



# BURMA REPORT

May 2007

မြန်မာ့ - မှတ်တမ်း

Issue N° 47

## Free Burma, free Aung San Suu Kyi

Channel NewsAsia - 14 May 2007

### Former world leaders urge Aung San Suu Kyi release

Burma Related News - May 14, 2007 - Tin Kyi <[mtinkyi7@yahoo.com](mailto:mtinkyi7@yahoo.com)> - NLDmembersnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK@yahooogroups.com

OSLO : US ex-president Bill Clinton and 56 other former world leaders have appealed to Myanmar's ruling military to free opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, a Norwegian peace institute said on Monday.

Suu Kyi, 61, has been under house arrest at her home in Yangon for 11 of the past 17 years without charge or trial.

In a letter dated May 14 and addressed to the head of the Myanmar junta General Than Shwe, the 57 signatories called "for the immediate release of the world's only imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi", the Oslo Centre for Peace and Human rights said.

Her latest period in detention began after a May 2003 attack on her convoy by a junta-backed militia.

Her detention comes up for review on May 27 - an "excellent opportunity" for her release, the letter said - though the ruling military has on several past occasions extended her house arrest.

Suu Kyi won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 but was not allowed to make the trip to Oslo to receive the award. It was presented to her two sons, Alexander and Kim, who live in Britain.

"Aung San Suu Kyi is not calling for revolution in Burma, but rather peaceful, non-violent dialogue, between the military, National League for Democracy (Suu Kyi's party), and Burma's ethnic groups," the letter said.

Initiated by Norway's former prime minister Kjell Magne Bondevik, it was also signed by Clinton and former leaders Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan, Brian Mulroney of Canada, Junichiro Koizumi of Japan, former US president Jimmy Carter and ex-European Commission president Jacques Delors.

Others included ex-presidents George Bush, Fernando Henrique Cardoso of Brazil, Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic, Fidel Ramos of the Philippines, Ricardo Lagos of Chile and Kim Dae-Jung of South Korea.

The letter pointed to numerous international appeals for Suu Kyi's release, including one by the United Nations General Assembly last year and one by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on January 8 shortly after he took office.

\*\*\*\*\*

Burma Related News - May 01-03, 2007. - Tin Kyi <[mtinkyi7@yahoo.com](mailto:mtinkyi7@yahoo.com)> - [NLDmembersnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK]

### Myanmar opposition urges U.N. probe of 2003 clash - 02 May 2007

THE BURMANET NEWS -May 3, 2007 Issue # 3196 - "Editor" <[editor@burmanet.org](mailto:editor@burmanet.org)> - www.burmanet.org

UNITED NATIONS, May 2 (**Reuters**) - More than 30 members of Myanmar's opposition have asked the United Nations to inquire into a bloody clash four years ago that led to the latest detention of their leader, Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

The letter, signed by 34 members of the National League for Democracy, or NLD, who said they were "victims and survivors" of the incident, was addressed to U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad. It was made public on Wednesday by the U.S. Campaign for Burma, the former name of Myanmar.

May 30 marks the fourth anniversary of the killings near Depayin Township in central Myanmar. The group said it had taken years for some of the survivors to come forward and asked the press to withhold their names.

The letter called on Ban and Khalilzad, current president of the Security Council, to launch an international commission of inquiry into the clash between backers of the ruling military junta and opposition figures.

Opposition supporters say about 100 NLD members were killed in the incident. The West has accused junta supporters of ambushing Suu Kyi's convoy, a charge the government has denied.

The government blamed Suu Kyi, who won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, for the violence and took her into "protective custody." She and her deputy, U Tin Oo, have been in jail or under house arrest since the incident.

The letter called for the release of both. "We are not demanding revenge, but we are calling for accountability of those responsible and to stop the practice of violence and terror in Burma/Myanmar," it said.

The NLD overwhelmingly won parliamentary elections in 1990 -- the first in 30 years -- but the military, which has ruled Myanmar in one form or another since 1962, ignored the result and refused to relinquish power.

