



BURMA REPORT

September 2010
မြန်မာ့ - မှတ်တမ်း

Issue N° 88

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

"EBO" burma@euro-burma.be, "BurmaNews" <burma_news@verizon.net>, Burma News - 12 August 2010 Datum: Fri, 13. Aug 2010

Human Rights Watch - PRESS RELEASE - 11 August 2010 - <<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/08/10/burma-eu-should-endorse-international-war-crimes-inquiry>>

Burma: EU Should Endorse International War Crimes Inquiry

Brussels - European Union member states should publicly support the establishment of an international Commission of Inquiry into war crimes and crimes against humanity in Burma ahead of the United Nations General Assembly in September, Human Rights Watch said in a letter to EU foreign ministers today.

Human Rights Watch urged the EU to include a Commission of Inquiry in the draft resolution on Burma for the General Assembly. Such a move follows up on the March 2010 statement by the UN special rapporteur on human rights in Burma, TomÁs Ojea

Quintana, calling on the UN to consider the possibility of establishing a Commission of Inquiry into crimes in violation of international law committed in Burma.

"Ritually condemning Burma in annual General Assembly resolutions is no longer enough," said Kenneth Roth, executive director of Human Rights Watch. "The UN needs to raise the price for continuing abuses by starting to investigate them."

In support of Quintana's call, the European Parliament on May 20 passed a resolution on Burma calling on the EU High Representative and member states to publicly support the UN's establishment of a Commission of Inquiry on Burma and to include this request in the General Assembly's draft resolution on Burma at the upcoming session.

Some EU member states, as well as the government of Australia, have already publicly pledged their support for an international commission for Burma.

The June 2010 Kampala Declaration resulting from the Review Conference of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC), reiterated the commitment of 111 ICC member states "to put an end to impunity for perpetrators of the most serious crimes of international concern." EU states, which are all members of the ICC, should demonstrate that commitment by taking a leading role in pushing for the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to investigate abuses by all parties amounting to war crimes and possible crimes against humanity in Burma, Human Rights Watch said.

For years UN special mechanisms, Human Rights Watch, and others have documented and publicly reported on serious, widespread, and systemic violations of international human rights and humanitarian law in Burma. There have been 19 resolutions on Burma in the UN General Assembly alone since 1992.

Human Rights Watch also released today an extensive Q & A that addresses various issues relating to accountability for crimes in violation of international law in Burma.

"Continuing business as usual in Burma will only embolden rights abusers" Roth said. "Establishing an international Commission of Inquiry would be an important first step towards bringing abusers to justice and ending impunity in Burma."

THE BURMANET NEWS - August 13, 2010 Issue #4019 - "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org>, www.burmanet.org Fri, 13. Aug 2010

New York Times, August 13, 2010

Myanmar Junta sets election date – Seth Mydans

BANGKOK — [Myanmar](#) will hold its first elections in two decades on Nov. 7, the ruling junta announced Friday, setting a date for a vote that has been denounced by opponents as a means of legitimizing military power within the format of civilian rule.

The main opposition party, the National League for Democracy, is boycotting the elections, saying the electoral rules are unfair and restrictive. Its leader, [Daw Aung San Suu Kyi](#), a Nobel Peace laureate who has spent most of the past 20 years under house arrest, is legally barred from running in the election because she is under government detention.

The party was officially disbanded in May because it refused to register for the campaign.

The brief election announcement, carried on government radio and television stations in Myanmar, formerly Burma, said, "Multiparty general elections for the country's Parliament will be held Sunday, Nov. 7." It gave political parties until the end of this month to submit their candidate lists.

The timing of the elections gives parties only a short time to recruit candidates and mount campaigns in what one Burmese exile commentator, Win Tin, called "a calculated political ambush."

The United States and other Western nations have condemned the elections as undemocratic. After a two-day visit in early May, Assistant Secretary of State Kurt M. Campbell said he was "profoundly disappointed" by the preparations for the elections.

"What we have seen to date leads us to believe that these elections will lack international legitimacy," he said.

Although the future Parliament ostensibly marks a shift to civilian government, it is heavily weighted toward the military, which has held power for the past half-century. One-quarter of the 440 seats will be reserved for active members of the military, which will allow them to control important ministries, including those responsible for justice, defense and internal affairs.

