



BURMA REPORT

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Issue N° 52

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

The Burma File/ newsdeskspecial/ The First Post – 01.10.2007 - <http://www.newsdeskspecial.co.uk/2007/10/monks-murdered-.html#more>

Monks murdered by police

Robes torn off before monastery slaughter

More than one hundred monks have been killed by Burmese riot police, according to an authoritative blog. Ko Htike reported an attack on a monastery in Rangoon, and posted photographs of murdered monks whose bodies had been dumped in water.

"A troop of lone-tein (riot police comprised of paid thugs) raided the monastery with 200 studying monks. They systematically ordered all the monks to line up and banged and crushed each one's head against the brick wall of the monastery. Then, they tore off the red robes and threw them all in the military trucks (like rice bags) and took the bodies away."

Ko Htike goes on to describe how the head monk "was tied up in the middle of the monastery and tortured and bludgeoned". He later died. Meanwhile, "thousands of people gathered outside the monastery, warded off by troops with bayoneted rifles." Every time they attempted to help the monks they were driven back at gunpoint.

By the time the troops left, Ko Htike claims that only 10 of the original 200 were still alive. If his report is accurate it would suggest that the current estimates of the death toll will be massively under.

Deadmonk



Posted at (01.10.2007) 03:02 PM in burma | Permalink

The Burma File/ newsdeskspecial/ The First Post – <http://www.newsdeskspecial.co.uk/2007/09/monks-jailed-by.html#more>

Monks jailed by kangaroo courts - 30.09,2007 -

Military courts reminiscent of Nazi Germany

In a defiant gesture of disdain for world opinion and the mission of the United Nations special envoy Ibrahim Gambari, the Burmese regime is pressing ahead with the prosecution of about 1,000 monks rounded up so far after participating in peaceful protests in Rangoon and other Burmese cities, *writes EDWARD LOXTON.*

As Gambari arrived in Burma's new capital, Naypyidaw, yesterday for talks with regime leaders on the crisis, news filtered out of Rangoon's grim Insein Prison that kangaroo courts had begun sentencing the monks to long prison terms. Several had been summarily given terms of six years, said one dissident source who has contact with political prisoners in Insein.

"The monks were stripped of their robes and thrust into prison uniforms," he said. "Monks who try to continue with their daily ritual are being beaten and humiliated. Elderly abbots are being forced to squat on concrete floors until they collapse."

The authorities seem to have run out of prison space in Rangoon. Monks who eluded arrest in successive night-time raids on the city's monasteries are being detained in the temple grounds by cordons of police and government-paid civilian thugs.

Insein Prison's military courts are reminiscent of Nazi Germany's, according to Burmese judicial experts, with 'defendants' given no competent legal defence and subject to verbal abuse and humiliation by the military officers serving as 'judges'.

Accused prisoners appear before their judges in chains, often exhausted and injured by days and nights of interrogation. No independent observers are allowed, and even the International Committee of the Red Cross had to call off its inspection visits of



Burmese prisons because of harassment by prison authorities.

Meanwhile on the streets, outnumbered by reinforced battalions of governments troops and riot police units, demonstrators have been reduced to isolated groups, playing 'cat and mouse' with the security forces. They slung insults at troops sealing off the Shwedagon and Sukle pagodas, focal points of the demonstrations, and at heavily-guarded streets corners.

The Oslo-based Democratic Voice of Burma reported that many students were shot and killed on Saturday when nervous troops opened fire on a crowd outside a school in a Rangoon suburb.

EDWARD LOXTON is reporting for The First Post from Chiang Mai in neighbouring Thailand.

AP - Posted: 2007-10-02 06:20:31

U.N. envoy meets with Suu Kyi, Myanmar leader, after days of stalling by junta

News on Burma update - ThaungN@aol.com - Heute (02.10.2007)12:40:04

YANGON, _Myanmar_ (javascript:;) (AP) - A U.N. envoy met pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Tuesday, hours after an audience with Myanmar's military leader, pressing ahead his quest to end the junta's crackdown on democracy advocates.

Ibrahim Gambari, the U.N.'s special envoy to Myanmar, met with Senior Gen. Than Shwe in the junta's remote new capital, Naypyitaw, two foreign diplomats said. Other diplomats said he then flew to Yangon to see Suu Kyi, who has come to symbolize the yearning for democracy in Myanmar. The meeting with Than Shwe was expected but the one with Suu Kyi came as a surprise, raising hopes that Gambari's shuttle diplomacy was making some progress. The U.N. has said that Gambari's mission is to persuade the generals to take the people's demand for democracy seriously.

