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

gulfnews.com - The World -Myanmar - <<http://www.gulfnews.com/world/Myanmar/10328201.html>>

AP - UN chief in Myanmar to lobby for Suu Kyi's release, political reconciliation

Published: July 03, 2009, 08:12

Yangon: The UN secretary-general says he will lobby Myanmar's junta chief directly for the release of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, acknowledging that his high-profile mission will be "very difficult."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon arrived in Yangon on Friday morning and will fly to the new administrative capital of Naypyitaw as part of his ongoing effort to promote political reconciliation between the ruling military and the opposition. Ban said his talks would focus on gaining the release of all political prisoners including Suu Kyi" resumption of dialogue between the military government and its opposition" and creating conditions for credible elections.

He will meet with top junta leader Senior General Than Shwe and Prime Minister General Thein Sein. Ban said he would raise the Suu Kyi's case directly with Than Shwe.

Zin Linn <zinlinn@cscoms.com> - [NLDmembersnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK] NCGUB: News & Articles on Burma, Friday, 03 July 2009 17:51 hrs IST

[manoramaonline.com](http://www.manoramaonline.com) -<<http://www.manoramaonline.com/cgi-bin/MMOnline.dll/portal/ep/contentView.do?contentType=EDITORIAL&programId=1073750968&articleType=&contentId=5667388>>

Junta stalls on Ban request to see Suu Kyi Friday July 03 2009

Naypyidaw, Myanmar, July 3: U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon had a rare meeting with Myanmar junta supremo Than Shwe on Friday but left with no clear answer to his request to see detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Suu Kyi, who has spearheaded the campaign for democracy for two decades in the former Burma, is currently on trial for breaching a security law, which critics say is an attempt by the generals to keep her out of multi-party elections to be held next year.

"He told me that she is on trial. I told him that I wanted to meet her in person," Ban told reporters after a meeting with the junta leader lasting nearly two hours in the country's remote new capital, Naypyidaw.

"I am awaiting ... their consideration and reply," Ban said.

Ban had made no secret of his intention to ask for permission to meet Suu Kyi during his two-day trip, which critics say has been orchestrated by the junta to try to legitimise the Nobel laureate's trial.

Ban called for the release all political prisoners ahead of the election and meaningful dialogue between the junta and opposition parties.

"This election should be credible, fair and inclusive, and a legitimate one," Ban said. "I was assured that Myanmar's authorities will make sure that this election will be held in a fair and free and transparent manner."

Earlier, Than Shwe, 76, dressed in khaki uniform adorned with medals, was commended by Ban for his contributions to peace, prosperity and democracy.

"I would like to help move your country forward and appreciate your commitment to moving your country forward," Ban told the general, who has led the Myanmar regime for 17 of its 47 years in power.

Suu Kyi's trial was adjourned earlier on Friday because of a clerical error by the court, according to her lawyer.

The stakes are high for Ban and the risk of failure great. Halfway through a five-year term at the helm of the United Nations, he has faced criticism from detractors who say his low-key approach to the job does not work.

He is eager to prove them wrong, U.N. diplomats say. Speaking to reporters before the visit, Ban made clear he was under no illusions about how difficult it would be to persuade the military junta to free prisoners and take concrete steps towards democracy ahead of the elections.

"I'll do my best (but) I do not believe my visit should be a make-or-break event ... This will be a very difficult mission," he

FOR PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

said.

Ban was due to meet representatives of "registered political parties" in Naypyidaw, including Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.

Suu Kyi has spent 14 of the past 20 years in detention, mostly under house arrest at her lakeside home in Yangon. During her trial, she has been held in a guest house in the compound of the notorious Insein Prison in the former capital.

Her lawyer said her trial had been postponed until July 10, apparently because the Supreme Court did not send case files to the district court, where Suu Kyi appeared on Friday.

"Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed her surprise that this happened," lawyer Nyan Win told reporters.

The Nobel laureate, 64, was charged with violating the terms of her house arrest by allowing an American intruder to stay at her home in May, which prosecutors say breached a security law designed to thwart "subversive elements".

Critics say the charges are trumped up and that the trial is an attempt to keep Suu Kyi out of the way for the elections, expected to entrench nearly half a century of army rule.