Many other candidates are former military officers. In April, the prime minister and 22 other ministers retired from their military posts to run for office as civilians.

In addition, a new constitution creates a powerful National Defense and Security Council, controlled by the military commander in chief, that has the power to overrule the civilian government

Electoral rules also favor the junta, placing tight restrictions on campaigns and public statements that criticize the government.

At least 40 parties have registered to run, including the Union Solidarity and Development Party, regarded as a vehicle for the junta's candidates, which is believed to have received state money and special privileges.

The now-dissolved National League for Democracy won the last election in 1990 by an overwhelming margin but was denied its seats by the military.

The new election is scheduled to take place shortly before Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi's latest term of house arrest expires. The fact that her late husband was a foreigner also prohibits her from running.

THE BURMANET NEWS, August 18, 2010, Issue #4022, "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org>, www.burmanet.org

MIZZIMA - <<http://www.mizzima.com/news/world/4258-win-tin-presses-canada-to-support-un-inquiry.html>>

Win Tin presses Canada to support UN inquiry

Wednesday, 18 August 2010 16:52 - Thomas Maung Shwe

Chiang Mai (Mizzima) – Win Tin, co-founder of Burma's National League for Democracy, in an interview last week called on the government of Canada and other nations to support the appeal for a UN commission of inquiry into human rights abuses committed by the Burmese regime.

Australia, Britain, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and yesterday the United States, have pledged their support for such an investigation.

Win Tin told Mizzima: "In Burma human rights violations are very severe and this why we need such an investigation to document what has happened." The close ally of Aung San Suu Kyi, who has spent a total of 19 years in detention for his defiance of Burma's rulers, said the military regime's violence had also "taken a sharp toll on the country's ethnic people".

Noting that 63 elected Canadian members of Parliament and 12 Senators had signed a petition urging the Canadian government to push the UN for such an inquiry, Win Tin said: "I hope Canada takes this opportunity to advocate for a UN commission of inquiry because this is what Burma needs."

In March, the UN special rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burma, Tomas Ojea Quintana, issued a report to the UN Human Rights Council, which stated that in Burma there existed a pattern of "gross and systematic" human rights abuses that suggested the abuses were a state policy that involved authorities at all levels of the executive, military and judiciary. It also stated that the "possibility exists that some of these human rights violations may entail categories of



National League for Democracy co-founder Win Tin (above, foreground), after Burma's main opposition party decided at its head office in March against contesting the junta's elections this year, saying that they would be neither free nor fair. Last week, he called on the Canadian government and other nations to support the appeal for a UN commission of inquiry into human rights abuses committed by the Burmese regime. Photo: Mizzima

crimes against humanity or war crimes under the terms of the Statute of the International Criminal Court”.

Quintana urged the UN to further look into rights abuses committed by the Burmese regime and consider launching a “commission of inquiry with a specific fact-finding mandate to address the question of international crimes”.

Tin Maung Htoo Executive director of the Canadian Friends of Burma (CFOB) told Mizzima that: “Quintana’s thorough report strongly suggests that the UN further investigate the systematic human rights violations in Burma. His report shouldn’t just be ignored; member states of the UN including Canada must push the UN to follow through on Quintana’s recommendations and further investigate the human rights violations which have occurred.”

Last week, the CFOB issued a joint statement with colleagues at the Burma Campaign UK to publicly ask Canadian foreign minister Lawrence Cannon to come out in favour of such an inquiry. The government of Prime Minister Stephen Harper,

usually a strong advocate for Burma’s opposition, has yet to respond to Quintana’s recommendations.

Burma Campaign director Mark Farmaner was quoted in the statement as saying: “It is very surprising Canada has not publicly stated that it supports the recommendation of the special rapporteur for a commission of inquiry. We need as many countries as possible on the record with their support. Canada’s silence will encourage the dictatorship that they can continue to get away with their crimes.”

Laura Markle, a spokeswoman for Canada’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, had indicated to Mizzima that Canada was going to release a statement regarding the issues raised by Win Tin, but no such statement has to date been forthcoming.

Win Tin also urges Canada to investigate Ivanhoe Mines

Win Tin also called on the Canadian government to investigate whether Vancouver-based Ivanhoe Mines had committed human rights abuses in Burma and violated Canada’s targeted sanctions against the regime led by Senior General Than Shwe.