Dissident groups say up to 200 protesters were slain and 6,000 detained in the junta's crackdown last week, compared to the regime's report of 10 deaths.

Foreign governments have been urging the junta to free the detainees, who include thousands of Buddhist monks who led last month's protests. In addition, freeing Suu Kyi from her long years of house arrest has been one of the main goals of all U.N. envoys and Myanmar's international critics.

Gambari left Myanmar for Singapore en route to New York soon after the brief meeting with Suu Kyi at a state guest house, just 300 meters (yards) from the Nobel laureate's house. He had also met Suu Kyi on Sunday in the middle of his four-day mission.

Earlier in the day, the U.N. envoy met Deputy Senior Gen. Maung Aye - who is one rank below Than Shwe, as well as the No. 3 and No. 4 generals in the ruling coterie. No details of Gambari's meetings were available.

While the envoy tried to broker peace, the junta's security forces lightened their presence in Yangon, the country's main city, which remained quiet after troops and police brutally quelled mass protests last week.

The 9 p.m.-to-5 a.m. curfew was scaled back to 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Kept off the streets, many residents launched a new form of protest Monday evening by switching off their lights and turning off television sets from 8 p.m.- 8:15 p.m. during the nightly government newscast. It was unclear how many homes heeded calls for what activists are calling a "silent protest" against the junta and whether it would continue.



<http://www.thefirstpost.co.uk/index.php?storyID=8907>

UN envoy will stay until junta leaders talk

Mystery surrounds the generals' absence from yesterday's talks, writes Edward Loxton

Ibrahim Gambari, UN special envoy, was due to make a second attempt today to meet Burma's two top junta generals, Than Shwe and his deputy, Maung Aye, who avoided a meeting yesterday in their remote, sealed-off capital, Naypyidaw, on Sunday. No reason was given for their absence.

"Than Shwe and Maung Aye have been accused of snubbing Gambari, the United Nations and the world community, but it could be more complicated than that," said one prominent exile leader, who requested anonymity.

"Look at it this way: if there is disagreement between Than Shwe and Maung Aye over how to

handle the crisis, the appearance of one or the other at a vital meeting with Gambari would send important signals.

"If Than Shwe appears alone, Maung Aye is out of the picture and Burma descends into deeper disorder and even greater isolation. If Maung Aye appears alone, Than Shwe has been deposed and a newer, more pragmatic policy could emerge."

The UN has indicated that Gambari will insist on staying in Burma until he has seen the two men. He met opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi at a government guesthouse in Rangoon on Sunday, but no details have emerged of their 90-minute encounter.

Reports hardened today that the army's divisional commanders of Rangoon and Mandalay have been sacked because of their opposition to the use of force on anti-government protesters, particularly monks.

"There's clearly dissatisfaction at the effect the bloodshed will have on Burma's image," said the exile leader. "We are hoping that the dissatisfaction will spread through army ranks and lead to the overthrow of Than Shwe."

Rangoon and other cities were relatively quiet this morning. Thousands of troops were deployed around most monasteries, where monks were virtually being held prisoner.

Burma is closed to foreign reporters. Edward Loxton is reporting for The First Post from Chiang Mai in neighbouring Thailand.

FIRST POSTED OCTOBER 1, 2007

Reuters - 02 October 2007

Myanmar junta arrests more people under the cover of darkness

Burma News - 03 September 2007 - "EBO" <burma@euro-burma.be>

YANGON - Myanmar's junta arrested more people under the cover of darkness on Wednesday despite a crescendo of international outrage during a keenly watched U.N. mission to bring an end to a bloody crackdown on protests.

At least eight truckloads of prisoners were hauled out of downtown Yangon, the former Burma's biggest city and centre of monk-led protests against decades of military rule and deepening economic hardship, witnesses said.

In one house near the Shwedagon Pagoda, the holiest shrine in devoutly Buddhist Myanmar and starting point for last week's rallies, only a 13-year-old girl remained. Her parents had been taken in the middle of the night, she said.

There was no word on where the prisoners were being taken or how many they would join.

The crackdown continued despite faint signs of progress by U.N. envoy Ibrahim Gambari on his mission to persuade junta chief Than Shwe to relax his iron grip and open talks with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, whom he met twice.

U.N. sources said Gambari expected to return in early November to Myanmar.

The Irrawaddy - The Irrawaddy <news@irrawaddy.org> - http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=8865

Suu Kyi's Unhappy Face [Commentary] - October 3, 2007

By Htet Aung -

UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari's four-day shuttle diplomacy between Burma's top generals and the country's detained democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi concluded on Tuesday.

