



May 12, 2008

Statement: May 10 National Referendum Held amidst Gross Injustice

In accordance with the Commission to Hold National Referendum's announcement No. (8/2008), the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) held the National Referendum at 25,837 polling stations across Burma on May 10, except for the 47 cyclone affected Townships in which the Referendum has been postponed to May 24.

Incidents occurring in polling stations in various divisions and states show that the proceedings of the Referendum did not even follow the Commission's own 'Referendum Law to Approve State Constitution Draft'. Those who were assigned responsibility for the referendum commissions and polling stations entirely disregarded and violated the 'Guidelines for Quarter and Village Commissions' and 'Guidelines for Ballot Station Leaders and Staff' by using various tactics.

According to international standards, a confirmed list of eligible voters must be officially publicized a certain period before the actual date of the referendum. In Burma, the military regime announced the list only seven days before the referendum. However, it transpired on May 10th that there were a number of discrepancies between the 'official' voters' list and those who ought to have had the right to vote.

The incidents on the day of Referendum reaffirmed our prediction that the military regime would manipulate the results of the Referendum. Voters were so threatened and intimidated that it was impossible for them to cast their votes freely and securely. Some voters were forced to vote 'Yes' in advance, and the notion of the 'secret ballot' was largely ignored. In direct contravention of international voting standards, there has been no transparency regarding the counting of ballots.

The May 10 National Referendum was evidently held amidst gross injustice, deception and severe political restriction. Therefore, we declare that any outcome of this Referendum be illegitimate.

We formally and strongly urge the UN and international community not to accept or defend the 'results' of the Referendum that the junta forcefully obtained.

- Ends - - Ends -

Media Contact: U Myint Thein	+66 87 808 3552
Dr. Lian H. Sakhong	+66 81 029 6100
U Aung Moe Zaw	+66 84 490 8237
Mi Sue Pwint	+66 81 884 5562