Mizzima reported in June that the secretive trust established to oversee Ivanhoe’s Burmese holdings sold the firm’s 50 per cent stake in the Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited (MICCL), the joint venture that operated Burma’s Monywa copper mine, to cronies of the Burmese regime acting as middle men for Chinese state-run weapon’s firm Nornico and mining giant Chinalco.

Win Tin, said he was deeply concerned by reports that Ivanhoe used businessmen closely connected to Burma’s despotic leader Than Shwe to sell its stake in Monywa in a manner that had violated Canadian sanctions. “While we don’t know the details, we know that Ivanhoe sold their share to the Chinese and Canada should look into this” he said.

The internationally recognised former political prisoner said he agreed with calls from rights groups that Ivanhoe’s senior executives should appear before the Canadian Parliament to answer questions about the firm’s Burmese operations and its apparent departure from the country.

Last month, NLD MP-elect Khun Myint Tun wrote formally to foreign minister Cannon and asked the Canadian government to investigate the circumstances surrounding the arrest and subsequent jailing of Ivanhoe’s Burmese driver Thet Lwin. He was detained after his boss Andrew Mitchell, a senior Ivanhoe geologist in Burma, demanded to be driven to the home of NLD general secretary Suu Kyi, who remains under house arrest.

After driving to the lakeside residence both Thet Lwin and Mitchell were detained by the soldiers who act as her jailers. Mitchell, a British national was quickly released, but Thet Lwin, according to his family, was sentenced to seven years in prison for doing what his superior had foolishly ordered him to do.

Rights activists such as Khun Myint Tun fear that Thet Lwin died in Insein Prison and want the Canadian government to

force Ivanhoe to disclose all it knows about the incident that led to his arrest.

In his letter to the Canadian government, Khun Myint Tun condemned Ivanhoe and the firm's chairman, Robert Friedland, for taking more than five years to publicly acknowledge that they were familiar with the case. Khun Myint Tun, himself a political prisoner from 1996 to 2003, told Mizzima that "had Ivanhoe been more forthcoming with what happened to Ko The Lwin immediately following his arrest, it is very likely he and his family could have been spared great suffering, the way Ivanhoe has dealt with this case is criminal".

THE BURMANET NEWS, August 14 – 16, 2010 Issue #4020, "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org>, www.burmanet.org

Jakarta Globe, August 15, 2010 <<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/burma-could-learn-from-indonesias-mistakes/391338>>

'Burma Could Learn From Indonesia's Mistakes'

Ismira Lutfia | August 15, 2010

Burma should take note of Indonesia's failure to hold human rights violators accountable for their actions as the junta-led country prepares to hold its first elections in two decades, a human rights advocate has said.

Jakarta. "Burma could learn to avoid making the same mistake Indonesia did, which was its failure to bring military officials to justice for past human rights abuses," Rafendi Djamin, the director of the Human Rights Working Group, said last week during a meeting with Tomas Ojea Quintana, a UN special rapporteur on the human rights situation in Burma.

Rafendi, who is also the Indonesian commissioner for the Asean Intergovernmental Human Rights Commission, said alleged human rights violators in Indonesia continued to "occupy high-ranking positions as government officials."

Quintana was in Indonesia to consult with civil society organizations on the country's human rights enforcement and its transformation from a military-run government to a democratic nation.

Before holding its first direct presidential election in 2004, Jakarta had been under authoritarian rule for 30 years.

Burma is now preparing to hold its first election in two decades, on Nov. 7. Critics, however, say the polls will be less than democratic.

Quintana said in a March report to the UN Human Rights Council that in order to have fair and democratic elections, Burma should first free democracy icon and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi .

"It is critical that political prisoners be released," he said.

THE BURMANET NEWS - August 5, 2010, Issue #4013, "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org>, www.burmanet.org

Reuters- The Star Online - <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2010/8/11/worldupdates/2010-08-11T170532Z_01_NOOTR_RTRMDNC_0_-507758-1&sec=Worldupdates>

Myanmar opposition party threatens to shun polls -

By Aung Hla Tun, August 11, 2010

YANGON (Reuters) - One of Myanmar's biggest political parties threatened on Wednesday to pull out of this year's long-awaited elections if there were signs of foul play by the ruling military in the run-up to the polls.