Several of the photographs of the special envoy's meeting with Suu Kyi appeared in the international media. In some of the photographs, her face expressed grave unhappiness and sent a clear message to the world community: the generals' crack down on the Buddhist monks? peaceful demonstrations prove UN action on Burma is urgently needed.

In one photograph, Suu Kyi wore a yellow, traditional style blouse - the color represents Buddha's Sasana (the Order of Buddha). She shrewdly showed her support of the Buddhist monks' efforts to bring about peace and national reconciliation in the country.

Detained since May 2003, she had recently appeared in public wearing the same yellow dress when she paid homage to protesting sons of Buddha who had gathered in front of her home to chant the ?Metta Sutta? (the Buddha's words on loving kindness) on September 22.

This time, there is no doubt that she, through the good office of the UN secretary-general, would seek a way to bring about reconciliation in the country while the fear-driven generals at Naypyidaw seek to deceive the world.

The six-week long protests have further diminished the generals' seven-step political road map to democracy, which, in fact, is a way to cement the generals' power, legitimately, under the forthcoming new constitution.

The generals' pathetic attempt to stage pro-regime rallies for the benefit of special envoy Gambari showed their callous disregard for reality. Are they oblivious to the fact that the Burmese people have voted against them with their lives?

Since 1991, the United Nations General Assembly has adopted a series of resolutions on the Burma situation but to no avail. Now is the time for the UN Security Council to adopt a binding resolution to restore reconciliation and democracy in Burma.

The UN Human Rights Council's special session on Burma on October 2-3 in Geneva said it „strongly deplored the continued violent repression of peaceful demonstrations in Myanmar [Burma].“ This time, the resolution was adopted by consensus with the cooperation of the regime's strongest supporter, China.

Unfortunately, the body has no power to help the oppressed people of Burma by sending a mission to investigate the regime's brutal killings, as requested by more than 200 human rights and civil society organizations in 17 countries.

How long will the civilized world ignore the notorious generals' slaughter of innocent people?

„The world is watching and while the time for mere words has passed, decisive action is now needed. No State can condone such actions,“ Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burma, told the session in Geneva on October 2.

However, the Burmese people are exhausted by such words. Many people now believe that democracy will come only with the sacrifice of tens of thousands of lives.

AP -Posted: 2007-10-02 12:43:12 - ThaungN@aol.com - Dienstag (02.10.2007) 20:35:01

U.N. rights council condemns Myanmar abuses in emergency session - By ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS

GENEVA (AP) - The U.N. Human Rights Council condemned the `_Myanmar_ (javascript:;)` government's crackdown on opposition protests in a resolution Tuesday and urged an immediate investigation of the situation in the country.

The 47-nation council said it "strongly deplores continued violent repression of peaceful demonstrators in Myanmar, including through beatings, killings, arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances."

It is the first time the body has criticized a government other than Israel since replacing the discredited Human Rights Commission last year. The council, which lacks enforcement powers, is limited to focusing global attention on human rights offenders.

The resolution, proposed by European countries, was passed after discussions that included direct testimony from a Swedish diplomat who had been on a visit to Myanmar last month and witnessed security forces firing on unarmed civilians.

The top U.N. human rights official demanded that Myanmar be held to account for its "shocking response" to the protests.

"The Myanmar authorities should no longer expect that their self-imposed isolation will shield them from accountability," said Louise Arbour, the U.N. high commissioner for human rights. "The peaceful protests that we have witnessed in recent weeks and the shocking response by the authorities are only the most recent manifestations of the repression of fundamental rights and freedoms that have taken place for almost 20 years in Myanmar."

As the council convened, Ibrahim Gambari, the U.N.'s special envoy to Myanmar, met the leader of the regime, Senior Gen. Than Shwe, and other top generals in the junta's remote new capital, Naypyitaw, diplomats said.

Diplomats said Gambari then flew to Yangon to see opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel peace laureate who has come to symbolize the yearning for democracy in Myanmar, and who has been under house arrest for years.

The EU led the move for the special session by the Geneva-based rights organization following discussions in the Security Council and the General Assembly in New York.

FOR PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

In the Security Council, even China, which has been reluctant to criticize Myanmar, joined the 14 other nations in expressing concern over the violence, urging the country's military rulers to exercise restraint and to allow Gambari into the country.