*Aung Din, policy director of the U.S. Campaign for Burma, said his organization was hoping for U.N. action during May, in which the United States, a leading critic of the Myanmar government, is chairing the Security Council.*

\*\*\*\*\*

The Irrawaddy <[news@irrawaddy.org](mailto:news@irrawaddy.org)> - <http://www.irrawaddy.org/aviewer.asp?a=7035&z=163>

## **US-EU Agree to Increase Pressure on Burmese Junta**

**By Aung Lwin Oo** - *May 02, 2007*

US and European Union leaders agreed to step up pressure on Burma's military junta during a one-day summit meeting in Washington on Monday.

White House officials said the summit has successfully adopted strategic partnership work "to promote peace, human rights, democracy and the rule of law worldwide." The summit was attended by US President George Bush and a number of European government leaders, including Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany, which currently holds the presidency of the European Council.

The summit press secretary's office said in a written statement that the US and EU had "successfully cosponsored" resolutions on human rights and social affairs in Burma," along with North Korea, which re-established diplomatic ties with the Naypyidaw regime last week.

"We continue intense exchanges on Burma at all levels," said the statement. "We are convinced that the effectiveness of our efforts is amplified by delivering the same political messages and coordinating possible actions."

The statement also said the EU, which extended diplomatic and economic sanctions against Burma last week, had used the Asia-Europe Meeting, or ASEM, "to press the Burmese regime to adopt a more inclusive political process and introduce a timetable for democratic reform."

EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg last Tuesday reiterated their call for national reconciliation in Burma and expressed concern over human rights abuses and restrictions on the work of domestic and international human rights organizations in Burma.

\*\*\*\*\*

May 2, 2007 - **The Irrawaddy** Online News Alert: - The Irrawaddy <[news@irrawaddy.org](mailto:news@irrawaddy.org)> - [www.irrawaddy.org](http://www.irrawaddy.org)

## **May Day event participants arrested in Rangoon** - Yeni

THE BURMANET NEWS, May 2, 2007 Issue # 3195 -"Editor" <[editor@burmanet.org](mailto:editor@burmanet.org)> - [www.burmanet.org](http://www.burmanet.org)

Organizers of a planned May Day workshop at the American Center in Rangoon were arrested on Tuesday by local authorities.

Rangoon-based activists told The Irrawaddy on Wednesday that members of Burma's Military Affairs Security detained about 30 people who were planning to attend the workshop, which was to have been held in an auditorium at the center.

Most of the detained were later released from an interrogation center at the Kyaikkasan sports complex, but six of the organizers of the event remain in custody.

May Day - originally a commemoration of a labor strike in St. Louis, Missouri - is an international celebration of the social and economic achievements of working-class and labor movements worldwide. It is an official holiday in Burma, though the country lacks both trade unions and worker's rights.

During his May Day address, Burmese junta chief Snr-Gen Than Shwe said that the country's workers are „enjoying rights to participate in deliberations of the National Convention.“

Than Shwe also warned: „Neo-colonialists are disguising the members of destructive groups under their control as workers and forming organizations which exist only in name to interfere in the affairs of international organizations.“

Labor advocacy groups, particularly the UN's International Labour Organization, have long accused Burma of violating international protocols that prohibit forced labor. In late 2006, the Geneva-based ILO threatened to put Burma before the

International Court of Justice if the ruling junta failed to abolish the practice.

A subsequent agreement was reached to stop forced labor and curb the harassment of people filing claims against the government with the organization.

According to official statistics, Burma's workforce has grown in the current year to more than 34.7 million. But growing economic instability - inflation, rising commodity prices and unemployment - have caused many Burmese to leave home for border areas inside Thailand, China, India and Bangladesh.

Yesterday, several labor activist groups staged a demonstration in Bangkok against restrictions on Burmese migrant workers imposed by Thai provincial authorities, while hundreds of Thai workers gathered at Parliament, calling to improve the working environment, implement a more worker-friendly labor act and curb all privatization of state enterprise.