The Union Democracy Party (UDP) is considered one of the frontrunners in the opposition camp.

"We will try our best to make the upcoming elections free and fair. If we believe that it cannot become a free and fair one, we will decide to drop out," UDP chairman Thein Htay told Reuters.

Forty parties have registered with the military-appointed Election Commission (EC) but it has yet to decide which will be allowed to take part in Myanmar's first civilian government in almost half a century.

At least seven parties are believed to be proxies of the military, which will retain control of key ministries and enjoy a 25 percent quota of parliamentary seats under a new constitution. The armed forces chief will be more senior than the president.

Phyo Min Thein, a leading pro-democracy figure in Myanmar, quit as UDP chief last week and derided the election as a farce.

No date has yet been set for the election. Myanmar's opposition, both at home and in exile, is split. Some have decided to take part, seeing it as a small sign of democratic progress, others have opted for a boycott.

Thu Wai, chairman of Democratic Party (Myanmar) and a former political prisoner, said a boycott would play into the

hands of the junta and give legitimacy to the regime.

"If we dropped out in this situation, it surely would make the regime very happy," he told Reuters. "We wouldn't dream of withdrawing."

His view contrasts with that of detained Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy party refused to register with the authorities in protest at what it called "unjust" election laws. It has since been dissolved.

The party won the 1990 election by a landslide, but was never allowed to rule.

Many parties have accused the regime's military intelligence unit of spying on and trying to intimidate their members. The Thu Wai said party officials, whose candidacy was only known to the Election Commission, were visited on Wednesday by intelligence agents.

"We came to know that it was the Election Commission that transferred the information about our members to the intelligence personnel. They used it to intimidate our members," he said.

Many other parties are led by leaders of a 1988 pro-democracy uprising, a series of protests the army used deadly force to put down. Many potential candidates who have served prison time could be excluded, although that is not yet clear.

The Irrawaddy -COMMENTARY Newsletter, August 11, 2010, , news@irrawaddy.org, www.irrawaddy.org,

Coup Is Possible if Regime Party Doesn't Win

By **AUNG ZAW**, August 11, 2010 - http://www.irrawaddy.org/opinion_story.php?art_id=19207

It will be hard to maintain high expectations and optimism about Burma's election while the international community becomes ever more skeptical about its credibility and frustration grows over the regime's intransigence.

Alberto Romulo, foreign secretary of the Philippines, said the Burmese election would be considered a sham if opposition members were not allowed to participate in the process.

"All the parties should be there and not only should be there but they should be allowed to campaign and their votes should be counted. You know what democracy is all about," Romulo said.



Aung Zaw is founder and editor of the Irrawaddy magazine. He can be reached at aungzaw@irrawaddy.org.

The United States, a vocal critic of the regime, and the European Union, have also voiced doubts about the credibility of the elections in Burma. Their doubts are fully justified.

Now United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has expressed his frustration at the regime's intransigence. "It is a source of frustration...that Myanmar [Burma] has been unresponsive so far to [the UN's] efforts. A lack of cooperation at this critical moment represents

nothing less than a lost opportunity for Myanmar [Burma]."

Many may share his frustration, but political activists and opposition members have no illusions. They don't see the election producing any significant landscape change. Optimism is in short supply because of the regime's pre-election maneuvering.

It's generally believed that the election will only serve to legitimize military rule and that by hook or by crook the regime will manipulate the election process to produce a parliament of military appointed civilians and former generals.

The regime will not allow any opposition party to win the election.

Phyo Min Thein, who recently resigned his post as chairman of the Union Democracy Party because he felt the election would not be free and fair, in a recent interview with *The Irrawaddy*, cited Deputy Education Minister Aung Myo Min telling teachers at the University of Foreign Languages that if the pro-regime Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) failed to win the election, a coup would be staged.

In early 2010, Col Zaw Min, minister for electric power no.1 reportedly told his shocked staff: "We are a ready-made government...soon after the election, we will continue to remain in power and proceed to govern the country."

Zaw Min's remark should be instructive for some international analysts and self-appointed experts who condescendingly say the election will change the political landscape in Burma.

So far, more than 40 political parties have registered with the Union Election Commission. The pro-regime USDP is the largest and naturally enjoys government support.