Myanmar's military junta has said 10 people have been killed. Dissident groups say up to 200 have been slain and another 6,000 have been detained by security forces cracking down on opposition marches led by Buddhist monks.

"The government must give full account for its action during and after the protest, including precise and verifiable information on the number of people killed and injured as well as on the whereabouts and condition of those who have been arrested," said Arbour, a former Canadian Supreme Court justice.

The EU urged the council to "strongly condemn" the Myanmar government's repression, but the language was toned down in negotiations that involved China and India.

Nyunt Swe, a diplomat representing Myanmar, told the council that his country was "under heavy political pressure from some Western countries" and that the protests were meant to escalate into a mass rally that could justify outside intervention.

"The government has firm evidence that these protests were being helped both financially and materially by internal and external anti-government elements," Swe said. "The protests are the long-awaited chance for some Western countries to initiate an action to intervene in the country."

The council has previously condemned alleged Israeli rights abuses in three special sessions. Its last emergency meeting was in December, when the politically divided body examined the situation in Sudan's region of Darfur.

The council urged the government of Myanmar, also known as Burma, "to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms" and to "bring to justice perpetrators of human rights violations, including for the recent violations of the rights of peaceful protesters."

It also urged the government to release detainees, including Suu Kyi, immediately.

Associated Press writer Bradley S. Klapper contributed to this report

Christine Plüss <christine.pluess@akte.ch> - 10.10.2007

Our Statement concerning Tourism in Burma

See : <http://www.fairunterwegs.org>

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AP - Posted: 2007-10-05 23:46:19 – Late breaking news on Burma - ThaugN@aol.com - Sat, 06. Oct 2007

U.N. envoy urges Myanmar's military rulers to quickly start talks with detained pro-democracy leader

By JUSTIN BERGMAN,

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - The United States warned it would push for U.N. sanctions against Myanmar if it fails to respond to international demands to move toward democracy, but the country's U.N. ambassador strongly resisted punitive measures, saying it is not a threat to regional security and needs "patience" to promote reconciliation.

The U.S. and its allies on the Security Council, France and Britain, said Friday after being briefed on the U.N. special envoy's four-day trip to Myanmar that they want swift action in response to the government's brutal crackdown on demonstrations last week.

Security Council members met behind closed doors to discuss a possible statement in support of national reconciliation in the country and U.N. envoy Ibrahim Gambari's efforts, but U.S. ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad stressed he was prepared to go further.

"The United States is appalled by the brutal repression that has been carried out by the Burmese regime against its own people," he told the council. Myanmar is also known as Burma.

If the junta does not respond to the demands of the international community, he warned, "the U.S. is prepared to introduce a resolution in the Security Council imposing sanctions," citing a possible arms embargo.

But China and Russia remain opposed to council action, saying the situation in Myanmar is an internal affair that does not threaten international peace and security.

China's U.N. Ambassador Wang Guangya called on the Security Council to exercise restraint and reiterated his country's opposition to pressuring Myanmar through such measures as sanctions.

"Pressure would not serve any purpose and would only lead to confrontation," Wang said. "If the situation in Myanmar takes a worse turn because of external intervention it will be the people of the country who will bear the brunt."

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said his government has called on the junta to implement democratic reforms. The Security Council's job, he said, "is to continue lending political support to the efforts of Mr. Gambari."

Myanmar's U.N. ambassador, Kyaw Tint Swe, also urged against Security Council action, saying his country was committed to forging ahead with national reconciliation.

"Patience, time and space is needed," he said. "Despite the recent tragic events, the situation in Myanmar is not, and I repeat not, a threat to either regional or international peace and security. No Security Council action is warranted."

Kyaw Tint Swe said stability had returned to his country and people have been holding peaceful, pro-government rallies "to demonstrate their aversion to recent, provocative demonstrations." Critics say such rallies are shams, filled with people ordered to attend by authorities.

In his speech to the council, U.N. envoy Gambari said he was "cautiously encouraged" that the country's military ruler, Senior Gen. Than Shwe, said he would meet with Suu Kyi, with certain conditions. Those include giving up her calls for confronting the government and for imposing sanctions against it, Myanmar state media said.

"This is an hour of historic opportunity for Myanmar," Gambari said. "To delay the prospect of a peaceful, prosperous and democratic Myanmar is to deny it to those who deserve it most, the people of Myanmar."

Gambari stressed, however, that U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called for talks without any preconditions to overcome "the high level of mistrust" between Than Shwe and Suu Kyi.

"From my own conversations (with Suu Kyi), she appears to be very anxious to have a proper dialogue - and, of course, a dialogue that the secretary-general has characterized as without preconditions - because that would be the best way to move forward. Just start talking," Gambari told reporters afterward.

Gambari said he has been invited to return to Myanmar in mid-November but may try to go earlier.

Ban, in an earlier address the council, urged Myanmar's military rulers to "take bold actions towards democratization and respect for human rights."

Gambari in his speech urged Myanmar's leadership "to make the bold choices" to demonstrate its commitment to democracy and national reconciliation.

Ban sent Gambari to Myanmar last week after troops quashed the protests with gunfire and detained hundreds of people. The government said 10 people were killed, but dissident groups put the death toll at up to 200 and say 6,000 people were detained, including thousands of monks.

Myanmar's ambassador said Friday that 2,095 detainees had been released, including 728 monks, and that more releases will follow.

The U.S., Britain and France circulated a draft presidential statement Friday night that would welcome Gambari's mission, condemn the government's "violent repression" of peaceful demonstrations, and call for the immediate release of all detainees and political prisoners, including Suu Kyi, to promote "genuine reconciliation, dialogue and democratization."

The draft statement, which the council is expected to discuss next week, supports a dialogue between the government and opposition "without conditions."

Most Security Council members stressed the importance of China - Myanmar's closest ally and biggest trading partner - in order to resolve the crisis. But some also said Myanmar's neighbors in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations need to play a part.

ASEAN, of which Myanmar is a member, last week issued its harshest condemnation of the junta, calling the crackdown "repulsive."

Singapore's U.N. ambassador, Vanu Gopala Menon, whose country currently chairs ASEAN, told the council Friday,

however, that the bloc has not been given the access in Myanmar that Gambari has and its influence is limited.

"At this stage, Mr. Gambari represents our best hope and is also the only game in town," he said.

Myanmar's junta took power in 1988 after crushing the democracy movement led by Suu Kyi. In 1990, it refused to hand over power when Suu Kyi's party, the National League for Democracy, won a landslide election victory. Suu Kyi has been detained for nearly 12 of the last 18 years and is currently under house arrest.

The current protests began Aug. 19 after the government hiked fuel prices in one of Asia's poorest countries. The protests were faltering when Buddhist monks took the lead late last month.

AP - Posted: 2007-10-06 20:04:16 - News on Burma Analysis - Heute (07.10.2007) 04:15:00 - ThaugN@aol.com

Analysis: Myanmar junta crushed 'saffron revolt,' but could suffer for its treatment of monks

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - *Myanmar_ (javascript:;)* 's "saffron revolt" has been crushed by an entrenched junta, but the brutality inflicted on Buddhist monks who braved its guns may be the only thing that could splinter the ranks of its fiercely loyal military.

As Myanmar's prisons fill with monks and other demonstrators and the bloodstains of revolt are expunged from the streets, many in Myanmar fear they might never see the return of democracy.

The Southeast Asian nation also known as Burma has witnessed British colonial domination, a fleeting era of democracy and 45 years of iron-fisted military rule.

Yet the monks are deeply revered in this mostly Buddhist nation, and imprisoning them upsets the faithful, no matter what their occupation or political bent.

"The crackdown by the military against the monks may be a major element in the destruction of the very military unity they seek. Many may be profoundly disturbed by the actions of their colleagues," says David Steinberg of Georgetown University, an author of several books on Myanmar.

The beating and mass arrests of the monks, who led pro-democracy demonstrations last month across the country, struck at the junta's greatest fear - that factions within its ranks may side with those seeking change.

And that side showed unexpected strength. The world was caught by surprise at the determined, organized and wide-ranging opposition that sprang up in the last two months.

Drawn in by graphic images of the crackdown, governments around the world responded with unprecedented condemnation, some sanctions and calls for neighboring **China and India**, major trading partners of Myanmar, **to use their leverage on the junta.**

Given the past record, however, neither outside pressure nor possible talks between the junta and opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi are likely to have significant effect on the intransigent leaders.

But the military, in trying to woo a hostile people, has constantly trumpeted an image as Buddhism's protector, building new pagodas, repairing monasteries and offering alms to monks.

"Buddhism has been a critical element in this legitimacy process. But all of a sudden you have delegitimization of a lot of that effort," Steinberg said.

One faithful Buddhist summed up common sentiment after emerging from a pagoda in Yangon last week.

"If the military kill monks, merciful monks, they are not Buddhists, they are savages," the retired teacher said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of fear.

Others unleashed their hatred of the regime by screaming abuse and even exposing their genitals to soldiers.

"Terror reigns in Rangoon (Yangon) now, but anger is there also and it's not going away," said Monique Skidmore, a Myanmar expert at Australian National University. "The pro-democracy movement sees this as the beginning of the end (of the junta), even if it takes 10 years."

Red-robed monks, university students, labor activists, ordinary people and remnants of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party all took part in the protests.

"A new generation has emerged of people we have never heard of before. Even if this new movement has been suppressed now, it's not been decapitated, so it may rise again," says Donald M. Seekins, a Myanmar expert at Meio University in Japan.

However the movement shapes up, activists may again have to face the army's guns alone.

Experts, including some Chinese academics, say even Beijing has limited influence over the generals, never mind the United Nations.

"China's soft spot would be a boycott of the Olympics next year. That's something they definitely don't want," says Seekins. "I don't see the American team not going to Beijing, but if there is a boycott movement it would be very embarrassing to China."

Chinese security experts tasked with studying risks to the 2008 Beijing Olympics believe chances of a boycott over Myanmar, Darfur, Tibet or other issues are slim because governments and world leaders are resistant to the idea. U.S. President George W. Bush (javascript:;) , for one, has already accepted the Chinese president's invitation to attend the games.

World pressure on the junta to hold talks with Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace Prize winner under house arrest for 12 of the past 18 years, also shows little promise.

Following last week's trip by U.N. special envoy Ibrahim Gambari to Myanmar, the junta chief, Senior Gen. Than Shwe, said Thursday that he would be willing to meet with Suu Kyi, but only if she stops calling for sanctions.

However, the two already met five years ago and those talks broke down in acrimony.

"I don't believe there is one shred of evidence that they (the junta) are sincere," says **Josef Silverstein**, a retired Rutgers University professor who has studied Myanmar for more than half a century. "(Than Shwe) is still the commander and she's expected to come crawling to him on her belly."

Bangkok bureau chief Denis D. Gray has covered events in Myanmar since the mid-1970s.

Minutes of the Meeting of October 7th, 2007 1st Meeting of Burma Network Mandalay Restaurant, Brüsseler Strasse 53, D-50674 Köln

1. Introduction of participants

- a) Christian and Jolanta from the Buddhist Center, deputies of Ashin Sopaka
- b) Elena Jotow and Nicholas Ganz from Burma Action, Essen
- c) Karl Förster of Help without Frontiers, Ansbach
- d) Sonny, Marie B. Fleischmann and Hto Min of Burma Büro e.V., Köln
- e) Eugen Kronberger, present in his function as supervisor
- f) Saisuda and Hans-Günther Pohl, deputies of Help without Frontiers (Helfen ohne Grenzen)
- g) Ulrike Bey, Burma Initiative, Asienhaus

Fixing the work schedule

- a) representation of groups and their activities
- b) coordination of press review, strategies for dealing with media, public relations, demonstrations, work with Bundestag, establishing common points towards EU, UN and Foreign Ministry
- c) discussion about formation of a network groups
- d) discussion about cooperation with other groups (amnesty international, terres des hommes, etc.
- e) organisation of fund raising and sponsoring

a) Introduction of different groups

1- Burma Initiative

is the main office in Germany, mainly circulating newsletters and publications, responsible for public relations. For the time being organising a letter campaign



Photo : „Nicholas Ganz“

as well as an exhibition in Essen.

2- **Helfen ohne Grenzen**

Helfen ohne Grenzen is an aid organisation and working on a purely charitable basis. HoG gives concrete help and support, supports projects for all ethnic groups along the border as well as cross-border aid. With their help various projects have been established, giving medical support, building up of infrastructure or giving aid to education, but are not politically engaged.

HoG is very much interested that matters begin politically moving in Germany; the group itself cannot get politically active, as otherwise they may not be able to cross borders or to give support to projects inside the country.

The aim of HoG at this meeting is to form a network with all groups cooperating together. The network should also represent all ethnic groups.

3- **Buddhistisches Zentrum Köln** (Ashin Sopaka)

The Buddhist Center is engaged in public relations and supports Ashin Sopaka in his work with the media because of the recent events in Burma. It has been possible to establish good relations with WDR and N24.

4- **Burma Büro**

Burma Büro is politically engaged and organised under the umbrella of NCUB.

It cooperates with the exile government NCGUB as well as with ethnic nationalities.

The aim of Burma Büro would be to establish a mutual conception and strategies in order to obtain more attention. It distributes information for Burmese living in Germany.