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/aviewer.asp?a=7036&z=163>

\*\*\*\*\*

**DVB News** - Democratic Voice of Burma - April 27, 2007 - <http://www.dvb.no/>

## **Brutal attack victim and supporters sued by Burmese authority**

Aung Thu <aungthu@t-online.de> - <http://english.dvb.no/news.php?id=74>

April 27, 2007 (DVB) – Henzada township Oak Pon village authority chairman U Aung Than is taking rights activist Ko Myint Naing who was bashed by a mob affiliated to the authorities on 18 April and villagers who saved his life by transporting him to a hospital in time, to court.

Myint Naing and Oak Pon villagers Ko Win, Ko Mya Sein, Ko Hla Shein, Ko Myint and another rights activist Ko Kyaw Lwin from nearby Taloke Htaung village were sent notifications which said that they are to be sued for defamation of the State and inciting unrest, and summoned to a court on 2 May.

“We gave a successful talk on human rights at the village and the authorities didn't like it,” said Ko Myint Naing who suffered severe head injuries and discharged from a hospital recently. “And when we were beaten up, the villagers arrived and sent us to the hospital in time. The reason why I am still alive today is due to the charitable act of Oak Pon villagers. But as for the authorities, they think that the reason why I am still not dead is due to the fault of Oak Pon villagers...therefore they are trying to create problems for them thus.”

Ko Myint Naing told DVB that the violent attack on him and his colleague Ko Maung Maung Lay was orchestrated by Henzada Union and Solidarity and Development Association secretary U Nyunt Oo, and that local authorities and police were also involved. Although the two activists reported the matter to the police, only the occurrence was noted down and no complaints were recorded officially. At the same time, the authorities are still failing to take action on the perpetrators but continuing to pressurise family members of those being sued, Ko Myint Naing added.

“They issued an edict that their children and farmers are not allowed to come out of their homes and walk on the streets, and that if anything happened to them they would take no responsibility. “

He also said that the authorities and Taloke Htaung police were continuing to intimidate and threaten family members of the activists and their supporters and treat them like criminals.

\*\*\*\*\*

*The Irrawaddy* <[news@irrawaddy.org](mailto:news@irrawaddy.org)>

## **Fifteen More Pro-democracy Activists Arrested, Released**

**By Htet Aung** - May 16, 2007 - <http://www.irrawaddy.org/aviewer.asp?a=7101&z=163>

Fifteen pro-democracy activists were arrested Wednesday morning in Rangoon and released after a few hours in detention, according to one of the group's leaders.

The group was arrested after they prayed for the release of detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi at Kyaik Ka Lot pagoda in Rangoon's Mingalardon Township, said Khin Myat Thu, a youth member leader of the National League for Democracy. “The people who arrested us didn't identify themselves,” Khin Myat Thu told *The Irrawaddy* soon after her release. She said the activists were taken into custody by about 30 people in plain clothes. She said she later learned that some of the people who took part in the arrests were forcefully recruited by authorities near the pagoda.

“We were peacefully praying in the pagoda for the release of our leader Daw Aung San Suu,” Khin Myat Thu said. “We are now encountering more arrests by the authorities using violent means.”

Authorities deleted pictures of the group's activities from cameras, she said.

Pro-democracy activists launched a one-month campaign for the release of Suu Kyi on May 1. She has been under house arrest since May 2003.

About three dozens activists, including Su Su Nway, the winner of the John Humphrey Freedom Award, are still in custody at an

unknown location following their arrests in Rangoon on Tuesday as they attempted to march to a pagoda to pray for Suu Kyi's release.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mizzima News** - May 3, 2007 -

## **Soe Win moves to military hospital from Singapore**

THE BURMANET NEWS - May 3, 2007 Issue # 3196 - "Editor" <[editor@burmanet.org](mailto:editor@burmanet.org)> - [www.burmanet.org](http://www.burmanet.org)

Prime Minister Soe Win shifted to a military hospital in Burma after over two months medical treatment in a Singapore hospital for an unannounced medical problem.

General Soe Win, in his early sixties, returned to Rangoon last week and was admitted to No.2 Military Hospital after treatment in Singapore since late February. Security around the hospital has been tightened since his arrival.