The USDP is led by Burma's current prime minister Thein Sein, who faithfully served under Snr Gen Than Shwe since their War Office □□days in the late 1990s. It can campaign without encountering any obstacle, even though no election date has yet been set.

In an evident campaign strategy, the USDP recently repaired roads in Rangoon, donated rice to villagers in central Burma, offered loans and mobile phones at below-market rates, mainly in central Burma and Arakan State.

The "ready-made government" is clearly ready to take over power in a new form. But if it fails with its plan, a military coup could be on the cards.

The Irrawaddy - Newsletter, August 9, 2010, news@irrawaddy.org, <www.irrawaddy.org>, <http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=19165>

Quiet Ceremonies Mark 8888 Anniversary



Opposition activists offer alms to monks in Rangoon at one of the ceremonies marking the 22nd anniversary of the Aug. 8, 1988, uprising. Photo: The Irrawaddy

By **The Associated Press** / Rangoon Monday, August 9, 2010

Subdued religious ceremonies by activists and pro-democracy politicians marked the anniversary on Sunday of the 1988 uprising that was brutally crushed by Burma's military.

More than 1 million people rose up on Aug. 8 that year in opposition to an entrenched military-backed regime headed by Gen. Ne Win which had wiped out the savings of many by a sudden demonetization of the currency.

An estimated 3,000 people were killed before the demonstrations were crushed in September. Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's detained pro-democracy leader, rose to prominence during the uprising.

"We are holding this religious ceremony in memory of those who had sacrificed their lives during the protest and in honor of those who are in prison for their beliefs and for those who had taken part in the nationwide protests 22 years ago," said Tint Hsan, a former student activist who organized one anniversary event.

FOR PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

The ceremony in an eastern suburb of Rangoon was attended by politicians and many activists, including some Buddhist monks recently freed from prison.

Rangoon's streets were quiet and residents went about their normal Sunday routines, with some having forgotten the anniversary date. Others gave food to Buddhist monks to mark the protests.

Student activists from the '88 generation managed to make their voices heard again in 2007 in an uprising led by Buddhist monks, which was also put down violently by the military. Many of them were given prison sentences of up to 65 years.

"I don't want people to go out on the streets and get killed or imprisoned again. We believe that we can bring about a change of government through elections," said Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein, general secretary of the newly registered Democratic Party.

The ruling junta has called for the first polls in two decades to be held later this year, though no date has yet been set. Critics have dismissed the election as a sham designed to cement nearly 50 years of military rule in Burma.

Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party is boycotting the polls because of what it calls unfair and undemocratic election laws. It was disbanded in May because it refused to register.

The NLD swept elections in 1990 but was not allowed to take power. Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, has been held under house arrest by the military government for about 14 of the past 20 years.

Tin Kyi <mtinkyi7@yahoo.com>, [NLDmembersnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK] Burma Related News - Aug 04-05, 2010.

Mizzima News - 05 August 2010 - <<http://www.mizzima.com/news/regional/4207-nobel-laureate-denounces-indias-burma-links-face-to-face-with-pm.html>>

Nobel laureate denounces India's Burma links face to face with PM -

Chiang Mai (Mizzima) - Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen on Tuesday denounced the policy of Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh's government regarding engagement with Burma. The Harvard professor spent part of his childhood in Mandalay.

His comments were delivered directly to the Indian leader who was attending the "Centrality of Literacy" symposium in New Delhi.

"I don't agree with your policy on Burma. In a democratic country like India, I can say this to the Prime Minister," the Press Trust of India quoted Professor Sen as saying.

India gave Burmese military leader Senior General Than Shwe red-carpet treatment during the visit by his entourage of more than 80 junta ministers and their wives last month. The countries signed deals to co-operate on security and legal issues, and in the infrastructure and energy sectors.

While the Nobel laureate's comments might have little influence over India's Burma policy or the Indian public it would have an impact on its academic community, Jaya Jaitly, a former President of the Samata Party, said.

"To my surprise, he spoke about democracy and politics. He is an economist, so he usually speaks about poverty. It is unusual for him to be commenting on politics. I assumed that he wanted to criticise the political relationship between India and Burma", Jaitly told Mizzima.

