye Myint however, has not been named as a member of the USDP.

A Depayin survivor, Tin Oo, who is the deputy chairman of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, recently told foreign broadcasters that he witnessed several groups of about 50 persons per group moving in to attack the convoy on May 30.

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The Irrawaddy - Newsletter for June 2, 2010, [news@irrawaddy.org](mailto:news@irrawaddy.org), [www.irrawaddy.org](http://www.irrawaddy.org) Wed, 02. Jun 2010 15:13:54

## What Message Will Wen Jiabao Bring to Burma?

By BA KAUNG, Wednesday, June 2, 2010 <[http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art\\_id=18607](http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=18607)>

In addition to talks on China's multi-billion dollar energy projects in Burma and stability at the two countries' joint border, Chinese premier Wen Jiabao is expected to offer some advice about Burma's planned election when he meets military supremo Snr-Gen Than Shwe during his visit to the country which begins on Wednesday.

Wen's visit—the first visit of a Chinese premier to Burma in 16 years—could open up “a new page of good-neighborly and friendly cooperation,” the Chinese ambassador to Burma, Ye Dabo, was quoted as saying in China's state-run news

agency, *Xinhua*, on Tuesday.



During his visit to Japan, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao practices tai chi with local residents at Yoyogi Park in Tokyo on May 31, 2010 (Photo: Reuters)

The “new page” which the Chinese ambassador alludes to is mostly likely the relationship between the Chinese Communist government and a newly elected Burmese parliament, albeit under de facto control of the military generals.

Indeed, the coming advent of an election in Burma is an important development for China, which is frequently left to defend the Burmese junta's human rights record at the UN Security Council. Beijing's task will undoubtedly be more palatable when standing up for an elected government rather than a rogue military state—much the same as when China protects North Korea on the world stage.

“If Burma had an elected government, then China would also be able to improve the perception of its own people towards its relations with Burma,” said Thakhin Chan Tun, Burma's ambassador to China and North Korea during the 1960s and 70s.

The Chinese premier may urge Naypyidaw to make the election more inclusive by bringing parties, especially those representing ethnic groups, into the fold. Another suggestion could be that the regime accept election observers from China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Although China itself is a one-party state that never holds national elections, it has dispatched election observers since 2005 to the Palestinian territories, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and, most recently, to Sudan, whose controversial election China called a “smooth and orderly success.”

Despite the fact that the Burmese officials openly stated to US diplomat Kurt Campbell, who visited Burma last month, that Burma could not accept international monitoring groups since “it [Burma] is rich with election experience”, they might be swayed into welcoming a more innocuous team of Chinese observers.

Sean Turnell, a Burma specialist from Macquarie University in Australia, told *Al Jazeera* on Wednesday that China wants to see the stability and a semblance of legitimacy, and that it wants to remove the pressure that is sustaining the economic sanctions against Burma—the sanctions that it sees as undermining Burma's stability.

Also on the agenda during his two-day visit, Wen will look to strengthen China's interests in post-election Burma by signing several bilateral agreements with the regime on science and technology, energy and trade. China is currently building a 2,000-km oil pipeline from Burma's Arakan State to China's Yunnan Province, and, according to Earth Rights International, no less than 69 Chinese multinational corporations are currently involved in at least 90 hydropower, mining, and oil and gas projects across Burma.

China, which shares a 2,190 km border with Burma, is the country's third biggest foreign trade partner after Thailand and Singapore. Its foreign trade with Burma reached US \$1.8 billion in 2009, and it is in the Chinese leadership's interest that Burma's election is viewed as success. At a time when the Burmese regime faces a crisis of legitimacy without the participation of major opposition political parties, most notably Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, it is likely Wen will advise Than Shwe to make a few concessions toward making the election more credible—symbolically, at least, according to official statistics.

Besides seeking assurances from Burma that secure China's vast economic interests in the country, Wen is reportedly expected to stress the importance of stability at the Sino-Burmese border, where skirmishes took place last year between the regime's troops and an armed ethnic group, sending tens of thousands of refugees into China. Beijing issued a rare admonishment to the regime on the incident and, in return, Burma grudgingly apologized.