There is no official statement as to his medical problem, but sources to Mizzima suggest that he suffers blood cancer.

"Possibly he will have to stay in the hospital for sometime," said Thailand based military analyst Win Min.

However, despite reports he is considering retiring soon, signs show he will remain in his position until his last day.

"He just opened an office at the military hospital", Win Min said.

Senior General Than Shwe, the head of the military junta visited Rangoon yesterday (02.05.07) to see him.

**Soe Win** is the accused notorious **mastermind** behind the mass killing of followers of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi in Sagaing Division in **May 2003**, as well as being a **commander** who gave orders to shoot democracy protesters in **1988** in front of Rangoon General Hospital.

Suu Kyi and her followers were ambushed in Depayin by authority back-up thugs while traveling on a political tour on 30 May, she was afterward imprisoned and remains under house arrest.

Soe Win succeeded to the position of Prime Minister in October 2004 in a military shake-up which ousted then Prime Minister Khin Nyunt.

\*\*\*\*\*

"Shan-EU" <[shaneu31@yahoo.com](mailto:shaneu31@yahoo.com)> - 22 Apr 2007

## **FACTS ABOUT MAUNG KYAW**

(Published and distributed by KNU Information Department)

**April 23, 2007**

Maung Kyaw is not only a member of the group that pushed Bo Htin Maung into the ditch but also the person who becomes some thing like director of the surrendered group, after the defection of Bo Htin Maung. For that reason, it is necessary for the Karen people to know about his past history.

When the students were coming into the resistance areas in the flight from repression of the democratic movement by the military regime in 1988, he came along with them. The ABSDF students kept him at a distance as there was no certainty that he was involved in the 88 uprising. The students had to be cautious also, because the SLORC military regime had infiltrated many of its agents into the groups fleeing the suppression.

He did not get along well with the ABSDF students in Saw Hta, a camp on the Salween River, because he was trying to sow dissension among them. As the Saw Hta ABSDF group finally expelled him, he had to leave and resettle in Germany. His wife is a Karen. She had some relatives among the KNU members. Through them, he wormed his way into the KNU and tried to gain confidence of some of the members.

In about the year 2000, the KNU started to use him, on a trial basis. He was given the duty to represent the KNU in Germany in about 2002, also on a trial basis. On the other hand, he formed a team known as Karen Service Team and acquired some assistance, which was given to the KNLA. However, it was nothing substantial. It appeared that he was just trying to get a stable foothold in the KNU.

After 2002, he came to the KNU areas, more often, and went to frontline areas to shoot documentary video movies. He used hi-tech equipment that was used normally by the intelligence agents. He spent more time in the KNU areas than in Germany. As it seemed that he had no stable employment in Germany and that he was spending more time in KNU areas, suspicion was aroused. While in Germany, he was engaged in some activities to create misunderstanding between the KNU and its alliance groups. Then he was engaged in activities overseas to tarnish the image of the KNU. Gradually, he came to cooperate with anti-KNU groups and individuals. When the KNU central leaders relieved him from

duties, as they could no longer have trust in him, he went right away to side with Bo Htin Maung. All the time after the KNU 13th Congress held in 2004, he joined with Bo Htin Maung and undertook activities to oppose the KNU and make illicit contact with the enemy.

Maung Kyaw was the one who wrote the illegitimate letters to the SPDC. As the flow of his letters was the same as the one used by the SPDC military agents, many regard him as an agent of the SPDC. Two persons, who are writing to depict shamelessly the defeatism of Bo Htin Maung as Saw Ba U Gyi's Way, are Maung Kyaw and Timothy. The wicked two, in unholy alliance, are now using Bo Htin Maung for personal gains. They are spreading false propaganda, using all the lies to mislead the public.

Maung Kyaw has been given the citizenship of Germany. Timothy has the dual citizenship of Thailand and Australia. They can go into Burma by air or cross-border routes, any time. They are ethnically not Karen. The entire Karen people need to know and be on the alert that they are destroyers of the Karen people.