Ban had expressed concern his visit would be used by the junta for propaganda purposes but he decided to go anyway, hoping his knack for quiet diplomacy would persuade the generals to compromise, as they did last year when Ban convinced them to lift humanitarian aid restrictions after Cyclone Nargis.

Analysts say Ban may have been given some indication by the generals, or by U.N. envoy Ibrahim Gambari after his trip last week, that his visit might bring some kind of positive result.

Human Rights Watch said Ban "should not accept the return of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi to house arrest or vague statements about political reform as signs of a successful visit".

<<http://www.manoramaonline.com/cgi-bin/MMOnline.dll/portal/ep/contentView.do?contentType=EDITORIAL&programId=1073750968&articleType=&contentId=5667388>>

Zin Linn <zinlinn@cscoms.com> - [NLDmembersnSupportersofCRPPnNLDnDASSK] - NCGUB: News & Articles on Burma, Saturday, 04 July 2009 -

U.N. barred from visiting Aung San Suu Kyi

Published: July 4, 2009 at 6:29 AM

<http://www.upi.com/Top_News/2009/07/04/UN-barred-from-visiting-Aung-San-Suu-Kyi/UPI-90041246682699/>

NAYPYIDAW, Myanmar, July 4 (UPI) -- U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Saturday he's been turned down in his bid to visit Myanmar pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

Ban told reporters traveling with him in Myanmar that the country's ruling military junta rebuffed his request to see Suu Kyi, who has been held under house arrest for 13 of the past 19 years, CNN reported.

Ban made the comments after meeting with junta leader Than Shwe. The U.N. leader was in Myanmar at the invitation of the government for talks with officials, the U.S. broadcaster said. The Nobel Peace Prize-winning Suu Kyi has been on trial for subversion in connection with a May 3 incident in which an American man swam across a lake to her house and stayed for at least a night.

The secretary-general's trip to the country formerly known as Burma is intended to convince the generals to release Suu Kyi and other political prisoners before the general election next year. Suu Kyi has been under house arrest for much of the past two decades.

"This election should be a credible, fair, inclusive and legitimate one where all the Myanmar people can express their will in a free way," Ban said. "I was assured that Myanmar's authorities will make sure that this election will be held in fair and free and transparent manner."

Suu Kyi is being held in Insein Prison.

Declaration by the EU on the Karen civilians fleeing Burma - "Aung Lwin" <M.Lwin@t-online.de> - Donnerstag, 11.06.2009

COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Brussels, 11 June 2009
10951/09 (Presse 175)
P 65

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Karen civilians fleeing Burma/Myanmar

FOR PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN BURMA

The EU has noted with serious concern the mounting offensive of the Burmese Army and its allies against the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), which has resulted in large numbers of civilians fleeing from the conflict area in Kayin/Karen State to Thailand.

The EU calls for an immediate ceasefire and requests the authorities and military operators to ensure the protection of civilians at all times and to comply with international humanitarian and human rights law. Generally, the authorities should refrain from seeking military solutions against the ethnic minorities; this only fosters instability, long-term divisions and hatred.

The EU reiterates its commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Burma/Myanmar.

The EU calls instead for the conditions to be created that allow the return of all refugees, and for the start of an inclusive and time-bound process of political dialogue leading to national reconciliation.

The EU is strongly concerned about the humanitarian situation of the thousands of newly displaced persons in Thailand. It acknowledges the efforts that the Royal Government of Thailand, which already hosts large numbers of Burmese refugees, undertakes to provide the new arrivals with all necessary care. The EU stands ready to provide more assistance where possible.

PRESS

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 10951/09 (Presse 175)

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BurmaNet News, June 6 - 8, 2009 - Issue #3729 - "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org> - www.burmanet.org

Constitutional loophole leaves door open for forced labor: ILO

by **Mizzima News** - <<http://www.mizzima.com/news/world/2264-constitutional-loophole-leaves-door-open-for-forced-labor-ilo.html>>

Monday, 08 June 2009

Chiang Mai (Mizzima) – A committee on International Labor Standards has called on Burma's military government to both amend existing legislation and address shortcomings in a new Constitution due to take effect next year in order to ensure the cessation of forced labor in the country.