In a letter from Human Rights Watch to the Chinese premier, the NGO called on Wen to focus on four issues during his trip: the 2010 election; security at the border areas; regional engagement and diplomacy; and trade and investment relations.

However, perhaps the most intriguing topic of discussion between the two leaders will be Burma's relationship with North Korea. It was China that arranged a secret mission of senior Burmese military officials to Pyongyang last year; and since then, international suspicions have grown that Burma is trying to obtain nuclear technology from North Korea.

Wen was in South Korea last week when he notably did not join in international condemnations of North Korea over the

alleged sinking of a South Korean warship. In addition, a recent report by UN experts indicates that Pyongyang is involved in banned nuclear and ballistic activities in Iran, Syria and Burma. The United States government has expressed its concern over the issue.

According to analysts in China, although Beijing does not object to Burma acquiring weapons and military equipment from other countries, it is opposed to the Burmese junta developing chemical or nuclear weapons or any kind of weapon of mass destruction.

At the end of the day, it would be hard to imagine that something secret and sensitive is happening between North Korea and Burma without the knowledge of China. However, what if it were? And what if Beijing got wind of it?

Then, the Chinese premier would certainly have something to say when he sat down with Than Shwe. Not that the outside world would ever know what transpired between the two on this subject.

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Zin Linn <[zinlinn@cscoms.com](mailto:zinlinn@cscoms.com)> [NLDmembrsnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK] News & Articles on BurmaDatum:Sat, 05. Jun 2010 15:16:16

**The Irrawaddy** - Today's Newsletter for Saturday, June 5, 2010 - [news@irrawaddy.org](mailto:news@irrawaddy.org), [www.irrawaddy.org](http://www.irrawaddy.org)

## Burma's Deputy Defense Minister Skips Security Summit - [By SAW YAN NAING, Saturday, June 5, 2010 - <http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art\\_id=18636>](http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=18636)

Burmese Deputy Defense Minister Maj-Gen Aye Myint was absent from the 9th annual Shangri La Dialogue, an Asia-Pacific security summit held in Singapore on June 4-6.

The summit brings together defense ministers, academics and security experts to discuss Asia-Pacific security issues, including weapons of mass destruction, biological weapons and humanitarian and disaster relief.

Aye Myint's absence came as fresh evidence of Burma's nascent nuclear weapons program was revealed in a documentary aired on the Doha-based *Al Jazeera* television network on Friday.

Observers said he may have stayed away from the meeting to avoid being questioned about Burma's nuclear program.

"If someone asked him about it, he would have had to say something," said Chan Htun, a former Burmese ambassador to China. "That's probably why he didn't show up."

Burma's ambassador to Singapore, Win Myint, was present at the summit.

One of the issues raised at the summit on Friday was the sinking of a South Korean warship, the Cheonan, which Seoul says was torpedoed by North Korea on March 26.

South Korea President Lee Myung-bak asked the UN Security Council to take action against North Korea over the attack.

According to Dr Zarni, a Burmese academic who attended the summit, Lee also mentioned a bomb attack that targeted a South Korean delegation visiting Rangoon in 1983. The attack, carried out by North Korean agents, killed 17 people.

Lee did not, however, mention North Korea's current military assistance to Burma.

A UN report last month said that North Korea is exporting nuclear and ballistic missile technology and using multiple intermediaries, shell companies and overseas criminal networks to circumvent UN sanctions.

The report said its research indicates that Pyongyang is involved in banned nuclear and ballistic weapons activities in Iran, Syria and Burma.

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THE BURMANET NEWS, June 4, 2010, Issue #3976, [burmanet@burmanet.org](mailto:burmanet@burmanet.org) - [www.burmanet.org](http://www.burmanet.org)

**Associated Press** - <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/2010/jun/03/us-senator-nixes-myanmar-trip-over-nuclear-concern/>

## US senator nixes Myanmar trip over nuclear Concern -

By GRANT PECK, Associated Press Writer - Thursday, June 3, 2010 at 4:27 a.m.

BANGKOK — A U.S. senator on Thursday postponed a trip to Myanmar, saying it is a bad time to visit because of new allegations that its military regime is collaborating with North Korea to develop a nuclear program.

A statement issued by the office of Sen. Jim Webb, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Subcommittee

on East Asia and Pacific Affairs, said the allegations had not been substantiated, but there were also concerns that Myanmar had broken a U.N. embargo on buying arms from North Korea.

"Until there is further clarification on these matters, I believe it would be unwise and potentially counterproductive for me to visit Burma," said his statement, referring to Myanmar by its former name. Webb was supposed to go to Myanmar late Thursday.

Myanmar's military regime is under economic and political sanctions by many Western nations because of its poor record on human rights and its failure to hand over power to a democratically elected government. The leader of the pro-democracy opposition, Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, has been detained for about 14 of the past 20 years.



Mr Webb said it would not be productive for him to visit Burma

Webb's statement cited news reports it did not identify. "From the initial accounts, a defecting officer from the Burmese military claims direct knowledge of such plans, and reportedly has furnished documents to corroborate his claims," his statement said.

The website of the Doha-based Al-Jazeera satellite TV station said Thursday it will broadcast a program Friday with evidence that "Myanmar's ruling generals have started a program to build nuclear weapons (and) are trying to develop long-range missiles."

U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said Washington has "been concerned about Burma's relationship with North Korea, the transactions that occur between Burma and North Korea."

"We are very conscious that North Korea is a serial proliferator of dangerous materials and weapons," Crowley said. "This is something that we have expressed directly to Burma and that continues to be a major concern of ours."

The trip by Webb, a Democrat from Virginia, had been scheduled to follow a visit by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Kurt Campbell last month, and would have overlapped with that of Premier Wen Jiabao of China, Myanmar's closest and most powerful ally, who arrived Wednesday in Myanmar.

On his current Asian tour, Webb has visited South Korea and Thailand.

Campbell during his visit last month cautioned Myanmar's military regime that it should abide by U.N. sanctions that prohibit buying arms from North Korea.

A U.N. Security Council resolution bans all North Korean arms exports, authorizes member states to inspect North Korean sea, air and land cargo and requires them to seize and destroy any goods transported in violation of the sanctions.

Campbell said that Myanmar's leadership had agree to abide by the U.N. resolution, but that "recent developments" called into question its commitment.

At a news conference late Thursday in Bangkok, Webb said he still strongly believed that continuing a dialogue between the U.S. and Myanmar is important for maintaining a strategic balance in Southeast Asia and encouraging more open government in Myanmar, "but a productive dialogue is only achievable in an environment where we don't have these other issues so outstanding."

He also said he thought "China should step forward and assume a bigger role and become more openly involved in solving a range of issues" including Iran, Burma, North Korea, as well as transnational problems.

Webb also called for President Obama to "immediately appoint a special envoy to address the entire range of issues regarding relations between the United States and Burma" - an action mandated by U.S. Law.

Associated Press writer Alex Alper contributed to this report.

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Zin Linn <[zinlinn@cscoms.com](mailto:zinlinn@cscoms.com)> - NLDmembersnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK] News & Articles on Burma, Thu, 03. Jun

**Bangkok Post** - Online news: [Asia](#) - Published: 3/06/2010 at 04:52 PM

## Chinese and Burma leaders sign deals, discuss Border

- <<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/asia/180009/chinese-and-burma-leaders-sign-deals-discuss-border>>

The Chinese premier signed major deals and discussed the thorny issue of border stability with neighbouring Burma's junta chief on Thursday during a visit to the military-ruled country.



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, seen here on May 30, signed major deals and discussed the thorny issue of border stability with neighbouring Burma's junta chief during a visit to the military-ruled country.

Wen Jiabao met Senior General Than Shwe in capital Naypyidaw during his three-day visit, which comes ahead of Burma's elections later this year and is the first by a Chinese prime minister to the country in 16 years.

Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said in Beijing the two sides had "reached consensus on many issues and signed a lot of major deals which marks another step forward".

Jiang told a briefing Burma's premier Thein Sein was included in the talks, during which the two sides signed a series of agreements on trade, finance, energy, science and technology.