\*\*\*\*\*

## STATEMENT

April 29, 2007 - Asean Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus

### 'Burma is indeed a regional security and stability threat' - Parliamentarians at the IPU, Bali, Indonesia

THE BURMANET NEWS - April 28-30, 2007 April 28-30, 2007 Issue # 3193 "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org> - www.burmanet.org -

A seminar on Myanmar/Burma, held on the sideline of the 116th Assembly of Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in Bali, Indonesia, today had IPU delegates openly acknowledge that the Myanmar military junta's misrule has a negative spill-over effect on the region and its stability.

The Speaker of the Parliament of Indonesia, Agung Laksono, speaking at the seminar titled „Military Rule in Burma, Its Effects on the International Community and ASEAN“ said that all Parliamentarians have a genuine and unique role in encouraging the restoration of civil, political and democratic rights of the Burmese people.

„It is very clear that our destinies as neighbouring countries are to seriously address Myanmar's deteriorating crises without delay,“ said Agung, at the seminar jointly organized by the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus (AIPMC) and the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB).

Presenters at the seminar, held at the Bali International Convention Centre (BICC), the official IPU venue, also encouraged Indonesia and ASEAN to support a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution on Burma.

In his speech, Philippines Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., Vice-President of the AIPMC, further urged ASEAN to repair the damage to its reputation, which was caused primarily by the renegade policies of the Myanmar junta.

„ASEAN has to make a strong stand on Burma; a stand that would not allow the military any room to manoeuvre. Don't buy into what is touted to be the 'road map to democracy' and the junta's sham 'National Convention' which has gone on for years and is noninclusive of all relevant parties,“ said Pimentel.

„ASEAN must adopt a realistic, coordinated and no-nonsense position on Burma,“ he added.

Burma's democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and her party the National League of Democracy (NLD) were expelled from the Myanmar junta's National Convention, which have been drafting a constitution in a process that has spanned almost 15 years.

Meanwhile, the Norwegian IPU head of delegation, Finn M. Vallersnes, in his address, said that he was concerned of the lack of progress in the promised transition in Burma towards a legitimate civilian government.

„I believe that time is running out for the military regime. The world does not want such undemocratic regimes any more and more importantly people don't want them anymore. People want security, human rights and democratic values,“ said Vallersnes.

Close to sixty-(60) participants at the seminar, comprising of Members of Parliament, IPU official country delegates, Indonesia government officials, media and members of the civil society, attended the AIPMC-NCGUB half-day seminar, which was cosponsored by the Indonesian and Norwegian IPU delegation.

Prior to the start of the seminar, an exhibition on Burma's detained Members of Parliament, organized by the IPU Human Rights Committee on Parliamentarians, was launched by the its chair Senator Franklin M. Drilon.

For media contact: Roshan Jason (AIPMC Executive Director: +62-815-1400-6416, +6012-3750974)

[www.burmanet.org](http://www.burmanet.org) - <http://www.burmanet.org/news/2007/04/30/asean-inter-parliamentary-myanmar-caucus-burma-is-indeed-a-regional-security-and-stability-threat%e2%80%99-parliamentarians-at-the-ipu-bali-indonesia/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**THE TIMES OF INDIA** - updated 18 May 2007

mya thein <nld.lamyajp@yahoo.com>, [NLDmembrsnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK] - <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/photo.cms?msid=1925459> -

## **US to continue sanctions against Myanmar: Bush**

18 May, 2007 | 0533 hrs ISTIAP

WASHINGTON: U.S. President George W. Bush on Thursday told the U.S. Congress that he intended to continue sanctions against Myanmar because of concern over what was described as deepening deterioration of freedom in the military-ruled country.

The White House, in a statement, said that Myanmar's generals have in recent weeks increased attacks on ethnic groups, arrested students and harassed democracy activists.

"These recent actions take place against a backdrop of ongoing grave human rights violations, including the use of rape as a weapon against civilian populations and conscription of child soldiers," the statement said.

On Tuesday, Myanmar, also called Burma, police detained 31 activists who were campaigning to free detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, their fellow activists said.

The detentions came amid an increase in activities seeking Suu Kyi's release from house arrest. The Nobel Peace Prize laureate has spent more than 11 of the past 17 years in detention.

