

Statements on Democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's Verdict from around the world:

From the United Nation

UN SG: Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on Myanmar

11 August 2009

The Secretary-General is deeply disappointed by the verdict in respect of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The Secretary-General strongly deplores this decision. The Secretary-General urges the Government to immediately and unconditionally release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and to engage with her without delay as an essential partner in the process of national dialogue and reconciliation. Unless she and all other political prisoners in Myanmar are released and allowed to participate in free and fair elections, the credibility of the political process will remain in doubt.

UN HCHR: Statement by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights on Aung San Suu Kyi's sentence

11 August 2009

"I deplore the ongoing persecution of a democratically elected leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, for almost a quarter of a century. I am seriously disturbed by her arbitrary detention and the basis of charges against her, an event that was clearly beyond her control, with the court failing to properly review the legitimacy of her house arrest in the first instance. I join the call of the Secretary-General on the immediate and unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi, together with the release of all political prisoners in Myanmar, including those who are facing particularly harsh sentences for simply exercising their freedom of expression, such as the two National League for Democracy candidates elected as members of Parliament in 1990, but who were subsequently arrested and sentenced to 15 years of imprisonment for expressing concerns to the Secretary-General through the form of a letter."

UN: Security Council Press Statement on Myanmar

13 August 2009

The following Security Council press statement on Myanmar was read out today by Council President John Sawers (United Kingdom):

The members of the Security Council reaffirm their statements of 11 October 2007, 2 May 2008 and 22 May 2009 on Myanmar, and reiterate the importance of the release of all political prisoners.

In this context, the members of the Security Council express serious concern at the conviction and sentencing of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and its political impact.

The members of the Security Council note the decision of the Government of Myanmar to reduce Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's sentence and urge the Government of Myanmar to take further measures to create the necessary conditions for a genuine dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all concerned parties and ethnic groups in order to achieve an inclusive national reconciliation.

The members of the Security Council reiterate their support for the good offices role of the Secretary-General.

The members of the Security Council affirm their commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Myanmar, and in that context, reiterate that the future of Myanmar lies in the hands of all of its people.

From the EU

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the verdict against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

11 August 2009

The European Union condemns the verdict against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, and the unjustified trial against her. The proceedings against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on charges which were brought twenty years after she was first wrongfully arrested, have been in breach of national and international law. The EU urges the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release her.

The authorities of Burma/Myanmar have chosen to ignore the protests over her arrest and the appeals for her release. These have come from a larger number of States and organisations than ever before, led by the UN Secretary-General, and including the Chair and several Member States of ASEAN, of which Burma/Myanmar is a member.

The EU will respond with additional targeted measures against those responsible for the verdict. In addition, the EU will further reinforce its restrictive measures targeting the regime of Burma/Myanmar, including its economic interests. The EU underlines its readiness to revise, amend or reinforce its measures in light of the developments in Burma/Myanmar.

The EU will intensify its work with the international community, and especially with its partners in Asia, to achieve our common aim of obtaining the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners in

Burma/Myanmar. This is an essential first step in the process of genuine national reconciliation that is needed if the elections in 2010 are to be seen as credible, free and fair, as was also stressed by the UN Secretary-General during his mission to Burma/Myanmar on 3-4 July. The EU urges the authorities of Burma/Myanmar to comply with the Secretary General's demands and to cooperate with the UN and the international community. If the authorities decide to take such steps, the EU stands ready to respond positively.

The EU recalls its strong and unwavering commitment to support and sustain the people of Burma/Myanmar. The EU provides the people with substantial humanitarian assistance and stands ready to increase its support further.

EU: Statement by Chair of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights following the verdict against Aung San Suu Kyi

11 August 2009

The cruel and unjustified decision of the authorities in Burma to extend the house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi is a confirmation that in spite of the unacceptable and harsh treatment she has been facing over the past 19 years hers remains a voice that the military regime insists on silencing. As the winner of the 1990 Sakharov Prize she knows that she can count on our complete support.

The decision announced today by the Council of Ministers to "respond with additional targeted measures" is very much in line with the resolution the European Parliament adopted in October of last year. I will be proposing that the Subcommittee on Human Rights return to this issue at its meeting on 10 September with a view to appropriate follow up during the next plenary session of the European Parliament. The situation in Burma/Myanmar represents a major challenge to the credibility of both the United Nations and the European Union in their efforts to uphold basic human rights, as well to ASEAN, of which Burma is a member, and which only a few weeks ago established an Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights.

European Parliamentary Caucus on Burma (EPCB) condemns sentencing of Aung San Suu Kyi and calls for UNSC Arms Embargo

11 August 2009

The European Parliamentary Caucus on Burma (EPCB) today strongly condemned the sentencing and continued detention of Burma's pro-democracy leader Daw Aung San

Suu Kyi. The caucus called for a global arms embargo and a commission of inquiry into crimes against humanity committed by the regime.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who was accused of breaching the terms of her house arrest after the uninvited visit an American man, John Yettaw, has already spent almost 14 years in detention. After several months on trail, she was sentenced to 18 months under house arrest. Earlier this year the UN ruled that Aung San Suu Kyi's detention is illegal under international law, and Burmese law.

The EPCB is confident that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has committed no crime and her imprisonment is once again a wake up call to the international community to take stronger action against the military regime, who are the real criminals by putting her under house arrest in the first place.

The United Nations has also accused the regime of a crime against humanity for its use of forced labour, and of war crimes as the regime breaks the Geneva Convention by deliberately targeting civilians. The regime's decades-long campaign of ethnic cleansing has forced thousands of people from their homes with its use of rape as a weapon of war, forced labour, human minesweepers, the killing of civilians, and the destruction of more than 3,300 villages.

EPCB is outraged by the weak response from the international community. EPCB does welcome the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) press statement issued on May 22 urging Burma's military regime to release all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and urged the Burmese military regime to enter into a political dialogue with democracy forces and representatives from ethnic groups.

However, in direct defiance of the UNSC, the regime is seeking to prolong the detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and shows no sign of participating in dialogue either with her or all concerned parties including representatives from ethnic groups, as mandated by the UN General Assembly.

EPCB believes that it is time for the international community to translate words into actions by banning all weapons sales to Burma's military regime.

Therefore the EPCB urges the UNSC to use all its influence to secure the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners and impose a global arms embargo against the military regime. EPCB further calls for a commission of inquiry into crimes against humanity being committed against ethnic minorities in Eastern Burma.

Council of The European Union

13 August 2009

The Council adopts additional restrictive measures against Burma/Myanmar

In reaction to the verdict against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and given the gravity of the violation of her fundamental rights, the Council today adopted a Common Position imposing a new set of targeted measures against Burma/Myanmar. The renewal of the Common Position was announced in a Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on 11 August 2009, which condemned the unjustified trial of and the verdict against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and urged her unconditional release.

Under the new restrictive measures, members of the judiciary responsible for the verdict are added to the existing list of persons and entities subject to a travel ban and to an assets freeze. Moreover, the list of persons and entities subject to the restrictive measures is extended to cover the assets freeze to enterprises that are owned and controlled by members of the regime in Burma/Myanmar or by persons or entities associated with them.

From the Governments

Australia: Foreign Minister condemns the conviction & sentencing of Aung San Suu Kyi

11 August 2009

Australia condemns the conviction and sentencing today of Aung San Suu Kyi under Burma's so-called Law Protecting the State Against the Dangers of Subversive Elements.

Aung San Suu Kyi was sentenced to three years with labour, reduced to 1 ½ years' home detention. This sentence removes any prospect of Aung San Suu Kyi participating in Burma's elections, scheduled for 2010. Australia again repeats its call for the Burmese regime to release Aung San Suu Kyi immediately and unconditionally, and to release the more than 2000 political prisoners in Burma.

I conveyed Australia's views on Aung San Suu Kyi's trial directly to Burmese Foreign Minister U Nyan Win when I met him at the ASEAN-related meetings in Thailand last month. I have today instructed the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to call in the Burmese Ambassador to express Australia's dismay at Aung San Suu Kyi's conviction and sentencing. Australia's Ambassador to Burma is on my instruction also conveying the Australian Government's views directly to the Burmese regime. The regime still has the opportunity to set aside the conviction and sentence, release Aung San Suu Kyi and move down the path of national reconciliation.

As I have previously stated to Burma's Foreign Minister, Australia and the international community stand ready to assist Burma if the regime moves towards democracy. I deeply regret that the regime has not yet seized this opportunity, on the contrary. Australia strongly supports the United Nations' role in Burma, and the personal engagement of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

I am disappointed that the Burmese regime did not engage Secretary General Ban more positively during his visit to Burma early last month. Australia will now consult closely with the international community – including the United Nations and Australia's ASEAN partners – on the need to put even more pressure on the Burmese regime to move down the path of democracy.

Australia maintains financial sanctions against the Burmese regime. The Government will now move to update these and keep them focused for maximum impact.

Austria: "House arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi prevents free and fair elections in Myanmar"

11 August 2009

Foreign Minister Michael Spindelegger on the conviction of Nobel Peace Prize laureate

Federal Minister Michael Spindelegger condemned the outcome of the trial of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi: "The trial, which was intended to deprive Aung Sang Suu Kyi of the opportunity to become politically active prior to the 2010 elections, did not meet rule-of-law standards and is an example of continued political repression in Burma." The Foreign Minister regretted the fact that international appeals, including those by the United Nations and the EU, had again not been heeded. "This decision has to be seen as a further sign that those responsible in Burma are not prepared to strike a compromise or take steps towards real democracy. Free and fair elections will not be possible in 2010 without the participation of the opposition, in particular Aung San Suu Kyi." The Foreign Minister appealed to the government of Burma to affect the immediate, unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners, as well as launch a genuine dialogue with all of the country's political and ethnic groups in order to achieve national reconciliation, the creation of democratic conditions and respect of human rights in Burma.

Belgium: Foreign Minister Yves Leterme strongly condemns the sentence passed on Ms Aung San Suu Kyi

11 August 2009

Foreign Minister Yves Leterme has strongly condemned the sentence passed on Ms Aung San Suu Kyi, saying: "These proceedings were clearly politically motivated and unquestionably they cannot be said to have constituted a fair trial". In addition, the government of Burma/Myanmar is sending out a particularly negative signal, both internally and internationally. Minister Leterme regrets that the regime in Burma/Myanmar has chosen to ignore repeated calls from the international community for democratisation and respect for human rights. Those calls include appeals from ASEAN, an organisation to which the country belongs. "I hereby call on the regime in Burma/Myanmar to release Ms Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners immediately. This is an essential prerequisite for holding credible elections in 2010 and thus moving towards a process of national reconciliation. We note the decision to immediately commute the sentence to house arrest and hope this may open up prospects for the lifting of this unwarranted punishment", the minister said.

Canada: Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada

11 August 2009

Prime Minister Stephen Harper issued the following statement on the Burmese regime's decision to sentence Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi to 18 months house arrest: "Canada strongly condemns the Burmese regime's decision to sentence Aung San Suu Kyi to a further 18 months house arrest. "This decision is clearly not in accordance with the rule of law: the charges laid against her were baseless and her trial did not come close to meeting international standards of due process. Her continued detention is unwarranted, unjustified, and vindictive. "Canada believes the Burmese regime has manufactured an excuse to keep Aung San Suu Kyi in detention to ensure she will not be able to participate in the proposed 2010 elections. This is just the latest evidence that this regime is not serious about pursuing legitimate democratic elections in Burma. Canada calls for the regime to unconditionally free all political prisoners and allow all citizens, including opposition groups, to freely participate in the electoral process.

"Canada is appalled by the ongoing repressive actions of the Burmese regime and its continued disregard for the fundamental freedoms and basic human rights of the people of Burma. We have imposed the toughest sanctions in the entire world against the regime to protest its treatment of its people. We are proud to have conferred honorary Canadian citizenship on Aung San Suu Kyi in recognition of her ongoing struggle to promote freedom and democracy in Burma. "We will continue to stand with the people of Burma and insist that their human rights be respected and their voices heard."

Czech Republic: Statement by Deputy Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic concerning the verdict passed over Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

11 August 2009

I consider it unacceptable that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been sentenced to 18 months of house arrest. The Burmese junta repeatedly has not listened to the appeals of the United Nations, the European Union and the member countries of ASEAN to withdraw the stage-managed court trial with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. This leading representative of the Burmese opposition has been and must be a key person of a process, which should lead to the establishment of democracy in the country.

Today's decision of the Burmese court only confirms a policy that we cannot share. I consider as empty any attempts to defend the verdict or try to interpret it in a positive way.

In this connection, I again urge immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners, abolition of all restrictions imposed on political parties and initiation of an all-round dialogue between the government and the democratic forces, including ethnic groups.

France: France utterly condemns the unjust verdict in the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi

11 August 2009

France utterly condemns the unjust verdict in the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Aung San Suu Kyi, whose life and work have been devoted solely to expressing the Burmese people's aspiration for democracy, has been deprived of her freedom for nearly 14 of the last 20 years. This decision, which extends her detention, flouts the demands of the international community,

notably expressed by the UN Security Council and just recently, in Burma itself, by the UN Secretary-General. France and the European Union will not allow this injustice, as well as grave human rights violations, to continue without responding. I would like the EU to draw all the consequences of this sentence. France calls for new sanctions targeting the leaders of the junta and sparing the civilian population, whom we must continue to protect and help.

I strongly support the adoption of measures that respect this imperative, including banning the issuance of visas for the regime's main leaders and those responsible for the sentencing of Aung San Suu Kyi, an arms embargo on Burma, and a robust traceability mechanism for rubies and wood. Now more than ever, France remains mobilized with its

partners within the relevant European and international bodies, to forcefully remind the Burmese junta of its demand for the immediate release of the Nobel Prize laureate as well as all Burmese political prisoners.

**Germany: Statement by Federal Foreign Minister Frank –
Walter Steinmeier**

11 August 2009

“Today’s judgment is another setback for human rights in Myanmar. It comes at the end of a court case which was more of a farce than a trial and which shows how little basic human rights mean in this country.

I urge the regime in Rangoon to give Aung San Suu Kyi her complete freedom forthwith and to also release all other political prisoners.

National reconciliation and economic development can only be achieved by conducting a real dialogue with all democratic forces and with the different ethnic groups in Myanmar.”

The trial of Aung San Suu Kyi has met with strong protests from the United Nations, the ASEAN members, the EU, the USA and numerous other countries.

**Greece: Statement of Foreign Minister Ms. Bakoyannis
regarding the new sentencing of Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi**

11 August 2009

Foreign Minister Ms. Dora Bakoyannis made the following statement regarding the new sentencing of Burma/Myanmar’s opposition leader and Nobel peace prize winner, Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi.

“I express my sadness and deep dismay at Aung San Suu Kyi’s new sentencing. This is a deeply political act, turned against any notion of rule of law and justice, and has raised international outcry. The regime in Burma/Myanmar must immediately and unconditionally liberate the leader of the opposition and other political detainees, stop political persecutions, and the country must be led towards an open, democratic process. The regime must realize that the international community will not tolerate this situation.”

Ireland: Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Condemns the Conviction of Aung San Suu Kyi

11 August 2009

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Micheál Martin T.D., has condemned the conviction today of Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of Burma's National League for Democracy and Nobel Peace laureate. Aung San Suu Kyi was sentenced by a Burmese court to three years hard labour, commuted to 18 months under house arrest, in connection with the illegal intrusion of a US national into her compound in May.

The Minister said: 'I deplore the trial over the last few months, and conviction today, of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy in Burma, esteemed Nobel Peace laureate and a woman of outstanding courage who has earned worldwide respect.

The verdict is a clear confirmation that the Burmese junta is determined to continue its illegal rule without regard for the will of the Burmese people, in blatant disregard of the demands of the international community, including the UN Secretary General, and in breach of international law and its own laws.

The conviction of Aung San Suu Kyi serves only one purpose and that is to exclude her from participating in the elections scheduled for next year in Burma. It lays bare the emptiness of the regime's rhetoric that the elections will be free and fair. I have repeatedly made clear my view that these elections will have no credibility unless all political prisoners are released unconditionally and a political process is initiated, based on an inclusive, long-term dialogue in which the opposition and ethnic groups can participate fully. I call once more for the immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi and of all political prisoners and for the launching of a process of dialogue. As Aung San Suu Kyi said during the early stages of this trial in May: "It is still not too late to achieve national reconciliation".

The EU, as the Presidency statement today makes clear, is taking immediate action to extend its sanctions against the regime and the judges involved in the trial and sentencing of Aung San Suu Kyi.

'I will continue to speak out within the EU and the UN and in my contacts with the countries of the region for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and for the goals of justice, democracy, reconciliation and prosperity for the people of Burma.'

Italy: Myanmar: firm condemnation of the outcome of the trial against Aung San Suu Kyi

11 August 2009

The foreign ministry condemned the verdict announced today against Nobel laureate

Aung San Suu Kyi following a trial widely considered unfair. With this verdict, the authorities of Myanmar have chosen to ignore an international community outcry that included many ASEAN countries, of which Myanmar itself is a member. “Since this fresh sentence will prevent Mrs. Suu Kyi from participating in the elections planned for 2010, I consider it a serious breach of democratic principles” asserted Minister for Foreign Affairs Franco Frattini. Within the context of the European Union, and in complete agreement with the efforts of Special Representative for Myanmar, the Hon. Fassino, Italy supports the need for a firm and unequivocal common response to the military junta’s decision. This response would also include strengthening the targeted sanctions currently in force against that regime. Italy will continue to do its part in all international forums, working in support of the UN Secretary General and of the regional Asian organizations with which it has developed a constructive and effective dialogue, toward the release of Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi and the regime’s other political prisoners, and Myanmar’s timely embrace of democracy and national reconciliation.

Malta: Statement of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Tonio Borg

12 August 2009

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Tonio Borg made the following statement regarding the new sentencing of Burma/Myanmar’s opposition leader and Nobel peace prize winner, Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi.

“I express my sadness and deep dismay at Aung San Suu Kyi’s new sentencing. Her sentencing is a political act of intolerance intended to prevent her from her legitimate political activities in view of the regime’s elections planned for next year.

The regime in Burma/Myanmar cannot project itself as an international outlaw and must free its political opponents and stop political persecutions.

So long as Aung San Suu Kyi and all those political opponents imprisoned in Burma remain in detention and are prevented from playing their full part in the political process, the planned elections in 2010 will have no credibility or legitimacy.

The regime must realize that the international community will not tolerate this situation. That is why the EU has agreed to impose tough new sanctions targeting the economic interests of the regime.”

Netherlands: Sanctions against Burma following sentencing of Aung San Suu Kyi

11 August 2009

Foreign minister Maxime Verhagen has expressed his shock at the sentence of 18 months' house arrest handed down to Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. He has announced his intention to seek further EU sanctions against the Burmese regime.

'Burma is the only country in the world that punishes a homeowner for having had her own house broken into. Since she was under house arrest at the time and being guarded by government forces, the Burmese authorities should have been the ones on trial, for negligence,' said Mr Verhagen. The Minister has said that the sentence will have consequences. 'The EU must now impose additional targeted sanctions against Burma that will hurt the regime while sparing the general population as much as possible. We are currently discussing this issue with our EU partners.' This trial has shown, Mr Verhagen remarked, that the so-called Road Map to Democracy is nothing but a farce. 'Political opponents of the military regime are being sentenced in show trials to long periods of detention,' he said. 'It only confirms the belief that the regime intends to manipulate next year's elections.' Mr Verhagen hopes that a clear signal from the international community will induce the Burmese authorities to change their ways.

New Zealand: Aung San Suu Kyi conviction serious step backwards

11 August 2009

The conviction of Burmese pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi is a serious retrograde step that will further alienate the Burmese government from the international community, Foreign Minister Murray McCully said today.

The Burmese opposition figure, who has been under home detention for many years, has been convicted for alleged breaches of detention conditions, and sentenced to a further 18 months of home detention. "It is difficult to reach any conclusion other than that the Burmese government orchestrated this verdict to ensure that Aung San Suu Kyi would still be in detention and therefore unable to participate in planned elections next year," Mr McCully said.

"Today's events will be greeted with dismay by the international community, which condemned Aung San Suu Kyi's arrest in May, and had been pushing hard for her release. "It will also be seen as a slap in the face for Burma's regional neighbours, who have maintained an open dialogue with the Burmese government in an effort to encourage a more democratic approach. "It is difficult to see any other outcome to today's verdict than further international isolation for Burma.

"Late last month I met with the Burmese Foreign Minister at the ASEAN Regional Forum in Thailand, and raised New Zealand's concerns with him yet again. The Minister was left in no doubt as to our views, or those of the wider region. "Burma's rulers must listen to the international community, release Aung San Suu Kyi immediately, and take steps to restore democracy," Mr McCully said.

Norway: Norway condemns conviction of Aung San Suu Kyi

11 August 2009

"Today's conviction of opposition politician and Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi is unacceptable. This is a political judgment and an attempt on the part of the regime to prevent her from taking part in the forthcoming elections," said Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Jonas Gahr Støre.

Aung San Suu Kyi was today sentenced to three years' imprisonment, which the regime reduced to 18 months' house arrest. She was charged with violating the terms of her house arrest when a US citizen broke into her home in May and stayed overnight in the building where she was being held.