China is the junta's key ally and trading partner, and an eager investor in the isolated state's sizeable natural resources. In November its top oil producer began construction of a pipeline across Burma.

But ties between the two countries frayed last August when fighting between Burma's isolated ruling junta and rebel ethnic armies in the remote northeast drove tens of thousands of refugees into China.

"Premier Wen Jiabao said China values its good neighbourliness with the Burma side from a strategic perspective," said the spokeswoman.

She said the premier wanted to bring relations "to a new high" on the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the countries.

China Radio International also reported on Thursday that Premiers Wen and Thein Sein attended a signing ceremony for a China-Burma oil and gas pipelines project.

The pair were due to attend an inauguration ceremony at Burma International Conference Centre in Naypyidaw which was built and funded by China, before Wen returned to Rangoon to fly out of the country.

He arrived in Rangoon on Wednesday afternoon for what the state-controlled New Light of Burma newspaper said was a "goodwill visit", before visiting a school and the famed Shwedagon Pagoda.

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Tin Kyi <[mtinkyi7@yahoo.com](mailto:mtinkyi7@yahoo.com)>, [NLDmembersnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK]BURMA RELATED NEWS - JUNE 11-14, 2010

**The Irrawaddy – Newsletter, June 14, 2010.** [news@irrawaddy.org](mailto:news@irrawaddy.org), <[http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art\\_id=18717](http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=18717)>

## Pressure Off Cease-fire Groups for Now

By SAW YAN NAING

Monday, June 14, 2010

Pressures on ethnic cease-fire groups such as the United Wa State Army (UWSA) and the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) has decreased recently, according to border sources.

Several observers said that the regime decreased its pressure on the ethnic armies to join the border guard force after Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao visited Burma in early June.

During the trip, Wen signed 15 cooperation agreements with the junta covering areas such as natural gas imports, a trans-Burma gas pipeline, hydro-power dams and foreign aid.

Some border observers believe he also discussed the need to settle the differences between the regime and the cease-fire groups without violence.

A KIO official in Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin State, who asked for anonymity told The Irrawaddy on Monday that his organization has not been pressured after the deadline for the border guard force proposal passed.

"They [the junta] don't give us pressure any more," he said. The Burmese government wants the KIO to cooperate voluntarily, he said.

Meanwhile, Aung Kyaw Zaw, a Burmese observer on the China-Burma border, said that about 30 school teachers have returned to UWSA-controlled areas. In Burma, schools open in early June.

In March, hundreds of people including schoolteachers, businessmen and nongovernmental organization workers left UWSA-controlled areas in fear that war would break out between the regime and the ethnic army.

Lapai Naw Din, the editor of the Thailand-based Kachin News Group, said that the pressure against the cease-fire groups seems to be over, at least for now.

"China strategically wants Burma to be stable so that it can increase investment in Burma. The more Burma is stable, the better for China [for trade]," said Naw Din.

Khuensai Jaiyen, an editor at the Thailand-based Shan Herald Agency for News, said the regime is afraid to apply pressure now because it knows an armed conflict could impact the upcoming election.

The election is the junta's first priority, said Aung Kyaw Zaw, and the regime will probably wait until after the election to demand cooperation.

The junta has pressured cease-fire groups since April 2009 and extended its deadlines repeatedly.

Recently, leaders of the newly formed United Solidarity and Development Party (USPP) traveled to Kachin State and lobbied KIO members to join hands with the government. Some leaders of Kachin splinter groups such as the New Democratic Army-Kachin (NDA-K) and the Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP) have repeatedly written to the KIO, urging it to accept the border guard force proposal.

Burmese Premier Thein Sein who heads the USDP visited Kachin State at least three times to try to persuade KIO leaders to cooperate with the government. Thein Sein canceled a trip to Laiza, the headquarters of the KIO, on Sunday, according to KIO sources in Myitkyina.