Professor Sen, 76, received the Nobel Prize in Economics for his work in welfare economics in 1998. He finished his PhD in economics from Cambridge University in Britain in 1959 and is now the Thomas W. Lamont university professor and professor of economics and philosophy at Harvard University in the United States.

Before the Second World War, Sen lived in Burma from the age of three to six while his father was visiting professor at Mandalay College. ###



Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen



Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)

နိုင်ငံရေးအကျဉ်းသားများကူညီစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအသင်း (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ)

P.O Box 93, Mae Sot, Tak Province 63110, Thailand Office Ph: 66-55-545495

e.mail: info@aappb.org - website: www.aappb.org

For Immediate Release

19 August 2010

AAPP welcomes the U.S.A's endorsement of a Commission of Inquiry on Burma and urges other nations to take action.

[Maesot, Thailand] the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners- Burma warmly applauds the United States of America for their decision to support the establishment of a United Nations Commission of Inquiry to investigate crimes against humanity in Burma. AAPP is appealing to ASEAN, members of the European Union, and other like-minded nations to stand in solidarity with the Burmese people and pledge their support for a Commission of Inquiry.

The United States is the fifth country to support the proposal for an investigation into crimes against humanity in Burma and follows the United Kingdom, Australia, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. In March 2010, the UN Special Rapporteur on Burma, Tomas Quintana endorsed the call of Burma activists around the world and urged the UN "to establish a commission of inquiry with a specific fact finding mandate to address the question of international crimes" in Burma.

"AAPP and the people of Burma welcome the decision by the United States to support a Commission of Inquiry and we urge other nations to do the same.

"The international community has long been aware of the systematic nature of human rights violations committed in Burma, and it is time they started to investigate them; mere rhetoric is no longer enough" Bo Kyi, joint secretary of AAPP, said.

"This move by the US will hopefully give other UN member states the encouragement they need to back a Commission of Inquiry.

There is no doubt that the military junta of Burma is one of the worst human rights violators in the world. Torture, sexual violence, forced labour, recruitment of child soldiers, and the killing of civilians in ethnic areas are widespread and systematic.

AAPP and other human rights organizations have spent years documenting human rights violations in Burma and are ready to help an Inquiry when needed.

"As long as the military regime continues to respond with denial in the face of such horrific and harrowing human rights abuses, then we need to ensure that these violations are adequately addressed through independent channels.

Establishing a Commission of Inquiry is a necessary first step to ending impunity and bringing the abusers to justice," Bo Kyi said.

#

Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)

For more information –

Tate Naing (Secretary): +66 (0) 812 878 751
Bo Kyi (Joint Secretary); +66 (0) 819 628 713

Thanks N Regards,
Assistant Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)

FOR PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

Tin Kyi <mtinkyi7@yahoo.com>, NLDmembrsnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK] Burma Related News - Aug 21-24, 2010, 24.08.2010

(DVB) - Democratic Voice of Burma - <<http://www.dvb.no/news/burma-to-submit-rights-report-to-un/11401>>

Burma to submit rights report to UN

By **FRANCIS WADE** -
Published: 24 August 2010

The Burmese government has finished the first draft of a human rights report destined for the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) early next year, domestic media has reported.

The Universal Periodic Review is being compiled by the Myanmar Human Rights Committee, led by home affairs minister Maung Oo. The state-run New Light of Myanmar newspaper said on Sunday that a meeting was held in Naypyidaw to review the second draft.

"If it is complete, the second draft will be submitted to the Myanmar Human Right Report Compilation Work," the newspaper said.

Members of the council are required to submit periodical reviews of their rights records. While Burma is not technically a member, it has been given 'Special Procedure' status by the UNHRC to address human rights violations in the country.

As part of the Special Procedure, Burma was assigned a UN special rapporteur, Tomas Ojea Quintana, to investigate rights abuses in the country. He filed a high-profile report to the Security Council last month calling for a UN investigation into possible war crimes and crimes against humanity in the Burma.

But during an attempted visit to the country earlier this month, Quintana was denied a visa. His assistant, Hannnah Wu, the UN's human rights officer in Bangkok, told *DVB* today that "the [Burmese] government was busy at the time he requested. It's not good to speculate – they had their reasons".

She added that visiting Burma was "something [Quintana] considers very important to conduct his mandate".