5- **Burma Aktion**

Burma Aktion is working politically as well as on a humanitarian basis, publishing press releases, giving humanitarian aid on a small scale to ethnic nationalities and supports projects along the border.

b. **Coordination of Activities**

I- Interparliamentary Group at the Bundestag

Ulrike proposes to organise an interparliamentary Burma Group at the Bundestag, that could put questions to be discussed at the Bundestag, incite discussions at the parliament and keep putting Burma on the agenda of the Bundestag.

Karl has already established contacts to Claudia Roth (Grüne) as well as to Christine Scheel, member of parliament (Grüne). Claudia Roth is already organizing a possible event at Ansbach, as well as an exhibition at the federal Bavarian state parliament. Karl, too, has good connections to the CSU at the European parliament as well as to other members of the Bavarian parliament. Ulrike offers to contact members of parliament and Karl will give her his support.

Yolanta informs about a project of the KBC, asking all winners of the Nobel peace prize to sign a petition for Aung San Suu Kyi. This list should be sent to members of parliament. This action can also be found on website www.frieden-lauf.de.

Ulrike will take up the coordination of the members of parliament, all other groups will support her with their own connections.

The aim is a briefing of the various groups informing about politicians at parliament (Berlin).

Demand to be submitted to the Foreign Ministry: Support of cross-border aid.

To be demanded from members of parliament: Access of co-workers of the Red Cross for assessing/monitoring the situation inside the country.

Further minor demands could be for example: Dispatching observers of the security council into the country (UK, France, China, US, Russia) having access to prisons.

Suggestion by HoG: Accentuating precise questions to members of parliament, so that politicians may not take cover behind empty phrases. (Example: What is your opinion of Indian helicopters for Burma being equipped with German machine parts, which means that Germany violates EU-sanctions on arms embargo?).

II- Production of a Documentary Film

Karl is making a documentary film which is to give basic information about Burma

This film is also meant to give information to media and politicians.

At the same time a documentation about the Burma Riders is under production, as well as a film about Free Burma Rangers.

The media have already shown interest.

III- Cooperation with the Press

- . Personal contact to journalists would mean the most effective work.
- . The use of website www.openpr.de.
- . Only a small number of print media is publishing articles on Burma.
- . To establish an distribution list naming journalists having already published about Burma.

C) Establishing a Network

- . Discussion about a loose network under a common name (Deutsches Burma Netzwerk)
- . Aim is the cooperation of all groups, good flow of information within their groups, distribution of tasks at special events, establishing a mailing list, exchange of articles, as well as the use and linking of all internet sites. KBC proposes the administrator of frieden-lauf.de websites for the organisation of newsletters. KBC and Burma Büro will take over the organisation of the administrator.
- . Proposal of a Network meeting twice a year including all other Burma groups.

Further Proposals

- . Events with stars from Germany (Mittelmaier, Grönemeyer, Elstner) as already done in England and US.
- . Eventually contacting amnesty international which disposes already of such connections.

Nwe Aung <nweaung@aol.com>, maung maung <gensec@ncub.org>

Letter of Objection to: Anke Fuchs -President of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung

October, 10th 2007

To

Frau Anke Fuchs

-President of Friedrich Ebert Stiftung-

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Bonner Haus, Godesberger Allee 149, 53175 Bonn, GERMANY

Dear Mrs. Fuchs:

As Concerned Myanmar Physicians and Professionals, we strongly object to the recent visit of a delegation of the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Mandalay and the Shan States in Myanmar.

As you are fully aware, the world has witnessed in recent weeks, SPDC's acts of violent atrocities perpetrated upon peaceful protestors led by venerable Buddhist monks. Even as we write this letter, monks and lay people alike are being subjected to gross human rights violations and atrocities such as midnight-raids of monasteries and homes in various cities of Burma.

It is highly deplorable that a delegation of the FES accepted an invitation to take part in a VIP tour in Upper Myanmar led by SPDC's Information Minister Brig. General Kyaw Hsan on October 1st and 2nd, while troops were shooting and killing unarmed clergy and lay citizens in full view of the world. What is more lamentable is the fact that FES, a leading political NGO of Germany claiming to promote the process of democratization in the world, allowed itself to be exploited by the Junta in a cynical attempt to deceive the world that the country has returned to normalcy?

Now, FES has the dubious honor to be presented on the front page of the Junta's mouthpiece the "New Light of Myanmar" supported by pictures of a FES delegation leisurely inspecting their projects of developmental achievement.?