"The junta is becoming only more brutal, more repressive and more indifferent to the concerns of its neighbors and the international community," the U.S. statement said.

\*\*\*\*\*

May 15, 2007 Reuters

## **Russia to build nuclear reactor in Myanmar - James Kilner**

THE BURMANET NEWS - May 15, 2007 Issue # 3204 - "Editor" <[editor@burmanet.org](mailto:editor@burmanet.org)> - [www.burmanet.org](http://www.burmanet.org)

Moscow: Russia's atomic energy agency said on Tuesday it had signed a deal to build a nuclear research reactor in Myanmar, whose military rulers have been criticized by the West for repressive and undemocratic practices.

"This agreement provides for cooperation in the design and construction in Myanmar of a centre for nuclear research," Rosatom said in a statement.

The centre will include a 10 megawatt nuclear reactor with low enriched uranium consisting of less than 20 percent uranium-235, the agency said.

It said the research centre would be under the control of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Russia, along with China, has become a major supporter and supplier of arms to Myanmar's junta since the West imposed sanctions in late 1988.

Last year China and Russia vetoed a U.S.-drafted U.N. Security Council resolution urging Myanmar to stop persecution and release political prisoners.

Myanmar has recently repaired ties with North Korea, damaged when a North Korean bomb in 1983 killed South Korean ministers visiting Myanmar. The United States considers North Korea a rogue state and wants it to abandon its nuclear arms program.

Russia is already building a nuclear power station in Iran, suspected by the United States of seeking to develop nuclear weapons. Russia says Iran has a right to civilian nuclear power.

A 2004 research paper by the Australian National University said Myanmar had asked Russia in 2000 for help in starting a nuclear civilian program but that Moscow backed out of the plan in 2003.

No Myanmar government officials were available for comment but an Asian diplomat in the main city of Yangon said original negotiations between the two countries over Myanmar's nuclear program had fallen through because they could not agree on payment details.

"With a billion dollar annual trade surplus for the last few years, the regime now seems to be able to pay in cash," he

said. "And that is what the Russians demanded."

Yangon has suffered from power black outs over recent years as Myanmar's economy shows signs of creaking under what observers say has been 45 years of economic mismanagement by the military.

But 385 km (240 miles) north of Yangon, the junta's newly built capital Nay Pyi Taw is basking in light.

The military has run Myanmar since 1962, ignoring a 1990 landslide election victory by Aung San Suu Kyi, opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner, who has been under house arrest ever since.

(Additional reporting by Aung Hla Tun in YANGON)

\*\*\*\*\*

The Irrawaddy <[news@irrawaddy.org](mailto:news@irrawaddy.org)> - The Irrawaddy Online Newsletter for May 11, 2007 - <http://www.irrawaddy.org/aviewer.asp?a=7080&z=163>

## **Burmese Junta Prepares for FTA Talks with EU** - By The Irrawaddy - May 11, 2007

Asean and the European Union have agreed to allow Burma to participate in free trade agreement talks with the EU, amid signs the military junta is preparing to highlight what it claims are recent democratic advancements.

Observers suggest that a recent workshop in Rangoon, titled "Challenges and Perspectives for the Future of Asean-EU Relations," which included nine foreign experts including pro-military government scholar Robert H Taylor, could be seen as an effort by the regime to work out a public relations strategy.

According to documents obtained by *The Irrawaddy*, the Track Two Workshop and Field Trip - held from February 25 to March 4 - has recommended that the regime "should accelerate as much as possible the implementation of its seven steps Road Map" to democracy and "should do more to highlight positive initiatives for national reconciliation, including explaining the central features of the power sharing envisaged in the new Constitution and the peace dividends arising from the ceasefire."

During the trip, the junta allowed the group to visit the areas of the newest ceasefire group, the KNU/KNLA Peace Council led by Maj-Gen Htein Maung.

Meanwhile, an agreement was reached last week in Brunei between Asean and the EU to let Burma participate in negotiations after more than two years of wrangling over the military government's poor human rights record.