Once submitted, the Review becomes of three reports – including a stakeholders' report and a summary of UN information – analysed by a UNHRC session known as the Working Group.

"They have three hours in the Working Group to look at the situation on the basis of these [reports], and of course delegates will do their job to talk to whoever they think necessary, including those with the information and those who can advise," Wu said.

"But it's totally their responsibility to understand what is said in the report and what is the reality, so it's really in the hands of the UNHRC members."

Quintana's visit would have come three months before controversial elections in Burma, slated for 7 November. It also comes at a time when key players in the international community, including the US, [have backed](#) the UN commission of inquiry suggested by Quintana to investigate whether Burmese junta chief Than Shwe should be tried at the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Washington only became a member of the UNHRC last year, having cited membership of so-called 'rogue states' and apparent disproportionate criticism of Israel as reasons not to join.

Gross rights abuses perpetrated by the Burmese junta and its army are believed to include forced labour and rape as a weapon of war, while some 2,150 activists, politicians, journalists and aid workers are behind bars. Some believe the government is also carrying out gradual ethnic cleansing of Burma's volatile border regions, some of which have hosted 60-year civil wars.

Zin Linn <zinlinn@cscoms.com>, NLDmembrsnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK] Burma's 'Nazi Party' plots landslide victory in Nov. 7 polls, 23. Aug 2010

Burma's 'Nazi Party' plots landslide victory in Nov. 7 polls

By **Zin Linn** - 23 August 2010 - <<http://uk.asiancorrespondent.com/uzinlinn/burma%E2%80%99s-nazi-party-plots-landslide-victory-in-the-7-november-polls>>

The Burmese regime has been repeatedly ignored calls for comprehensive, free and fair polls by international and regional players. The proposed 2010 elections will not lead to reconciliation among various parties in Burma or Myanmar, as the national reconciliation has been so professionally torn apart by the military junta.

The USDP - former Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) - is seen as the junta's vehicle for

parliamentary politics. The USDP appears to be copied on Indonesia's powerful Golkar Party and claims to have 24 million members.

The Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) is planning to contest in all constituencies while other parties even cannot participate in a quarter of the seats in the upcoming November 7 election. Besides, the Burmese armed forces will take 25 percent of all seats in the upcoming parliaments so the current constitution will not grant the fundamental rights for the ethnic groups of the country.

Candidates from some registered parties have complained that special privileges are being offered to the junta-backed USDP, while other civilian parties are being hindered in their campaign processes. Politicians from some registered political parties say they know the election will be unfair, but they will participate to help expanding political space to some extent.

According to military regime's media, the USDA was formed on 15 September 1993, and there have been 16 state and division associations, 63 district-level associations, 320 township-level associations and 14,865 village-tract associations with 24 millions members.

Senior General Than Shwe (Commander-in-Chief of the Armed forces) and Vice-Senior General Maung Aye (Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Armed forces) are key Patrons of the USDA. Lt-Gen Thein Sein (Prime Minister of the State) is the chairman, Brig-Gen Htay Oo (Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation) is the Secretary-General of USDA and All Army-Commanders are the Patrons of USDA States and Divisions Level.

Hence, people see clearly that USDA or USDP is similar to Hitler's Nazi Party. The USDA is a paramilitary terror group within the Burmese state apparatus organized by the Army generals to suppress the populace. People cannot forget the Dapeyin premeditated ambush where Aung San Suu Kyi narrowly escaped on May 30, 2003.

THE BURMANET NEWS, August 28 - 30, 2010, Issue #4030, "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org>, www.burmanet.org
The Irrawaddy Today's Newsletter for Monday, August 30, 2010, news@irrawaddy.org, www.irrawaddy.org

The Irrawaddy – Opinion - COMMENTARY - <http://www.irrawaddy.org/opinion_story.php?art_id=19335>

Junta's Strategic Election Moves

By **HTET AUNG**

Monday, August 30, 2010

The candidate nomination period for Burma's 2010 election closed on Monday. The deadline for candidates who want to withdraw their application is September 3, according to the timetable set by Election Commission.

Although Monday was the deadline for candidate nominations, it can also be translated as the deadline for the registration for new political parties as well, because no party can exist without fielding at least three candidates in the election, according to Article 16 of the Political Party Registration bylaw.