<http://www.myanmar.com/newspaper/myanmarahlin/Oct07.pdf>

<http://www.myanmar.com/newspaper/nlm/index.html>

Notwithstanding the travesty, images of a dead monk dumped in the river, and numerous images of troops shooting and killing prayer-chanting monks and citizens tells a different story of what price the Burmese people have paid and are paying for the development and normalcy that SPDC claim to have achieved.

Moreover, we have discerned that FES has decided to follow an approach of appeasement towards the SPDC Junta informed by Dr. Robert Taylor's and Morten B. Pedersen's viewpoint.

(Ref. <http://fesportal.fes.de/pls/portal30/docs/FOLDER/WORLDWIDE/ASIEN/BERICHTE/BERICHTE2007/MYANMAR0207.PDF>)

Since academics of their ilk think rather linear and ignore forces other than the existing (military) state-power and structure for political change, neither the people nor the 'dumb generals' (Lee Kwan Yew) who are unable to manage the economy are

FOR PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

included in their calculus. By acknowledging the SPDC Junta as paramount cooperation partner for political transition, FES has not only trivialized and turned a blind eye to the expressed will of the people, but made itself a manipulable crony of unscrupulous military generals.

If the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung wants to contribute to the future process of reconciliation and democratization in Burma, we, the Concerned Myanmar Physicians and Professionals, urge the Stiftung to reclaim its own political principles and goals, walk beside the people of Myanmar in their struggle for freedom and democracy and take a clear stance against the SPDC Junta.

Sincerely,

For Concerned Myanmar Physicians and Professionals

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cc: Dr. Roland Schmidt (FES, Director)

Dr. Ernst Kerbusch (FES, Head of Department of International Development)

October 08, 2007 - The Irrawaddy Online News Alert: - The Irrawaddy <news@irrawaddy.org>

Suu Kyi Wants „Proper Dialogue“ - http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=8941

By **Lalit K Jha/ United Nations** - October 8, 2007

The UN Envoy to Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, last week said that the popular Burmese pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest for more than 11 of the last 18 years, is anxious to engage in dialogue with the ruling military junta.

Gambari, who met the iconic Suu Kyi twice during his four-day stay in Burma last week, told reporters at the UN headquarters that from his own observations, „She (Aung San Suu Kyi) appears to want proper dialogue.“

He was responding to a question on whether Suu Kyi has shown any flexibility on the four conditions set by the Burmese general for any dialogue with her.

In response to a question, Gambari said, „The Secretary General has characterized it (dialogue) as being without preconditions, because that would be the best way to move forward. You just start talking. Because there is *so much distrust* between her and the senior general, the bridge has to be built; and the best way in our view is to start.

„I think there is an opening for dialogue. From this, the expectation is not a dialogue for the sake of it, not an open-ended dialogue, but dialogue that is targeted at achieving *national reconciliation* in an all-inclusive manner; a constitution that reflects the will of the majority of the people, and also a government that is responsive to the needs of their own people.“

When asked about the health of Suu Kyi, Gambari said, „..... You saw her picture; some people say she looked frail, but actually I thought she looked better than last November, when I saw her last. She herself said she is in fairly good health, under the circumstances of her continued detention.“

Gambari added that the important thing is to have her restrictions eased.

„In terms of her own position on sanctions, I think we have to find ways to get her own point of view on record, rather

than me interpreting her position," Gambari said.

Gambari said the UN is waiting for a concrete response from the Burmese government on the issues raised by him. These include: release of political prisoners; humanitarian access to those in need; cessation of hostilities against ethnic minorities; health and educational issues; and co-operation with the ILO.

„Then we have added some new ideas; for example, how to deal with the underlying process of discontent of an economic and political nature, and also possible ideas about constitution review. Now we are just waiting for the response. We will judge by what they actually do," Gambari said in response to a question.

After his third briefing before the Security Council in ten days, Gambari said five points of consensus have emerged.

„One is that unity among Council members is the key to really getting Myanmar and the authorities to move along the lines that we all want, which is peaceful, democratic Myanmar, with full respect for human rights," he said.

„Secondly, there is strong support among all Council members for the role of the good offices of the Secretary General.

„Third, there is a consensus..... that the status quo ante is unacceptable and unsustainable and is probably unrealistic. **We cannot go back to the situation before the recent crisis.** The underlining factors --socio-economic and political -- must be addressed," he said.

Fourth is the critical role of Asean, the neighboring countries and regional powers.

„The fifth point that emerged by consensus in the discussions is that a return visit to Myanmar and to the region would be useful in order to keep the momentum, which we must not allow to slip," Gambari said.

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

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