"With this sentence, the regime has missed an opportunity to demonstrate that they want the country to follow an inclusive and democratic path of development. The release of Aung San Suu Kyi would have been a step in the right direction before next year's elections. "Now it is important for the international community to react. I will raise the matter with the UN Secretary-

General when he visits Norway later this month, said Mr Støre. Aung San Suu Kyi has been under house arrest for 13 of the last 19 years. Norway has repeatedly called for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners in Burma.

Slovenia: Statement of the Foreign Ministry on the sentencing of Nobel Peace Prize winner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

11 August 2009

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia expresses its indignation at the sentence, extending her house arrest for 18 months, of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner and leader of the opposition National League for Democracy in Myanmar. This sentence prevents her from participating in the general elections next year. Slovenia calls on the responsible authorities in Myanmar to release her immediately from house arrest and thus contribute to national reconciliation and the democratic process, involving all political parties, ethnic groups and minorities.

South Africa: South African Government regrets Decision of Myanmar Authorities to Convict Aung San Suu Kyi of Subversion

11 August 2009

The South African Government today Tuesday 11 August 2009, joined the international community in unequivocally condemning the decision by the authorities in Myanmar to convict opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi on charges of subversion.

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Ebrahim Ebrahim said, "The government of South Africa is deeply saddened and regrets the decision of the Myanmar authorities to convict Aung San Suu Kyi on charges of subversion."

"The South African government believes an opportunity for movement towards democratisation, nation building and reconciliation has been lost. Accordingly the South African government calls for Aung San Suu Kyi's immediate release so that she can participate in preparations for the 2010 elections."

"The South African government calls on all parties and political role players to begin an inclusive dialogue that would create the conditions for democratisation and political inclusivity in which free and fair elections can be held so Myanmar can take its place in the community of nations following its 2010 elections."

UK: PM Gordon Brown's Statement on Aung San Suu Kyi

11 August 2009

The Prime Minister has released a statement following the news that Aung San Suu Kyi will spend 1.6 further years under house arrest in Burma.

I am both saddened and angry at the verdict today, 11 August, following the sham trial of Aung San Suu Kyi.

The news - that she has been found guilty and sentenced to three years hard labour but that this has been "mitigated" to a suspended sentence of 1.5 years under house arrest - is further proof that the military regime in Burma is determined to act with total disregard for accepted standards of the rule of law and in defiance of international opinion.

This is a purely political sentence designed to prevent her from taking part in the regime's planned elections next year.

So long as Aung San Suu Kyi and all those political opponents imprisoned in Burma remain in detention and are prevented from playing their full part in the political process, the planned elections in 2010 will have no credibility or legitimacy.

The façade of her prosecution is made more monstrous because its real objective is to sever her bond with the people for whom she is a beacon of hope and resistance.

I have always made clear that the United Kingdom would respond positively to any signs of progress on democratic reform in Burma. But with the generals explicitly rejecting that course today, the international community must take action.

The EU has agreed to impose tough new sanctions targeting the economic interests of the regime.

I also believe that the UN Security Council - whose will has been flouted - must also now respond resolutely and impose a worldwide ban on the sale of arms to the regime.

My thoughts today are with Aung San Suu Kyi - the human face of Burma's tragedy - and with the people of Burma who suffer on a daily basis.

Aung San Suu Kyi - the human face of Burma's tragedy

By Gordon Brown

12 August 2009

The appalling but inevitable outcome of Aung San Suu Kyi's sham trial is final proof that the military regime in Burma is determined to continue defying the world. Depressing news that she has been sentenced to up to eighteen months further house arrest is not only a tragedy for her and her family but also for the Burmese people who suffer daily at the hand of tyranny.

This was the moment for the generals to embrace the growing clamour for change and choose the path of reform demanded by the region and the global community. They comprehensively shunned it. The charges were baseless, the verdict outrageous. So the international community must respond to this latest injustice with a clear message to the junta that its tyrannical actions will no longer be tolerated.

Further sanctions to target directly the regime's economic interests have been agreed by the EU in response to the verdict and must be implemented as quickly as possible.

And determined action in the United Nations Security Council must follow. Nothing less than a worldwide ban on the sale of arms to the regime will do as a first step.

I also believe that we should identify and target those judges complicit in these political show trials, which are an absurd mockery of justice.

The generals should be in no doubt about the strength of international solidarity with the cause of freedom, democracy and development in Burma.

