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August 24, 2007 - Associated Press

Arrests thwart new Myanmar protest

THE BURMANET NEWS - August 24, 2007 Issue # 3274 - "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org> - www.burmanet.org

Myanmar's military junta moved swiftly Friday to crush the latest in a series of protests against fuel price hikes, arresting more than 10 activists in front of Yangon City Hall before they could launch any action, witnesses said.

The arrests came after protests spread beyond the main city of Yangon, and amid mounting international condemnation of the government's suppression of the peaceful, but rare, displays of opposition in the tightly controlled country.

Demonstrators on Thursday had marched through the oil-producing town of Yaynang Chaung to protest the fuel price hikes. The protest, the first known of outside Yangon, ended peacefully, said residents who requested anonymity for fear of government reprisals.

Another protest planned there for Friday was canceled after authorities agreed to reduce bus fares, which had been raised as a result of the fuel price increases. Nevertheless, in Yangon, rumors swirled Friday of more upcoming demonstrations.

Myanmar's ruling junta has been widely criticized for human rights violations, including the 11-year house arrest of opposition leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. The junta tolerates little public dissent, sometimes sentencing activists to long jail terms for violating broadly defined security laws.

The activists arrested Friday mostly belonged to a recently formed group, called the "Myanmar Development Committee," which in February staged its first protest in busy downtown Yangon holding placards calling for better health and social conditions and complaining of economic hardship.

On Thursday, plainclothes security personnel and tough-looking civilians stopped about 40 people, mostly from Suu Kyi's party, as they walked quietly for two miles toward their party headquarters in eastern Yangon.

Authorities ordered bystanders, especially reporters, out of the area as the protesters, outnumbered by about three-to-one, were overwhelmed after a 30-minute standoff.

Protesters sat on the pavement and formed a human chain in an attempt to prevent officers from forcing them into waiting trucks and buses. A dozen protesters, however, were dragged into the vehicles, where some were slapped around, witnesses said.

The number of protesters had decreased from Wednesday, when about 300 people marched against the fuel price hikes despite the arrests of 13 top activists who had helped organize the rally. Several hundred people had joined a similar protest on Sunday.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesman Gonzalo Gallegos urged Myanmar's government "to proceed down a path of democracy and respect of individuals and human rights."

Similar calls were issued by France, Britain and a number of international human rights groups.

A U.N. spokesman said that Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on the authorities to exercise maximum restraint in responding to any demonstrations and encouraged all parties to avoid provocative action.

Vaclav Havel, a fellow Nobel laureate and former president of the Czech Republic, urged in a statement Thursday that the junta "listen to the demands of its fellow citizens, to release Aung San Suu Kyi, Min Ko Naing and other political prisoners and to not attempt to remain in power through force."

Economic dissatisfaction sparked the country's last major upheaval, in 1988, when mass demonstrations broke out seeking an end to the military rule that began in 1962. The protests were violently subdued by the army. The junta held a general election in 1990, but refused to honor the results when Suu Kyi's party won.

The current protests are nowhere near the scale of the 1988 events, but the junta has appeared to be taking no chances in trying to clamp down on the demonstrations.

VOA News – Washington - 03 August 2007 - "BURMA DIGEST" <tayzathuria@gmail.com> -www.burmadigest.info -Burma News

Elected Burmese Lawmakers Send Letter to UN Secretary General

aungthu@t-online.de

Burmese opposition politicians, elected to parliament in 1990 but barred from taking office, are urging the United Nations to further promote political reform in the military-ruled country.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, more than 90 opposition politicians applaud the world body's efforts to promote change in Burma and urged it to do more.

In the letter, they ask the UN to help them play a more concrete role in drafting a new constitution for Burma. They also warn that if they are not allowed to participate in the process, Burma's current leaders will come up with a new constitution that will try to legitimize their military rule.

The lawmakers-elect also outline their own version of what Burma's military government calls its seven-step road map to democracy.