Out of 47 new and existing political parties which submitted their registration applications to the EC, 42 parties were approved as of Sept. 30. Five parties, including three Kachin parties, have been rejected because their party registration had not been approved by the EC within the time limit.

Regarding the case of the Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP) led by Dr Tu Ja, a former vice-chairman of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), the EC repeatedly told KSPP leaders to continue their endeavors, and it never gave clear-cut answers when party officials went to Naypyidaw to question their lack of approval.

This follows the EC pattern of highhandedly exploiting the pre-election steps to create barriers for opposition political parties and to favor the junta-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) at each step.

The EC failed to allow sufficient time for political parties to carry out all the necessary steps, but instead compressed the time to be able to hold the election on Nov. 7, a week ahead of the release of democratic icon Aung San Suu Kyi on Nov. 14.

Also, the EC could have issued a timetable of pre-election steps in March, but it failed to do so intentionally so as not to allow the parties to get access to the right information and enough time to prepare the required documents.

Now, the junta has a fairly accurate way to predict the election on Nov. 7 by analyzing the candidate nomination lists for all the parties. The USDP plans to contest in all constituencies in the national and regional parliaments. The democratic opposition parties will field less than one hundred candidates each.

Meanwhile, the military carried out a major reshuffle last week, another major step leading to the resignation of many high-level generals who will seek seats in parliament. It was designed to be completed before the deadline for candidate registration. In April, the entire cabinet led by a former Gen Thein Sein also resigned to form the USDP.

These well-planned moves which have occurred since the promulgation of the electoral laws in March were strategically important for Snr-Gen Than Shwe and his generals to retain their grip on power in the post-election political structure of the country.

The people of Burma are not witnessing a transition from a military to civilian administration, but a transition within the military to form a pseudo-civilian branch of former military officers who will play a dual-function role to support the military in the new parliament

Tin Kyi <mtinkyi7@yahoo.com>, 25.08.2010, [NLDmembrsnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK] Burma Related News - Aug 25, 2010

Associated Press - 25 August 2010 – Asian Correspondent <<http://uk.asiancorrespondent.com/breakingnews/burma-s-suu-kyi-poll-offenses-should.htm>>

Burma's Suu Kyi: Poll offenses should be exposed

25 August 2010 -

Burma's detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has urged people to expose any election law violations they come across during upcoming national polls — even as she suggested her supporters refrain from voting.

Even though Suu Kyi's now-disbanded National League for Democracy party is boycotting the Nov. 7 election, the process should not be ignored, her lawyer Nyan Win quoted her as saying. People have the right to file police complaints if the election laws are violated, she said.

Suu Kyi made the comments on Tuesday. Nyan Win recounted them to reporters Wednesday.

"Democracy, human rights and rule of law should be considered as the political process," Suu Kyi was quoted as saying, explaining that the election by itself should not be seen as satisfying the people's political needs.

The NLD is boycotting because it found the election rules were unfair. Critics have called the vote a sham to cement the power of the military, which has tightly ruled Burma for a half-century.

Suu Kyi said people who had wanted to vote for the NLD could refrain from voting instead.

The government announced the election date on Aug. 13, ending months of speculation on when exactly Burma's first election in two decades vote would be held. Political parties were only given two weeks until Aug. 30 to submit their candidate lists. Suu Kyi said that was short notice and amounted to showing disrespect to the people.

Suu Kyi said the elections will be neither free nor fair without freedom of expression and a free press, according to Nyan Win.

The last general elections in 1990 were won overwhelmingly by Suu Kyi's party, but the military refused to honor the results.

Associated Press.

###

Ten Years On

The Life and Views of a Burmese Student Political Prisoner

by **Moe Aye**

(Former Burmese Student Political Prisoner)

(170 pages) in German Euro 10.- + Postage

Burma Büro e.V., P.O. Box N° 27 03 66, D-50509 Köln, Germany.

Tel: 0221-9522450 Fax:0221-9522470

e-Mail: <burmabureaugermany@t-online.de>

Published by : Burma Buero e.V.,P.O.Box 27 03 66, DE-50509 Cologne Tel: + 49 (0) 221-9522450 Fax:+ 49(0) 221-9522470

e-Mail: <burmabureaugermany@t-online.de> -

<http://www.burmabureaugermany.com>

<http://www.burma-report.de>

FOR PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA