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"EBO" <burma@euro-burma.be>,"BurmaNews " <burma\_news@verizon.net>, 16. Jun 2010 - <http://teakdoor.com/thailand-and-asia-news/74049-burma-buys-50-fighter-jets-china.html>

**THE IRRAWADDY** - Newsletter for June 15, 2010, [news@irrawaddy.org](mailto:news@irrawaddy.org), [www.irrawaddy.org](http://www.irrawaddy.org) -<http://irrawaddy.org/article.php?art\_id=18726>

## Burma Buys 50 Fighter Jets From Chin - By THE IRRAWADDY

Tuesday, June 15, 2010 -

The Burmese air force continues to expand with the recent procurement of 50 K-8 jet trainer aircraft from China, according to sources within the air force in Meikhtila.

"Parts of the K-8 aircraft were transported by cargo ship from China and are being assembled at the Aircraft Production and Maintenance Base in Meikhtila," said one of the sources.

The purchase of the 50 aircraft comes after Burma's air force chief Lt-Gen Myat Hein traveled to China in November to negotiate an upgrade to the fleet of Chinese-made military aircraft already owned by Burma. "There are two reasons to purchase K-8 trainers," said the source. "Either for training exercises or for counter-insurgency."

The K-8 jet trainer, sometimes called the K-8 Karakorum or the Hongdu JL-8, is a joint venture between China and Pakistan, and is fitted with air-to-air missiles and rockets.

In 1998-9, the Burmese air force bought 12 K-8 jet trainers from China, which are now stationed at Taungoo Air Base in Pegu Division.

In addition to purchasing Chinese-made fighters and trainer aircraft, Naypyidaw signed a contract in late 2009 to buy 20 MiG-29 jet fighters from Russia at a cost of nearly US \$570 million.

"The parts of the MiG-29 jet fighters will arrive in July and September by cargo ship and by plane," said an officer close to Col. Tun Aung, a key figure in the Burmese air force. He said that the 20 Russian aircraft will be assembled in Meikhtila.

Meanwhile, Burma's main air base for maintenance, the Aircraft Production and Maintenance Air Base (APMAB) in Panchangone in Mingaladon Township has been relocated to Nyaunggone, close to the regime's Flying Training Base in Shante in Meikhtila Township, according to a source from the air base.

"The APMAB got the order from Naypyidaw in January to relocate to the new location," he said, but said he did not know why the relocation took place.

Military sources from Rangoon said that Burmese ruling military council upgraded the air force's facilities and expanded airfields, as well as two air force bases in Bassein and Homemalin in 2006, to fulfill operational capabilities.

Burma has brought 280 aircraft from China, Russia, Yugoslavia and Poland, including trainers and fighters, since the military took power in 1988.

The Burmese air force was founded in 1947 before Burmese independence. Its main objective has since been counter campaigns against the Communist Party of Burma and several ethnic armies.

Burma has 10 air force headquarters: Bassein Air Base in Irrawaddy Division; Mingaladon Air Base in Rangoon Division; Myitkyina Air Base in Kachin State; Myike Air Base in Tenasserim Division; Namsang Air Base in Shan State; Taungoo Air Base in Pegu Division; Meikhtila (Shante) Flying Training Base; Meikhtila Grounding Training Base in Mandalay Division; Magwe Air Base in Magwe Division; and Homemalin Air Base in Sagaing Division.

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## Falling into China's Hands - By HTET AUNG, Monday, June 21, 2010

*"Inngalate Ah Khat, Bama Ah Chat!"*

During the time we were struggling to expel the British from our shores, this was a famous chant. "A hardship for the British: an opportunity for the Burmese," is what it means.

Half a century later, we could amend the slogan to: "A hardship for the Burmese: an opportunity for the Chinese."

For Burma has become a satellite of China—economically, politically and militarily.

Earlier this month, Burma's generals rolled out the red carpet for visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao, and reaffirmed the two countries' *paukphaw* (fraternal) relationship.

In a statement issued on June 8, junta strongman Snr-Gen Than Shwe stressed that the two countries have established "a strategic relationship," a term that can be interpreted as "a strategic alliance of the two countries in political, economic and security issues."

Although this kind of alliance between two neighboring countries is normal in terms of economic cooperation, a China-Burma strategic relationship could significantly alter the balance of security in the region.

The day after the Chinese premier concluded his trip, Burma's state-run *New Light of Myanmar* reported that China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) had physically begun the construction of 800-km dual pipelines to import oil and natural gas overland from Burma's Arakan State.