The opposition National League for Democracy won national elections in 1990, but Burma's military leaders refused to recognize those results.

Burma held its first constitutional convention in 1993, but talks stalled in 1995 after NLD members walked out. They did not resume until 2004, and began what is supposed to be their last and final session last month.

August 16, 2007 – The Irrawaddy Online News Alert - http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=8263 .- The Irrawaddy <news@irrawaddy.org>

Junta commander opposes KIO amendments to NC guidelines - Khun Sam

THE BURMANET NEWS -August 16, 2007 Issue # 3268 - "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org> - www.burmanet.org

Burma's northern commander, Maj-Gen Ohn Myint, has ordered authorities in Kachin State to instigate public opposition against a proposed amendment by the Kachin Independence Organization to the basic principles being drafted by Burma's National Convention, according to sources close to the KIO.

In an effort to thwart the ceasefire group's political demands, officials with the Kachin State Peace and Development Council have been directed to document the public's stance on the issue in townships throughout Kachin State, the sources said.

A letter expressing opposition to the proposed amendments appeared in late July, purportedly written by minority Shan residents in Kachin State, often referred to as "Red Shan." The letter accused the KIO of trying to insist on the independence of Kachin State from the central Burmese military government.

However, sources close to the KIO say that the person behind the letter is Ohn Myint, who has encouraged local authorities that the group's proposal was inappropriate - and who is even reluctant to use the name "Kachin State" because Kachin is not the only ethnic group living there.

"In our proposal, the suggestions and demands to the National Convention are very clear," a KIO central committee member told The Irrawaddy by phone from the group's Laiza headquarters on Thursday.

"We are not proposing Kachin State as an independent country. We are just demanding a genuine federal union," the committee member said, adding that the group did receive letters from the Red Shan but that the group thinks Ohn Myint is responsible for them.

The KIO proposal - a six-page document containing 19 articles submitted to the National Convention - was made in late July and contained the group's complaint that the basic principles adopted for the drafting of a new constitution overlooked fundamental ethnic minority rights and the emergence of a genuine federal union in Burma.

The proposal also suggested new principles that affirm a union system is necessary in Burma, as well as several amendments to the current draft of the convention's basic constitutional principles, which included proposed changes to the structure of the state, the role of the head of state and an increase in the legislative power allotted to individual states.

Amendments proposed by the KIO were made against the recommendation of the National Convention's chairman, Lt-Gen Thein Sein, who told delegates on the opening day of the body's final session on July 18 not to seek amendments to constitutional guidelines agreed on at previous sessions.

State-run The New Light of Myanmar reported on Wednesday that delegate groups have presented suggestions on matters concerning amendments, additions and repeals.

However, a KIO liaison officer based in Rangoon who has regular contact with the group's five delegates attending the National Convention, said there has been no discussion about the KIO proposal, though it was submitted at the beginning of the session.

July 19, 2007 - The 88 Generation Students

The 88 Generation Students' message to the 60th anniversary of Martyrs' Day ceremony-

THE BURMANET NEWS -July 18-19, 2007 Issue # 3249 "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org> - www.burmanet.org

The Martyrs' Day is the result of political violence. Killing and brutalizing the opposition politicians with violence and weapons, instead of solving political differences by a dialogue, should be named as a terrorist act.

Then, General Aung San and his comrades, who had been assassinated, were national leaders, trusted and admired by the people of Burma. Therefore, they were recorded in history as "Martyrs". Those who killed the Martyrs entered into the history as "national traitors."

We would like to emphasize some good examples of General Aung San and his comrades, which we should obtain and treasure from remembering and honoring the Martyrs' Day.

General Aung San never used the strength of the military, which he commanded, when contesting for political leadership role in Burma. He disrobed his military uniform, entered to civilian life, represented the political organization as U Aung San, and contested fairly to get the leading role in politic, with belief in the peoples' voting power.

Because of his ethical conducts and sincerity, he had been highly honored by the people as the "National Leader". National leader U Aung San and his comrades patiently and seriously discussed with leaders of various ethnic nationalities for national unity, without using force, threat and pressure.

These are good examples or precedence, which we should inherit and practice every time in every civilization as conducts of national politics.

We would like to clearly express that we will not accept any solution made by use of force, threat, pressure and one-sided act, which are opposite against the good examples mentioned above and we will not bow in it.

Finally, we declare our oath to the Martyrs' Day that violence, threat and assassination against the Peoples' Representatives, who are elected to practice the good examples inherited from our Martyrs, should be totally ended.

The 88 Generation Students - Rangoon, Burma - 88generation@gmail.com - Ref: 14/2007 (88)

July 20, 2007 Democratic Voice of Burma

NLD marks Martyr's Day with calls for inclusive dialogue

THE BURMANET NEWS -July 20, 2007 Issue # 3250 -"Editor" <editor@burmanet.org> - www.burmanet.org

The National League for Democracy marked Martyr's Day yesterday with calls for dialogue with the Burmese military and a more inclusive National Convention process.

The NLD also repeated calls for the release of party leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and detained Shan leader Khun Htun Oo. In a statement, the NLD also said the military should pay attention to the draft constitution of general Aung San - one of Burma's martyr's - as they prepare to compose a draft of a new Burmese constitution.

„We should take the historical lessons that general Aung San, the architect of our independence, and other leaders pointed out by sacrificing their blood and sweat to be able to shape a democratic union and a national union,“ the NLD said.

The statement then called on the ruling State Peace and Development Council to reopen opposition offices closed around the country, release all detained political leaders unconditionally and hold inclusive political discussions with political parties from all ethnic groups in the country.

„Immediate dialogue between the [SPDC] and the [NLD] should be held, followed by talks with the ethnic groups,“ the NLD statement said.

Editorial: Dare to say NO! - 22.07.2007 issue - "BURMA DIGEST" <tayzathuria@gmail.com>**_ By Taisamyone**

As the much maligned National Convention starts its last session (at least of the present stage of the road map) there has been a flurry of activity both inside Burma and from the pro-democracy groups around the world. As we might expect not a word of dissent or criticism from inside Burma - such non-approved utterances can, and does, get you up to 20 years in jail. So much for "the Tatmadaw government organized the NC to serve as a forum of the entire nation." A forum where any speech must be approved by the junta-controlled committee and any views not in line with the junta's views are dismissed and don't even get an acknowledgement.

This week, the New Light of Myanmar has dragged out all the old junta propaganda about the history of Burma since pre-independence to the present day, listing their own warped version of events, likening DASSK to the assassins of her father (just to rub salt in the wound) and claiming that the National Convention will solve all of Burma's political and economic ills (and all thanks to the Tatmadaw!). The people of Burma must just be patient and wait until the 'road-map' has completed and a discipline-flourishing democratic government has been elected - one which will be totally controlled by the junta, lacking any democratic aspect and perpetuating the current state of affairs in another guise - i.e. it can be called BSPP, SLORC, SPDC, National Convention or whatever, but it is still the same "iron fist totalitarian fascist control of the state by a gaggle of generals and their odious minions.

As we might expect, one of the clearest reviews of the present workings of the National Convention has not been the state-controlled New Light of Myanmar, but ALTSEAN's excellent report 'National Convention: Roadmap To Instability': "The National Convention is part of the problem and not the solution to Burma's troubles. The results will intensify the root causes of the ethnic based conflicts perpetuated by Burma's successive military regimes." The report highlights the main issues of the National Convention with its own version of the 7 point Road Map, which I hope to summarize here;

Step1: Ignore the law; ignore the 1990 election results, make up new laws to go with their own needs.

Step 2: Exclude elected MPs; MPs elected in 1990 have been progressively marginalised and now form just over 1% of the delegates.

Step 3: Handpick delegates; mostly USDA and junta-friendly cronies. Many ethnic opposition groups have decided to boycott or express their strong opposition to the National Convention for its lack of inclusiveness, transparency, and freedom.

Step 4: Take delegates hostage; "Delegates are virtually under house arrest", said UN Special Rapporteur Sergio Pinheiro in June 2004 - today the situation remains unchanged. Delegates are cut off from the outside world and ordered not to talk to non-delegates about anything that comes out of the National Convention "discussion" sessions without prior clearance from the junta controlled committees.

Step 5: Ban free and open debate; The convention's proceedings have been characterized by a gag on open discussion and the silencing of dissenting voices. Any documents for discussion must be pre-approved by the National Convention junta controlled working committees. Constitutional proposals submitted by various ethnic nationality groups have been repeatedly rejected or not raised for open debate. Moreover, the junta has failed to address the concerns of many delegations about the military's leading role in Burma's national politics, as guaranteed by the National Convention's 6th objective.

Step 6: Criminalize dissent; The SPDC has banned and criminalized public debate and expression of ideas with regard to the National Convention's proceedings.

Step 7: Set no timeframe; At the October 2006 session, the regime made it clear that there was no end in sight to the National Convention. "The timeframe is not important for us," said the junta's Information Minister Brig-General Kyaw Hsan as the convention got underway. It remains unclear what the NC will have achieved since its inception, apart from

keeping the junta in control since it began and with its content firmly keeping the junta in control into the future.

It is only the junta and their international friends (e.g. China) who parade the National Convention as a road to democratic government. All pro-democracy groups, the US, UN, EU and many others see the National Convention as a travesty of justice, a deception, a betrayal of the people of Burma, an exclusive event that excludes anyone who cares to voice an independent opinion and several non-ceasefire and ceasefire groups. The National Convention does not represent the wishes of the people - it represents the wishes of the SPDC military junta. When the time comes we need to say NO to the junta's National Convention - only a constitution drawn up by all concerned parties and ethnic groups, a process which takes account of all views, a constitution that meets the needs of the true federal union and self-determination that so many groups call for, truly a venue for dialogue that will be acceptable to all - then we can say YES.

Democratic Voice of Burma NEWS - <http://english.dvb.no/news.php?id=207>

88 students call for agreement on reforms - Aye Naing

June 28, 2007 (DVB) - The 88 Generation Students today called on the Burmese government and opposition actors to cooperate with each other over political reforms and to engage in genuine dialogue.

In a statement, the student group said that the National League for Democracy, the winners of the 1990 election, the State Peace and Development Council and ethnic minority leaders needed to work together on Burma's new constitution.

„A friendly political society where all the issues of disagreements and suspicions can be raised, discussed, compromised and made clear in independence and in honesty is essential,“ the 88 Generation Students statement said.

„We, the 88 Generation Students, would like to urge the Tatmadaw government to create such a political society and that the National League for Democracy and all the ethnic parties to put effort into making this good political society possible.“

Former student leader Ko Mya Aye said the holding of the final session of the constitution-drafting National Convention next month provided the government, the opposition and ethnic minority groups with an opportunity to cooperate.

He also said that the 88 Generation Students group believed that as the final session of the National Convention will focus on the amendment procedures and revisions of the current constitutional draft it dialogue was now essential.

„We hope a good situation comes out of it . . . This constitution will look significantly better if the National League for Democracy, whose representatives have won a lot of seats in the 1990 elections, and all the ethnic representatives had a chance to participate in creating it,“ Ko Mya Aye said.

„Dialogue is essential if this is to happen . . . People should not ignore this . . . If we do, our country will go under this dark cloud of extreme chaos. We cannot let this happen. Dialogue should be initiated whenever and wherever possible,“ he said.

Democratic Voice of Burma - July 24, 2007 - <http://english.dvb.no/news.php?id=272>

KIO calls for changes to draft constitution

THE BURMANET NEWS - July 24, 2007 Issue # 3252 - "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org> - www.burmanet.org

The Kachin Independence Organization, which has sent delegates to the National Convention has submitted a 19-point statement to the conference calling for changes to current constitutional draft.

The KIO, despite government prohibitions on the unauthorised release of statements to the National Convention, published the list of demands on their website last week. They called for greater autonomy for ethnic minority groups and less centralised power.

?The Tatmadaw, the armed forces of Burma, should be renamed the ?Federal Armed Forces?,? the KIO statement said.

„The constitution should call for preserving ethnic minority literature and should allow the teaching of ethnic languages in schools in ethnic minority states.“

Colonel Guan Maw, the KIO's spokesperson, told DVB that the list of demands did not constitute a challenge to the government or the National Convention and was merely a proposal of ideas.

He said that the group published the list of demands on their website so that they could prove to the Kachin people that they were doing their best to address their concerns and wishes.

„So far there has not been any response so we will have to wait and see what happens after discussions,“ Guan Maw said.

Many Kachin civilians who have read the statement said it was positive and that they respected the KIO's decision to publish it. But the military's response to the calls remains in doubt since similar demands made by ethnic minority delegates in the past have been rejected.

The Euro-Burma Office - "EBO" <burma@euro-burma.be>

88 Generation Urges Burma to Spurn Junta's New Constitution

By Htet Aung - August 6, 2007 - http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=8128

August 06, 2007 - The pro-democracy 88 Generation Students group urged all Burmese people to reject a forthcoming constitution based on new guidelines being finalized by the country's National Convention, according to a statement released by the group in advance of the 19th anniversary of the 1988 democracy uprising on August 8.

„Preventing the negative consequences of another disempowered and detrimental State Constitution will be the duty of all people of Burma,“ the statement said.

„We are seriously concerned about the new constitution and issued this statement to urge the people to demand their rights,“ Pyone Cho, one of the 88 Generation student leaders, told The Irrawaddy on Monday.

Burma's National Convention reconvened for its final session on July 18 and is tasked with completing new guidelines for a draft constitution as part of Burma's so-called „road map“ to democratic reform. The convention will be followed by a referendum to adopt the constitution, though the junta has offered no details about when this might happen.

Pyone Cho said that looking back to the past, the 1974 constitution, which adopted a one-party system and didn't fulfill the will of the people, ended in the 1988 democracy uprising. He added that the 88 Generation Students believe any constitution that grants the rights of the people and represents their will is going to succeed and endure.

The people of Burma, Pyone Cho said, will show their true desire toward the new constitution when a referendum is held to ratify it, and their desire will follow the example of the 1990 election, which saw a landslide victory for Burma's opposition party the National League for Democracy.

To mark the anniversary of the 1988 uprising, the 88 Generation Students will participate in a wazo robe offering at the Tharthana Theippan monastery in Chauk Htat Kyi (Six Stories) Pagoda in Bahan Township to honor the students, monks and citizens who lost their lives when Burma's ruling junta brutally suppressed the uprising.

The group urged all Burmese to join the ceremony, regardless of whether they received a formal invitation.

Meanwhile, a group of unidentified individuals riding motorbikes with no license plates have begun harassing members of the 88 Generation Students in the last few weeks. The harassers are thought to comprise police intelligence agents and members of the junta-backed Union Solidarity and Development Association.

Pyone Cho said the harassment has decreased since the opposition group threatened to stage a public speech to residents in areas where they have been harassed if the motorbike thugs did not stop troubling them.

Democratic Voice of Burma - July 24, 2007 - <http://english.dvb.no/news.php?id=275>

Detained May Day activists finally face court

THE BURMANET NEWS - July 24, 2007 Issue # 3252 - "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org> - www.burmanet.org

The six men who were detained in on May 1 after attending a May Day celebration at the American Centre in Rangoon were finally brought before a court today to face a number of politically motivated charges.

After more than two months of legal limbo and detention in Insein prison, Ko Thurein Aung, Ko Way Lin, Ko Nyi Nyi Zaw, Ko Kyaw Kyaw, Ko Kyaw Min, and Ko Myo Min, face four charges each, some of which carry potential life sentences.

The men's lawyer U Aung Thein told DVB yesterday that they had all been charged with discrediting the government, violating the immigration act and engaging with unlawful associations.

Among the charges filed against them are violations under section 124 (A) of the legal code, which carry sentences of up to life imprisonment, section 6, which relations to associations, section 13 (1) on the emergency provisions in the immigration act and section 17 (1), U Aung Thein.

He also said all the men were in good health and that they had been given the chance to see their families in court. The case will reportedly be heard every Monday and Thursday in Rangoon's Supreme Court until its completion.

Refer: D-BR-A-47-May-07 – Art-

May 2, 2007 - The Irrawaddy Online News Alert: - The Irrawaddy <news@irrawaddy.org> - www.irrawaddy.org

May Day event participants arrested in Rangoon – Yeni

THE BURMANET NEWS, May 2, 2007 Issue # 3195 -"Editor" <editor@burmanet.org> - www.burmanet.org

ncgub@ncgub.net

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

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

Democratic Voice of Burma - July 25, 2007 - <http://english.dvb.no/news.php?id=276>

Irrawaddy activists sentenced - Khin Hnin Htet

July 25, 2007 (DVB)—A Henzada township court yesterday sentenced six members of the Human Rights Defenders and Promoters activist group to jail terms ranging from four to eight years.

Ko Myint Naing, Ko Kyaw Lwin, U Hla Shein, U Myint, Ko Myint Sein and an unidentified activist from Oak Pon were charged under section 505(b) of the legal code for causing unrest.

Ko Myint Naing was sentenced to eight years in prison, while the other men were given four years in prison each, according to *HRDP member Ko Aung Zaw Oo*.

"The were charged under lawsuits filed by two different prosecuting parties—the Oka and Engapu Pon village leaders. Ko Myint Naing got an eight year sentence because he was involved in both lawsuits," Ko Aung Zaw Oo said.

The six men were arrested in April after Ko Myint Naing and activist Ko Maung Maung Lay were savagely beaten by a mob of villagers, Union Solidarity and Development Association members and local officials from Henzada.

Ko Myint Naing and Ko Maung Maung Lay had been involved in a human rights workshop in Oak Pon village prior to being bashed and detained.

"Ko Myint Naing didn't cause any public unrest. At the workshop, the villagers told us about the abuses they were facing and we advised them on what they could do," *Ko Aung Zaw Oo* said. -----

Refer - E-BReport-A46- Art. - **USDA orders attack on human rights activists: Activists** - Ko Dee - 19. April 2007 and **Rights Group Condemns Attacks on Burmese Human Rights Activists** - 21 April 2007

Aung Thu <aungthu@t-online.de> -

Myanmar agrees to human-rights body - Mon July 30, 2007

CNN.com - http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/07/30/asean.reut/index.html?section=cnn_latest

MANILA, Philippines (Reuters) -- Southeast Asian foreign ministers overcame differences on Monday on setting up a human-rights commission after military-ruled Myanmar dropped objections to the plan, participants said.

Myanmar's Foreign Minister U Nyan Win, center, is escorted upon arriving in Manila on Sunday.

The issue had created a rift within the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and threatened to divert attention from the group's efforts at economic integration.

"We have agreed to create the human-rights body," Singapore's Foreign Minister George Yeo told reporters after the first session of an ASEAN ministerial meeting in the Philippine capital. "At the ministers' level we have a consensus. Myanmar had a positive attitude towards all of this."

He said the ministers had yet to decide on terms of reference and other specifics, but would do so soon.

The human-rights commission is an integral part of a landmark charter that ASEAN is trying to complete before a leaders' summit in November. Until Sunday, diplomats had said Myanmar and some other countries had blocked the establishment of the commission.

FOR PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

But other problems confront ASEAN over the former Burma. The European Union, which ASEAN hopes to emulate, and the United States have criticized the Asian group for failing to bring enough pressure on Myanmar to restore democracy and free Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Earlier on Monday, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo called for unity in the region and a focus on its goal of economic integration by 2015.

"An ASEAN community is going to be anchored first and foremost on economic integration, with a focus on social justice and raising the standard of living in the region," she said while inaugurating the meeting.

"It is about creating a dynamic force in Asia to maximize the benefit of globalization. Too much has been made of our diversity as a barrier. Our diversity is a strength and not a barrier to an East Asian union."

ASEAN is also divided on whether it should abandon its time-honored way of resolving issues by consensus or put them to a vote. It has also to take a decision on how to penalize members who violate the charter.

Yeo, the Singaporean minister, said these issues would be left for the leaders' summit to decide.

Analysts however say the idea of an ASEAN human-rights code will be difficult to achieve given the differing interpretations of the term within the group and stricter anti-terrorism laws across the region.

"The best that ASEAN can achieve in its landmark charter is a best-efforts pledge to work for adherence to human rights," said columnist Ana Marie Pamintuan in the Philippine Star newspaper.

"The charter provision will have to be vaguely worded, or several laws used to fight terrorism could be considered violations."

http://www.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/asiapcf/07/30/asean.reut/index.html?section=cnn_latest

Rangoon (Yangon), Burma (Myanmar) - The 88 Generation Students - 88generation@gmail.com

The 88 Generation Students' Announcement - August 8, 2007

on the 19th Year Anniversary of the 8888 Democracy Uprising - NLDmembersnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK@yahoo.com

(1) Today is the 19th year anniversary of the 1988 popular democracy uprising in Burma, which is remembered to this day as a great event not only in the history of Burma, but also of the world.

(2) We should learn from the lessons of this history. We need to learn and review logically and without prejudice about the immediate and accumulated causes that forced the uprising to be born.

(3) Thousands of peaceful democracy activists, including students, monks and peoples from all walks of life, were killed or injured during the 8888 uprising. Thousands of families were brutally broken by the tragedies as family members were taken to prisons, fled to the borders to live in exile or were killed.

(4) A State Constitution is key to shaping the political, economic and social life of the country. The 1974 Constitution, which cemented the single-party dictatorship and its closed-door economic policy, was created by the previous dictator Ne Win, while politicians who held different opinions were put in prisons.

(5) This was the reason why Burma, a country with the most potential to be developed among the Southeast Asian nations and other newly-independent countries, became the poorest one.

(6) By making it extremely difficult to amend, the 1974 Constitution did not have enough flexibility to timely solve the political, economic and social problems that led to a general crisis.

(7) Both, those who govern and who are governed, had to suffer the consequences as a result of having a Constitution which was drawn by force and intentionally designed to be difficult to amend.

(8) Therefore, the military government had recognized the demands of the people of Burma, who led the 1988 popular democracy uprising. It had promised to implement a multi-party democratic system and market economy when it came to power.

(9) History does not want us to move backward, but to move forward step by step. Today citizens of Burma are the best witnesses of this history. They can compare the situations in 1962 when General Ne Win staged a military coup and in 1974 when a single-party dictatorship emerged from the Constitution.

FOR PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

(10)The 8888 popular democracy uprising in Burma was born because of the peoples' unhappiness with the 1974 Constitution. It is true that another uprising in Burma today depends entirely on current constitution drafting process.

(11)Therefore, we, the 88 Generation Students, would like to attest that preventing the negative consequences of another disempowered and detrimental State Constitution will be the duty of all people of Burma.

The 88 Generation Students
Rangoon, Burma

ncgub@ncgub.net - THE BURMANET NEWS - August 4-6, 2007 Issue # 3261 - "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org> -www.burmanet.org

**NATIONAL COALITION
GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF BURMA**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF THE UNION OF BURMA**

August 5, 2007

**NCGUB/NCUB Express Solidarity with Burma's
Members-Elect of Parliament, Support Their
Call for Reform of Constitution Drafting Process**

We warmly welcome the initiative taken by the Members-Elect of Parliament in Burma asking the UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon to help bring about true and lasting national reconciliation and democratization in the country.

As leading institutions of the democracy movement for Burma in the international arena, we, the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) and the National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB), have stated time and again that unless reforms are introduced, the military regime's "National Convention" will only aggravate public dissent and worsen the overall socioeconomic and political situation in the country. The "road map" process of the regime is only a sham, designed to legitimize military tyranny and its illegitimate rule in Burma.

In accordance with international law and the regime's electoral law, the Members-Elect of Parliament are the true and legitimate representatives of the Burmese people. The NCGUB and NCUB, therefore, wholeheartedly support the initiative of the Members-Elect of Parliament who as rightful representatives of the Burmese people are seeking to take their due place in the constitution-drafting process. Their initiative is also in line with the demands of the United Nations and the international community which want the Burmese generals to transform the process to determine the future of Burma into a more inclusive, transparent, and democratic one.

We, the NCGUB and NCUB take this opportunity to express our solidarity with the Members of Parliament-Elect and call on all international institutions and the international community, including member governments of the ASEAN, China, India, Japan, Russia, and the Western democracies, to step up their demands on the generals to stop their flagrant attempt to unilaterally impose on the people a so-called constitution which is illegally drafted by the military under a process it has strictly controlled and to engage in a true, transparent, and all-inclusive democratization process in Burma.

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Arrests of Democracy Activists in Burma/Myanmar – (27.08.2007) The Euro-Burma - Office"EBO" <burma@euro-burma.be>

Minister Condemns Detention of Democracy Activists in Burma

24/08/2007

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Dermot Ahern T.D., expressed his deep concern today at the arrests of a number of democracy activists by the Burmese regime on Tuesday night.

"I utterly condemn the detention of 13 democracy activists in Burma from the 1988 Generation of student leaders, including Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi, Jimmy, Min Zayar, Mya Aye, Phone Kyaw and Pan Daiq, on Tuesday evening. Those detained had, with many others, been exercising their right to peaceful protest at the substantial increase in fuel prices by the Burmese regime, which have placed further harsh economic burdens on the people of Burma.

The Irish Government believes that these arrests, and the continued detention of other political leaders, including Aung

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San Suu Kyi, manifestly contradicts the professed aim to transform Burma into a democratic society through an inclusive, broadly-based process. I again call urgently for the release of all political prisoners in Burma and urge the Burmese government to ensure that the work of the National Convention proceeds in a more inclusive way.

In this context I believe it would be useful for the Burmese authorities to give serious consideration to the proposals by 92 MPs from the 1990 Burmese General Election made to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for national reconciliation and democratisation in Burma." Ends + + + Press

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PRESS RELEASE - August 25 -

**AMBASSADE DE FRANCE EN BIRMANIE Yangon, CFSP Statement: Declaration
by the Presidency on behalf of the EU**

The European Union views with concern the recent arrests by the Government of Burma/Myanmar of several leaders of the opposition, notably from the group 'Generation 88', who were protesting against the sharp rise of fuel prices and the economic burdens being heaped on the Burmese people.

The European Union condemns this decision to detain individuals who were exercising their basic right to peaceful demonstrations, and calls for their immediate release. The European Union further urges the authorities of Burma / Myanmar to release without delay Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the opposition leaders and political prisoners, and to engage with all different components of the society of Burma / Myanmar in the sort of open and inclusive dialogue which is indispensable to long awaited political reform.

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

Poems
by Saya Tin Moe

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