

Members of Parliament-Elect
Union of Burma (Myanmar)

21 July 2008

Hon. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General, United Nations

Permanent Representatives
Members of the Security Council, United Nations

Re: Role of the United Nations in Burma/Myanmar for National Reconciliation and Democratization

Excellencies,

We have learned from the media that the UN Security Council will hold a discussion on Burma/Myanmar by the end of July. We have also learned that UN Special Envoy Mr. Ibrahim Gambari will visit our country again in mid-August to continue the Secretary-General's Good Offices role. Therefore, we send this letter to express our position on the situation in Burma/Myanmar and our expectations from the United Nations.

The United Nations has been working to help national reconciliation and democratization in Burma/Myanmar for many years. Since 1995, as mandated by the UN General Assembly, the Secretary-General has appointed a Special Envoy and sent him to Burma/Myanmar many times to encourage meaningful political dialogue between the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC, the official name of the ruling military government) and the National League for Democracy party (NLD), which won a landslide victory in the 1990 general elections, and ethnic representatives. Later in 2003, the Secretary-General changed the mission of his Good Offices to encourage the inclusive, participatory and transparent process of the seven-step roadmap, created by the SPDC. All UN Special Envoys who have visited Burma suggested to the NLD and ethnic representatives to participate in the seven-step roadmap, while they also encouraged the SPDC to make the process all-party inclusive, participatory and transparent.

We trusted the Secretary-General, his Good Offices role, and his Special Envoy and hoped that the Secretary-General, with the support of the Security Council, would be able to persuade the SPDC to make the road map process credible and include the NLD and ethnic representatives. We have expected that under the facilitation of the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy, the seven-step roadmap would become the venue of a meaningful political dialogue and an all party-inclusive process. Therefore, we agreed to support the mission of the Secretary-General and prepared ourselves to work with the SPDC within the seven-step roadmap framework.

However, the SPDC has completed its four steps of the roadmap unilaterally. The first step of the roadmap, the National Convention was completed after more than 14 years

with the SPDC's handpicked delegates. The draft constitution was written by the SPDC's handpicked persons too; it specifically excludes the participation of Aung San Suu Kyi from Burma's political process. The regime conducted a national referendum to approve the draft constitution in the aftermath of the tropical cyclone Nargis, while millions of the people were severely devastated and helpless. Fraud, cheating and threats abounded in the voting process. The SPDC claimed that its constitution was approved by 92% of the voters. While the SPDC is claiming one-sided victory, and continuing its one-sided acts, we see the United Nations stepping back from its benchmarks, allowing the SPDC to implement fraud without taking any actions, while at the same time forcing the NLD and ethnic representatives to accept the roadmap.

We fully understand that the people of Burma/Myanmar are solely responsible for bringing about change in our country. However, when we are faced with the military regime, which has never been reluctant to crush any peaceful activity by brutal and excessive forces, we expect the United Nations would be able to change the murderous behaviors of the SPDC by diplomacy and pressure. At the very least, we don't want the United Nations siding with the dictators, and forcing the people of Burma/Myanmar into an untenable position.

We shall not surrender our legitimacy: Therefore, we would like to express our position clearly. As we are the ones who will have to decide the future of our country, we have decided not to recognize the constitution and not to join in the SPDC's process. The regime's seven-step roadmap is no longer relevant, the referendum was a sham, the constitution is illegitimate and we continue to call for the SPDC to establish a meaningful and time-bound dialogue with the NLD and the ethnic nationalities. We are the principle stakeholders in Burma, our position to work for national reconciliation and democratization in our country has been exceptionally clear.

The regime's referendum was similar to the run-off election in Zimbabwe. The Secretary-General made a strong statement on 30 June 2008, regarding Zimbabwe, in which he said that "the outcome (of the run-off presidential election) did not reflect the true and genuine will of the Zimbabwean people, or produce a legitimate result."[\[1\]](#) We applaud the courage of the Secretary-General and his expression of moral authority, "defending the right of the people of Zimbabwe to choose a legitimate Government in a free and fair election"[\[2\]](#). We expect that Secretary-General will also stand for the rights of the people of Burma/Myanmar, who were unable to express their real aspirations in the referendum conducted by the SPDC.

Now is the time for the United Nations to declare that the seven-step roadmap of the SPDC is no longer relevant and the constitution is not legitimate. We hope that the Secretary-General and the UN Security Council will double their efforts to help the people of Burma/Myanmar by instructing the SPDC, with a binding resolution, to abandon its roadmap and start negotiating with the NLD and ethnic representatives immediately for a negotiated political settlement within a specific time-frame.

Sincerely yours,

Members of Parliament
Union of Burma (Myanmar)

Contact Persons

U Pu Chin Sian Thang
Chairman, Zomi National Congress
MP, Tiddim-2 Constituency, Chin State
Member, Committee Representing the Peoples' Parliament (CRPP)
Member, United Nationalities Alliance (UNA)

Dr. Myint Naing
MP-elect, Kantbalu Township (2) Constituency, Sagaing Division
National League for Democracy

U Nyi Pu
MP-elect, Gwa Township Constituency, Arakan (Rakhine) State
National League for Democracy

U Thein Pe
MP-elect, Kantbalu Township (1) Constituency, Sagaing Division
Independent

Dr. Tin Min Htut
MP-elect, Pantanaw Township (1) Constituency, Irrawaddy Division
National League for Democracy

[1] Tokyo, Japan, 30 June 2008 - Statement Attributable to the Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General on Zimbabwe

<http://www.un.org/apps/sg/sgstats.asp?nid=3259>

[2] Secretary-General, SG/SM/11694, AFR/1730, 14 July 2008

Comments by Zimbabwe questioning Secretary-General's impartiality 'inappropriate and unacceptable', says United Nations spokesperson, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/sgsm11694.doc.htm>