This is the second transnational gas pipeline project following completion of the pipeline link that exists to export Burma's offshore natural gas to Thailand.

China will also import the crude oil that it brings from the Middle East and Africa via these pipelines, which commence at Burma's Kyaukpyu deep seaport off the country's western coast and cross the country to China's Yunnan Province.

Given the growing presence of China's commercial interests in the Bay of Bengal, it is clear that Beijing will order an expansion of naval capacity in the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal to ensure the security of its oil tankers.

This creates several serious security concerns for rival India, because the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal are traditionally within New Delhi's sphere of influence.

CNPC, which is the main investor in the transnational oil and gas pipeline project, is one of China's three largest state-owned oil and gas companies. The other two companies, China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (Sinopec) and China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) have also secured an enormous stake in Burma's oil and natural gas fields.

In fact, according to the report "*China in Burma*," which was issued by the Washington-based EarthRights International in 2008, 16 Chinese oil companies are currently invested in Burma.

China has succeeded in securing these energy reserves at the expense of the Western nations that balked at the prospect of dealing with the regime, and fell in line with a US-led sanctions policy.

Make no mistake—securing Burma's natural resources and keeping the junta in its pocket is one of China's key foreign policy goals.

"Chinese companies have sought to establish a presence mostly in countries where US and European companies are absent or have withdrawn," said Dr. Gawdat Bahgat, the director of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Indiana University in Pennsylvania, in his article "*China's Energy Policy: Strategic Implications*," which was published in the *Middle East Economic Survey* in 2007.

He said: "These targeted countries, like Iran, Sudan, Uzbekistan and Venezuela, have adopted domestic and foreign policies that are largely in contrast with the interests of Western powers."

Dr. Bahgat's analysis remains relevant in the context of the China-Burma relationship. For example, both Sudan and Burma are pariah states, sanctioned by the West due to massive human rights violations. Both are run by authoritarian regimes, and both possess enormous oil and natural gas reserves.

But for the Burmese generals, the pipeline deal is more than just a massive cash cow; it has strategic value as well. While the military junta in Naypyidaw frequently faces condemnation and sanctions from the international community for its gross violations of human rights, the pipeline guarantees that Beijing will continue to protect Burma and veto calls for sanctions

against the junta.

Burma's armed forces, not to mention its air force and navy, have been significantly upgraded in the past two decades with China's help.

The Burmese air force recently reinforced its capacity with the acquisition of 50 K-8 Karakorum jet fighters from China.

The generals' reliance on Chinese protection is not, in fact, based on their fears of external threats, but is a result of their policy of refusing to settle peacefully with ethnic armed groups and agreeing national reconciliation with the domestic political opposition.

China has no interest in promoting human rights and democracy in the world, much less in Burma. Chinese leaders aim to build cozy relations with rogue states, such as North Korea, Sudan and Burma, exploiting the so-called principle of "non-interference in other country's internal affairs."

Recently, when *Al Jazeera* aired a documentary accusing Burma of initiating a secret nuclear program, Chinese leaders kept silent. They apparently have no fear of another nuclear power in their backyard. To the Chinese leadership, securing Burma's huge natural gas reserve is an altogether more immediate concern than tapering its nuclear ambitions.

But for the people of Burma, now is the time to reassess whether our country has fallen into colonial hands again. If so, it is the duty of all Burmese citizens to stand up and protect the country from becoming a colony or a satellite state of a Greater China.

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## In The Quiet Land - By Aung San Suu Kyi



SLORC takes the spoils...

In the Quiet Land...  
In the Quiet Land, no one can hear  
what is silenced by murder  
and covered up with fear.

But, despite what is forced, freedom's a sound  
that liars can't fake and no shouting can drown.

SLORC = General Saw Maung staged a coup d'état and formed the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) in 1988.

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Burma's elected leader,  
**Aung San Suu Kyi**  
will be celebrating  
her birthday  
on June 19th.  
alone under continued  
house arrest.  
**RELEASE HER NOW!**  
**Make Your  
Voice Heard!**

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