Referencing the Forced Labor Convention of 1930, an International Labor Organization (ILO) expert committee ruled that the practice of forced labor continues to prevail throughout the country, in all but one of the 14 States and Divisions – citing a lack of political will on the part of authorities to address the problem.

The committee told the government it must amend both existing legislation and the new Constitution to effectively ban forced labor, publicize the ban and punish those who defy the ban – appealing to the government to "redouble their efforts" in enacting "long-overdue steps" to stamp out forced labor in Burma once and for all.

Disagreeing with the Burmese government's interpretation of the 2008 Constitution, the committee concluded that the text of the document provides for the possible permission of forced labor, specifically drawing attention to a clause referencing "duties assigned thereupon by the State in accord with the law in the interests of the people."

Additionally, the committee voiced the opinion that "even those constitutional provisions which expressly prohibit forced or compulsory labour may become inoperative where forced or compulsory labour is imposed by legislation itself."

The junta, however, rebuked the view of the committee, noting the Constitution was approved by over 90 percent of voters in a May 2008 referendum and quoting paragraph 15 of Chapter VIII of the Constitution, which iterates: "The State prohibits any form of forced labour except hard labour as a punishment for crime duly convicted and duties assigned thereupon by the State in accord with the law in the interests of the people."

Yet, it is precisely paragraph 15 of Chapter VIII, along with the Village and Towns Acts, which the ILO contends demands immediate attention in the amendment or retraction of text contained therein.

Further, in response to more than 600 pages of evidence to the practice of forced labor in Burma submitted by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the ILO committee accused the government of failing to address the specifics of the cases brought forward, instead merely regurgitating previous statements to the general condition in Burma and practices of the government without providing any proof in support of the government's position.

Included in the transcripts provided by the ITUC was evidence of direct demands of forced labor made by Burma's military of Karen and Chin villagers as well as forced labor relating to the reconstruction of the country's cyclone ravished delta region.

The committee, in justifying their verdict, reminded the government that no military personnel have yet to be held accountable for any alleged rights violations, with the exception of three cases which resulted in salary reductions or loss of seniority as opposed to reprimands following from application of the penal code.

China, India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), however, all came to the defense of the Burmese regime, with China and India opting to focus on the junta's positive achievements to date in putting an end to forced labor, while Singapore criticized those groups and countries choosing to raise the issue of Aung San Suu Kyi in conjunction with that of forced labor.

Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi is currently facing trial for breaching the terms of her house detention; charges which many critics and observers believe are purely political in motivation.

Burma, under the government of democratically elected Prime Minister U Nu, ratified the Forced Labor Convention in 1955 – some fifty years ahead of fellow ASEAN members Philippines and Vietnam.

The United States, China and Canada are three of the countries that have yet to ratify the 1930 Convention.

The committee decided against referring the situation in Burma to the International Court of Justice, the highest venue for dealing with forced labor abuses.

THE BURMANET NEWS - June 16, 2009, Issue #3735 - "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org> - www.burmanet.org

United Nations Human Rights Council - <<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/VDUX-7T3SA3?OpenDocument>>

UN human rights experts urge fair and open trial for Aung San Suu Kyi -

Source: United Nations Human Rights Council

Date: 16 Jun 2009



Reference map of Myanmar

GENEVA – Five independent United Nations human rights experts* on Tuesday urged the authorities of Myanmar to ensure that the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, and two of her aides, is "fair and open."

"So far, the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi and her aides has been marred by flagrant violations of substantive and procedural rights," said Leandro Despouy, the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers. Pointing to the fact that, to date, the trial has mostly been conducted behind closed doors and that the media have been prevented from speaking to the defence lawyers, Despouy said that "Transparency in the administration of justice is a pre-requisite of any State governed by the rule of law."

Noting the political transition to which the Myanmar leadership has committed itself, the experts emphasized the requirement in democratic society for trials to be conducted openly. "National and international media should be granted full access to the trial," said the Special Rapporteur

on freedom of opinion and expression, Frank La Rue.

While the prosecution was allowed to call 14 witnesses, most of them policemen, only one witness called by the defense team has so far been permitted to testify. Applications for another three defense witnesses to testify have been made. Last week a second defense witness was granted permission to be heard in the case. "While this is a significant step forward, the court must ensure that all witnesses who may have relevant evidence are able to testify," Despouy said.