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson told the Malaysia national news agency *Bernama* that the EU's stance on Burma's rights record has not changed although both blocs agreed that a successful FTA could provide for comprehensive trade and investment liberalization.

Political opposition groups have challenged the workshop's recommendations for their failure to support a political atmosphere for public participation, including releasing all political prisoners and democratic icon Aung San Suu Kyi who is under house arrest.

"The cause of Burma's political dilemma is that the military is still ignoring the role of representatives chosen by the people in democratic elections," Dr San Aung, an exiled member of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), told *The Irrawaddy*. "We need a coordinated policy from the international community to push Burmese generals to create more democratization."

\*\*\*\*\*

## **The White House - President - George W. Bush**

For Immediate Release - Office of the Press Secretary - May 17, 2007 - "beaudee.zawmin" <[beaudee.zawmin@verizon.net](mailto:beaudee.zawmin@verizon.net)> (EBO)

## **Statement on Continuation of the National Emergency with Respect to Burma**

President Bush today signed a notification to Congress of his intent to continue the national emergency with respect to Burma and the associated sanctions. This step is an indication of the President's serious concern over the continued deterioration of the situation in Burma and his determination to stand with those who are struggling to end tyranny in that country.

In recent weeks, the Burmese junta has stepped up its attacks on ethnic populations, producing even greater refugee flows; has used its mass member organization to conduct attacks on and extra-legally detain citizens in Irrawaddy Division and in Rangoon; has continued to harass and detain peaceful democracy activists; and has arrested students and others seeking to pray at pagodas for the release of political prisoners, including Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. These recent actions take place against a backdrop of ongoing grave human rights violations, including the use of rape as a weapon against civilian populations and conscription of child soldiers.

As the 17th anniversary of the 1990 elections approaches, it is clear that the junta is becoming only more brutal, more repressive, and more indifferent to the concerns of its neighbors and the international

community. We urge the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) to immediately and unconditionally release Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners so that a genuine dialogue between all stakeholders may begin and national reconciliation may start in earnest. We also urge all nations, and especially Burma's neighbors, to condemn unequivocally the SPDC's continued unwillingness to move forward on its own promises to return the nation to democratic rule.

\*\*\*\*\*

"beaudee.zawmin" <beaudee.zawmin@verizon.net> (EBO) -Euro-Burma Office - "EBO" <burma@euro-burma.be>

## **The White House**

**President**

**George W. Bush**

For Immediate Release - Office of the Press Secretary - May 17, 2007

## **Message to the Congress of the United States**

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication, stating that the Burma emergency is to continue beyond May 20, 2007.

The crisis between the United States and Burma arising from the actions and policies of the Government of Burma, including its policies of committing large-scale repression of the democratic opposition in Burma, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on May 20, 1997, has not been resolved. These actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and maintain in force the sanctions against Burma to respond to this threat.

**GEORGE W. BUSH**

THE WHITE HOUSE,

May 17, 2007.

\*\*\*\*\*

"beaudee.zawmin" <beaudee.zawmin@verizon.net> (EBO) - "EBO" <burma@euro-burma.be>

## **UNITED NATIONS Press Release**

STATEMENT BY LOUISE ARBOUR, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## **UN Human Rights Chief Urges Release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi**

Geneva, 21 May 2007: As we approach the end of the current term of detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, I urge the Government of Myanmar to release her and all political prisoners in the country unconditionally. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been under house arrest for four years, and she has spent 11 of the last 17 years in detention. The Nobel Peace Prize laureate is one of more than 1,000 known political prisoners held in prisons and labor camps throughout the country. The release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners would demonstrate a willingness to abide by universally accepted human rights standards. It would also, I believe, facilitate national dialogue and free the Government and the people to focus on the need to unite the country and to allow the emergence of democratic structures to decide on the way forward. My Office stands ready to assist the Government of Myanmar in any efforts towards democratization by addressing the complex human rights crisis faced by the country, including the situation of political prisoners.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Reuters** - Fri, 25. May 2007

## **Myanmar junta extends Suu Kyi detention by a year**

BurmaNewsGroup:: Burma Related News - May 24-25, 2007. - "TIN KYI" <tinkyi@sbcglobal.net>

YANGON (Reuters) - Myanmar's military junta has extended opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest by another year, a government source said on Friday.