"The court has the duty to conduct the proceedings fairly and to respect the rights of the parties as a pre-requisite to the principle of equality of arms and the right to defense," he said, adding that it is essential that the justice system examines the compatibility of Aung San Suu Kyi's continued house arrest with domestic law and international standards.

The Chairperson of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention Manuela Carmena Castrilo said the Working Group had declared that the continuation of the house arrest after May 2008 was arbitrary according to international standards and also violated Myanmar's own laws (Opinion 46/2008). For this reason Aung San Suu Kyi needs to be released immediately and unconditionally, the experts concluded.

On 14 May 2009, Aung San Suu Kyi and two of her aides were taken by security forces to Insein Prison, where they continue to stand trial before an ad hoc special tribunal. They were charged under Myanmar's State Protection Law 1975 after an individual swam across Lake Inya and spent two nights at Aung San Suu Kyi's home.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been subjected to house arrest for more than 13 of the past 19 years. She was rearrested on 30

May 2003, and her house arrest was subsequently extended until it reached the maximum term permitted under Myanmar's own laws in May 2008. It was then illegally extended for another year by the authorities.

Therefore, the moment the incident occurred, Aung San Suu Kyi should not have been under house arrest. Furthermore "If the State assumes the responsibility to prevent access to the house of Aung San Suu Kyi," the experts said, "how can she then be held criminally liable for an unwanted intrusion?"

Since she was placed under house arrest in 2003, Aung San Suu Kyi has never been brought before a judge. It seems paradoxical that now – one year after the expiration of the house arrest – the justice system is being used to justify a further restriction of her liberty.

The five experts called upon the authorities of Myanmar to allow the justice system to function in an independent and impartial manner, so as to guarantee an open and fair trial for the defendants, and to grant unfettered media access.

* The Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, Ms. Manuela Carmena Castrilo; the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers, Mr. Leandro Despouy; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana; the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Ms. Margaret Sekaggya; and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Mr. Frank La Rue

Burma News_13 June 2009 - "Burma_News" <burma_news@verizon.net>, Sun, 14. Jun 2009

Channel NewsAsia - 12 June 2009 - <<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/435418/1/.html>>

SM Goh urges Myanmar to continue with national reconciliation process

YANGON, Myanmar: Singapore's Senior Minister, Goh Chok Tong, has urged Myanmar to continue with its process of national reconciliation and democracy. Wrapping up his four-day visit to the country, Mr Goh noted that without political reform, Myanmar will not be able to achieve fast economic growth like other ASEAN economies.

And in its efforts towards national reconciliation, Mr Goh said Myanmar cannot ignore the international interest surrounding pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's trial. Mr Goh said he had constructive discussions with Myanmar's top leaders, including Senior General Than Shwe. And it provided him with insights into just how complex Myanmar's political situation is.

He said: "I could see that Senior General Than Shwe is in a very difficult position. He has inherited this military regime - Myanmar has been under military government since 1962, so it's not his creation. Myanmar has come to a cul de sac, how does it make a u-turn? I think that's not easy." Mr Goh added that Myanmar's stability is dependent on bringing together the three parties - the military government, the ethnic groups and the opposition. Seventeen ethnic groups have signed a ceasefire agreement, but it is still unclear if all will take part in the upcoming polls.

Mr Goh noted that Senior General Than Shwe would like to bring the country towards democracy, using a cautious but practical approach. The key test would be in the country's general election in 2010. Mr Goh said the process must be legitimate - that means fair and transparent elections. He added that all parties that want to contest the elections should be allowed to do so, including Aung San Suu Kyi and her party - the National League for Democracy.

"Because if she's not campaigning for the party and whoever wins, well, one could argue that it's not quite legitimate because the main opposition party was not campaigning with its leader," he said. Mr Goh said he has conveyed Singapore's view on the arrest of Ms Suu Kyi. He said Singapore is "dismayed by the arrest"... and it is "concerned as to what the verdict will be like and what the sentence will be like."

And while the matter is a domestic affair, Mr Goh stressed that Myanmar cannot ignore international interest in Ms Suu Kyi's trial and verdict because it would affect Myanmar's international relations. Mr Goh pointed out that President Barack Obama's new administration is reviewing its foreign policy and Myanmar's actions will determine its relations with America.

He said: "I gave observation that the US government under President Obama and State Secretary Hilary Clinton is reviewing foreign policy on all countries, including China, India, the Islamic world and North Korea. "President Obama is trying to reach out to others, including those the US does not have good relations with. So Myanmar, in time to come, will also be reviewed and if Myanmar wants to have good relations with the US, how the trial comes out and the verdict will be, it will affect Myanmar-US relations.

"I think the government is aware that there is international perspective on Aung San Suu Kyi's trial. But it's a domestic affair. What the verdict and sentence will be, we will not want to pre-judge or influence them in any way." Mr Goh added

that how Myanmar is going to be governed will determine whether the country gets investments. He observed that while there is progress in urban cities with new buildings and more cars, rural areas remain in poverty with many still living in thatched houses. Myanmar's Prime Minister, Thein Sein, had said he would like to see investments from Singapore, but Mr Goh pointed out that is not possible until Myanmar's elections and results are known.

He said: "I don't believe any Singapore investors would come in a big way before the picture is clear, before this move to democracy is seen to produce results." Mr Goh said he left with the impression that his points had been noted. "Beyond that, I cannot read their minds, but they gave me more than one hour, listening to my observations. We do not pressure them on what to do and I did not come here to give advice. "But what I told him is we got to understand global trends, so what I could do as an old friend of Myanmar is to give inputs, and I made it very clear these are inputs."



Mr Goh also explained why Singapore is concerned about developments in Myanmar. He said being part of ASEAN, if Myanmar prospers, it will be good for the region and it will be better to have a prosperous ASEAN than a region with all kinds of problems.

minye kyawswar <minyeykawswar8888@gmail.com> - [8888peoplepower] Latest news:<http://8888newgenerations.blogspot.com/>

Scoop - Independent News - <<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO0906/S00119.htm>>

Aung San Suu Kyi's Letter To Court - Thursday, 11 June 2009

The full text of statement submitted by the National League for Democracy leader General Secretary Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to the court regarding the case charged against her, as per section 256 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

(a) – 1. In this aforesaid case, Police Special Branch Pol. Lt. Col. Zaw Min Aung filed case against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi under section 22 of the 'Law safeguarding the State from the danger of those desiring subversive acts – 1975' and Daw Khin Khin Win (daughter of U Tin Ohn), Daw Win Ma Ma (daughter of U Nyan Lin) and John William Yettaw for abetting Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in committing this crime under section 22 of aforesaid 1975 Law and section 109 of Criminal Code, at Bahan Police station on 11 May 2009.

2. Regarding the visits by Mr. John William Yettaw, I first heard of his first visit on 30 November 2008 from Daw Khin Khin Win who lives with me. I informed this incident to the authorities concerned on 4 December 2008 through Dr. Tin Myo Win who visited me on that day for regular medical checkup. The authorities didn't ask me any question and I didn't hear any action taken being taken on this report either. There was no warning given to me to inform the authorities concerned in such a case of intrusion into my residence. I found out about the second visit of Mr. John William Yettaw only on the morning of 4th May 2009. I asked him to leave my house. He told me that he would leave my home at night otherwise he would be arrested if he leaves during day time. And then when night fell, he requested me again to let him stay overnight on the excuse of his health condition.

3. Nowadays, many of my political colleagues and sworn friends are languishing in jail, serving long prison terms, without enjoying the protection of the law and its leniency. My political conscience does not allow me to push anyone to be arrested and being taken into custody so I let him stay at my home temporarily.

4. Who is the intruder, what were his objectives did not matter to me and I do not care. I did it in accordance with my political belief and conscience. I intended to report this incident to the authorities concerned through Dr. Tin Myo Win when he came to me on his scheduled visit on 7 May 2009. But on that day, 7 May 2009, Dr. Tin Myo Win was not allowed to visit me and only police personnel came to me instead.

5. I did in responding to the incident on 30 November 2008 to downplay this incident and to avoid giving unnecessary trouble to the security personnel deployed at my home. The authorities seemingly accepted the way I handled this case by not objecting or criticizing me for handling the case in this way. I think the authorities accepted and agreed to my act. In the examination of a recalled prosecution witness, he testified to the court that I and the authorities were jointly responsible for the security of my house. This statement is absolutely wrong.

6. I was charged with violation of the restriction and internment order made under the 'Law safeguarding the State from the danger of those who desiring subversive acts'.

a. The statements given in court by the prosecution witnesses and the internment order exhibited in court clearly proves that I did not violate the terms of the said internment order.

b. The prosecution testified in court that the internment order is the restriction and deprivation of fundamental rights of the citizen as per the provisions of the 1974 Union of Socialist Republic of Burma's Constitution. This constitution has not been in force and has collapsed since the military took over power in 1988. The interment order made under the said constitution which is no longer in force is unlawful.

7. The root cause of the case is security -- lapse of security or breach of security, but till today, no action was taken against the security personnel responsible. But they took action against me only and put me on trial. This is a biased act.

8. I hereby submit my statement stating that I did not commit the crime that I have been charged with.

9. By the resolution of the Central Legal Aid Committee constituted under the Central Executive Committee, meeting held on 26 May 2009

Central Executive Committee
National League for Democracy

ENDS -

"Aung Lwin" <M.Lwin@t-online.de> - 08.06.2009 - KNU Statement! -



**OFFICE OF THE SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
KAREN NATIONAL UNION KAWTHOOLEI**

KNU Statement on SPDC-DKBA Combined Forces' Offensive

June 8, 2009

1. The KNU has met with successive regimes in power for resolution of the civil war peacefully by political means, though it has been leading armed resistance for more than 60 years.
2. In the early part of 2009, the SPDC made an overture, through the Thai government, for resolution of conflict by peaceful means with armed organizations based along the Thai-Burma border. The KNU, on the basis of equality and mutual respect, made known through the Thai government, its willingness to undertake resolution of problems through political dialogue.
3. For the resolution of armed conflict through political negotiation, the KNU has consistently urged the SPDC, the regime in power, to create politically conducive atmosphere, and show sincerity and goodwill.
4. Up to this day, instead of decrease, there has been an increase in military attacks and various forms of human rights violations against the local Karen populations in the KNU areas, by the SPDC troops, according to their plan of expanding area of control. Similarly, the SPDC is putting Daw Su on trial for further incarceration of her, rejecting calls for release of all political prisoners and suppressing severely the legal activities of political parties and organizations.
5. Towards the end of last May, in accordance with the SPDC plan of transforming the DKBA troops into Border Guard Force, villages in the KNU areas have been ordered to send their quota of recruits to the DKBA forces.
6. In early June, thousands of villagers, who did not want to serve as DKBA soldiers, came fleeing for refuge to Lerber Herr IDP Camp, which had had a population of 1,300.
7. On June 3, when thousands of combined DKBA and SPDC troops approached Lerber Herr IDP Camp, clashes broke with the KNLA troops and over 3,000 Karen villagers had to cross into Thai territory for refuge.
8. Keeping the DKBA troops in front and carrying out military attacks by the SPDC against the Karen people like enemies, as it is, amounts to rejecting the necessity for national reconciliation and resolving, by peaceful means, the problem of civil war.
9. For that reason, we request, the international NGOs, the Karen people at home and abroad, and human rights protection organizations to provide, without delay, emergency assistance necessary for more than 3,000 Lerber Herr IDPs.
10. We, the KNU, earnestly urge the United Nations, the international communities, the regional and neighboring countries to concertedly pressure the SPDC for immediate acceptance of tri-partite dialogue process, for resolving the political and military conflicts in the country.

For further information contact - VP - Mobile: (66) 087 207 9296
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**Central Executive Committee
Karen National Union**

THE BURMANET NEWS - June 11, 2009, Issue #3732 - "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org> - www.burmanet.org

BBC News, June 11, 2009 - <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8095137.stm>

Burma's Karen unable to return home

More than 4,000 ethnic Karen in eastern Burma have fled to Thailand after renewed fighting between Burmese government forces and Karen rebels.

Many of those who have fled over the past week were living at the Ler Per Her camp for internally displaced people in Burma - and had already left their home villages.

Rainbow, who is the secretary of the camp and the headmaster of the school there, told the BBC News website about what is forcing the Karen to flee and the difficult circumstances they now face:

Last week government troops attacked our camp. They were shelling every day. The fighting between the Burmese army and the Karen rebels was taking place close to the camp. It became a dangerous place. So we decided to leave.



„We are illegal here and eventually we'll have problems with the Thai authorities,,



The exodus of the last week is thought to be the largest one in a decade

There were 1,264 people living in the camp. Since October 2008 we've had about 300 new arrivals.

The Democratic Karen Buddhist Amy (DKBA) [allied to the Burmese army] have been trying to force people in the area to join them in the last few months.

They wanted to be in control of the area and they needed more people.

In order to put pressure on villagers they put mines close to rice fields. To avoid being recruited to the army, many have abandoned their homes and farms and gone to live in camps for internally displaced people.

Farms are abandoned and homes burnt down.

No place to go

There are over 3,000 people now in different places on the Thai side of the border.

The exodus of the last week is thought to be the largest one in a decade

There are more than 1,000 of us in this village. We are being taken care of for now, but it's really difficult as there are too many people and not enough accommodation. It's very crowded and it's constantly raining.

But there's nothing we can do. We are just waiting to see what will happen.

We are in a very difficult situation. We can't go back because the military has taken over our camp.

But we can't stay here for long either. We are illegal here and eventually we'll have problems with the Thai authorities.

We can only hope that we'll be able to go home soon.

THE BURMANET NEWS - June 4, 2009, Issue #3727 - "Editor" <editor@burmanet.org> - <www.burmanet.org>

The Irrawaddy - The Irrawaddy Today's Newsletter for Thursday, June 4, 2009

Keep up the Pressure, Urges Win Tin

Thursday, June 4, 2009 - <http://www.irrawaddy.org/print_article.php?art_id=15842>

Win Tin, a prominent member of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD), has urged the international community to continue pushing for her release, saying that the pressure on the Burmese junta since her trial began more than two weeks ago has given the democratic opposition more "breathing space."

Speaking to The Irrawaddy on Thursday, the 79-year-old Win Tin expressed deep appreciation for strongly-worded statements from world leaders condemning the detention of Suu Kyi and asking for the Nobel Peace Prize winner's

unconditional release.



Win Tin at an NLD ceremony shortly after his release last year from 19 years in prison (Photo: AP)

“That was very significant,” he said of the strong messages of support for Suu Kyi from a number of world leaders, including US President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. He also thanked Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and other leading Thai politicians, who have been unusually outspoken in their criticism of Suu Kyi’s detention, even raising the issue at meetings of regional leaders.

Win Tin also welcomed UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s promise to return to Burma “as soon as possible.” He added, however, that the UN chief must be prepared to press for tangible results.

“If he leaves Burma empty-handed, it will be a setback,” he said.

He also warned against any slackening of pressure on the regime, which he said was now stalling Suu Kyi’s trial in the hope that the international outcry would lose momentum.

The veteran politician, who spent 19 years in Rangoon’s notorious Insein Prison, where Suu Kyi is currently being held, said that the court agreed to hear an appeal of an earlier decision barring three of her defense witnesses because the regime was trying to buy time.

The Nobel laureate’s trial on charges she violated her house arrest was to have final arguments on Friday, paving the way for a widely expected guilty verdict and a prison sentence of up to five years.

Suu Kyi, 63, faces three to five years in prison if found guilty of breaking the terms of her house arrest by allowing an American

intruder to stay for two days after he swam to her home on May 4.

Although the trial has resulted in tighter restrictions on Suu Kyi, the intense international attention that it has attracted has actually made life slightly easier for beleaguered democratic opposition forces, according to Win Tin.

Before Suu Kyi’s arrest and transfer to Insein prison, activists and dissidents in Burma were powerless to make a move without the regime pouncing on them, “but now we have some breathing space here,” he said.

Win Tin also said he suspected the regime was behind the bizarre incident that landed Suu Kyi in a special court at Insein Prison.

“It was a set up,” he said, questioning why John William Yettaw, the American man who swam to Suu Kyi’s house on May 4, was able to get a visa to return to Burma after police were informed that he had breached the tight security around her home late last year.

Suu Kyi’s personal physician, Tin Myo Win, had reported this first intrusion to the police on December 4, 2008. Yettaw entered her compound on November 30 and was immediately told to leave. It was not clear what prompted him to attempt a repeat of his earlier illegal entry into Suu Kyi’s residential compound.

Win Tin also dismissed the regime’s efforts to use the incident to smear Suu Kyi’s reputation and justify her continued detention after more than six years under house arrest.

“People in Burma do not believe the regime’s propaganda,” said Win Tin, adding that the junta’s actions could provoke unrest.

In a sign that the regime is growing increasingly wary of a backlash, it has beefed up security in Rangoon, where residents said that they saw about 30 police trucks on roads leading to Insein prison yesterday.

Win Tin also said that despite the military leaders’ determination to keep Suu Kyi in prison, the daughter of Burma’s independence leader doesn’t hold any personal grudge against them.

“They know her very well. They know that she has no ill will against them, but they want to lock her up or deport her somewhere,” he said.

But the generals were making a serious mistake by attempting to marginalize Suu Kyi, said Win Tin, who said that they

would need her when the time comes to cede power.

"They should realize that she can save them," he said.

The Irrawaddv - <http://www.irrawaddv.org/article.php?art_id=16073>
Ban 'Wants Suu Kyi Freed before Visiting Burma again'

By **LALIT K JHA** Thursday, June 18, 2009

The Burmese military junta has invited United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to visit Burma next month, but UN sources say he is unlikely to accept if opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi is convicted and sentenced to imprisonment or a further term of house arrest.

The sources say said Ban wants to make sure that any visit to Burma produces tangible results and is not used for propaganda purposes by the military junta.

Ban's spokesperson, Michele Montas, told reporters that no decision had yet been taken on the junta's invitation.

The UN sources said Ban would consult members of the Security Council and his Group of Friends on Burma before deciding whether to accept the invitation.

A team of UN officials is discussing with Burmese authorities details of a Ban visit to Burma.

If Ban decides to go, he will be preceded by UN Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari. Sources say that despite the low profile Gambari has been maintaining, he has been in close communication with the Burmese authorities.

Ban last visited Burma after Cyclone Nargis in May 2008, and he has since shown keen interest in returning, this time to discuss political issues with the junta—including moves towards democracy and the release of political prisoners.

Ban and Gambari are reported to have both written letters to the junta expressing their concerns about the trial of Suu Kyi. However, the response has been "opaque," officials said.

Gambari, on behalf of Ban, has been insisting that any visit by the secretary general should result in tangible results, including progress in restoring democracy and the release of Suu Kyi and other political prisoners.

The junta on the other hand has been seeking firm assurances from the members of the Security Council—specially the US, Britain and France—that economic sanctions against Burma would be lifted. These countries, however, want the junta to take the first step

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The Associated Press - <<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/world/AP/story/1082667.html>>

Aung San Suu Kyi's trial delayed a week in Myanmar

The Associated Press - <<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/world/AP/story/1082667.html>>

YANGON, Myanmar – The trial of Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi on charges of violating conditions of her house arrest was delayed for a week over efforts to reinstate three defense witnesses, one of her lawyers said Friday.

The court adjourned Suu Kyi's trial until next Friday while a higher court hears a request by her attorneys to reinstate the witnesses who were earlier barred from testifying, lawyer Nyan Win said. The Divisional Court announced Friday that it would make a ruling Tuesday.

The lower District Court earlier had disqualified all but one defense witness — legal expert Kyi Win. Those rejected were all members of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party.

They consist of prominent journalist and former political prisoner Win Tin, party Vice Chairman Tin Oo, currently under house arrest, and lawyer Khin Moe Moe.

If the Divisional Court rejects the witnesses next week, Suu Kyi's lead attorney, Kyi Win, said the defense team would appeal the ruling to the High Court, which could further delay the trial. The High Court is Myanmar's top court.

Security around Yangon was especially tight Friday, witnesses said, with truckloads of riot police and groups of pro-junta supporters stationed outside the Divisional Court, the headquarters of Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy, and City Hall in downtown Yangon. Riot police also patrolled the city.



Ten Years On

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by **Moe Aye**

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