"Home Ministry officials went to her residence and read it out to her," the source said of the order extending the Nobel Laureate's detention, which was due to expire on Sunday.

The order was issued despite urgent appeals from the White House, European Union, United Nations and fellow Nobel peace prize winners to the generals in charge of the former Burma.

---

**FOR PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA**

---



Suu Kyi, 61, who has now been in detention for more than 11 of the last 17 years, is being held under an obscure security decree that has to be renewed every 12 months.

Quite why the junta, which ignored a sweeping election victory by her National League for Democracy in 1990, makes such a show of observing the rule of law in keeping her in isolation, without a telephone and requiring military permission to receive visitors, is a mystery.

"They just make the laws for their own convenience," Khun Saing, an exiled dissident now living in neighboring Thailand, told Reuters this week.

Suu Kyi's latest stretch of detention started "for her own safety" on May 30, 2003, after clashes between her supporters and pro-junta demonstrators.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*BURMA\*\* DIGEST\*\*BURMA DIGEST" <[tayzathuria@gmail.com](mailto:tayzathuria@gmail.com)> - 20.05.2007 - - william aung <[williamaugdk@yahoo.com](mailto:williamaugdk@yahoo.com)>

Denmark Democratic Burmese **Human Rights Award** by Danish Burmese Democratic Community

This prize will be awarded to the prominent **pro-democracy Burmese Journalist U Win Tin**, who had been in prison since 1989; and will be accepted by Dr. Sein Win (NCGUB Prime Minister) on behalf of U Win Tin.

The award celebration will be held at Copenhagen, Denmark at the Danish Burma Committee Office on the 31st May 2007. (4:00 p.m)

The place:

**Islands Brygge 32 D      Postboks 340      LO, DK-2300 Copenhagen S      Denmark**

\*\*\*\*\*

[ncgub@ncgub.net](mailto:ncgub@ncgub.net)

**National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma - May 15, 2007  
Statement.**

## **Junta Condemned For Growing Rights Abuses, Use of 'Brown Shirts'**

We have learned that over 40 members and supporters of the National League for Democracy (NLD), including Su Su Nway, winner of John Humphrey Freedom Award for 2006, were taken into custody by the junta today.

The NLD members were on their way to pagodas in Insein and Hlaingthaya Townships where they were to pray for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, general secretary of the NLD, as part of the month-long prayer campaign to win her freedom.

The Burmese generals had deployed its police force and members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) and the "Swann Arr Shin" or the "Strong Ones" to arrest the NLD members. These junta-affiliated thugs were also behind the violent attack and massacre of NLD members and supporters at Kyi Village, Depayin Township, on 30 May 2003.

The "Swann Arr Shin" who are the "Brown Shirts" of the Burmese generals were also responsible for the recent mob attack on the two human rights defenders and promoters at Okpon Village in Henzada Township. Ironically, the assault victims are now being sued for disturbing public tranquility by the same attackers.

Such human rights violations, including deprivation of economic rights, threats, harassments, and violent attacks against peaceful campaigners, are blatantly taking place at an increasing pace in the country. These sad developments indicate that the Burmese generals, despite claims that they are building democracy, have no real intention of restoring democracy in the country. The situation can only get worse once military rule is legitimized through the constitution that the Burmese generals are planning to introduce to the country.

The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, therefore, urges on the members of the United Nations Security Council to take effective action to end the abuses against the people by the Burmese military regime and calls on all governments, particularly neighboring countries, to strongly condemn these generals and pressure them into observing internationally recognized laws and fundamental rights.

\*\*\*\*\*

---

**FOR PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA**

---

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>

Poems

by Saya Tin Moe

# ဆရာတင်မိုး ခွတ်ဒေါင်းအလံခေါ် ရာသို့

*[လွတ်မြောက်ရေးကဗျာများ]*

(80 Pages) in Burmese Euro 5.- + Postage

## 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>