Political and humanitarian conditions in the country continue to deteriorate. When over 140,000 were killed and millions made destitute by Cyclone Nargis last year, the world's efforts to help were resisted; a peaceful uprising by monks in 2007 was violently quashed; ethnic minorities are persecuted and are under armed attack.

The media is muzzled, freedom of speech and assembly are non-existent and the number of political prisoners - jailed only for their unwavering commitment to peace and national reconciliation - has doubled to more than 2000. Aung San Suu Kyi is the most high profile of them all. She has long been a symbol of hope and defiance during her 14 years as a prisoner of conscience. She is a most courageous woman. In those long years of isolation, she has barely seen her two sons, yet is resolute in her faith in democracy and the Burmese people. Her refusal to buckle in the face of tyranny is an inspiration.

The facade of her prosecution is made more monstrous, therefore, because its real objective is to sever her bond with the people for whom she is a beacon of hope and resistance. Her treatment can only be read as the junta's reluctance to move towards freedom, democracy and rule of law, with Aung San Suu Kyi a central figure in a new Burma.

So unless they immediately free her - and all political prisoners - and start genuine dialogue with opposition and ethnic groups, the election next year will have no credibility.

In July, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon demanded such measures on a visit to Rangoon. With this verdict, the generals have publicly snubbed him.

Now comes our greatest test. In the face of this arrogance, we cannot stand by and effectively sanction the abhorrent actions of a violent and repressive junta - but show them that the international community is united and coordinated in its response.

We have seen an extraordinary consensus building around the world against the Burmese regime, encompassing the UN, the EU, **Asean** <<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/search/adsearch.php?keyword=+Asean+>> and more than 45 heads of state. All of us must continue to push for genuine political reconciliation and change, especially those countries in the region with the greatest influence.

Burma is rich in natural and human resources and sits at the heart of a dynamic continent. Democratic reform would unleash the country's enormous potential. And I have always made clear that the UK would respond positively to any signs of progress, but attitudes must harden in the light of this verdict.

The generals are condemning the country and its people to ever-deeper isolation, poverty, conflict and despair. Some may question why Burma warrants so much attention. There are other countries where human rights are ignored or people live in poverty. But the Burmese regime stands virtually alone in the scale of its misrule and the sheer indifference to the daily suffering of its 50 million people.

Once again my thoughts are with Aung San Suu Kyi - the human face of Burma's tragedy. But words and thoughts are no longer enough.

USA: The White House

Statement by the President on Aung San Suu Kyi's conviction and sentencing

11 August 2009

The conviction and sentencing of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi today on charges related to an uninvited intrusion into her home violate universal principles of human rights, run counter to Burma's commitments under the ASEAN charter, and demonstrate continued disregard for UN Security Council statements. I join the international community in calling for Aung San Suu Kyi's immediate unconditional release.

Today's unjust decision reminds us of the thousands of other political prisoners in Burma who, like Aung San Suu Kyi, have been denied their liberty because of their pursuit of a government that respects the will, rights, and aspirations of all Burmese citizens. They, too, should be freed. Suppressing ideas never succeeds in making them go away. I call on the Burmese regime to heed the views of its own people and the international community and to work towards genuine national reconciliation.

I am also concerned by the sentencing of American citizen John Yettaw to seven years in prison, a punishment out of proportion with his actions.

USA / Secretary Clinton: Statement on Aung San Suu Kyi by Hillary Rodham Clinton, US Secretary of State

11 August 2009

The following is a transcript of comments made by Secretary Clinton regarding Aung San Suu Kyi at a press availability with DRC Foreign Minister Alexis Thambwe this afternoon:

"With respect to Aung San Suu Kyi, she should not have been tried and she should not have been convicted. We continue to call for her release from continuing house arrest. We also call for the release of more than 2,000 political prisoners, including the American John Yettaw. We are concerned about the harsh sentence imposed upon him especially in light of his medical condition. The Burmese junta should immediately end

its repression of so many in this country, start a dialogue with the opposition and the ethnic groups. Otherwise the elections they have scheduled for next year will have absolutely no legitimacy."

From the Burmese exile government

NCGUB: NCGUB Condemn the Persecution of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Urge International Community To Side With Justice

11 August 2009

The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma strongly condemns the junta for unjustifiably sentencing Daw Aung San Suu Kyi with trumped up criminal charges and putting her under house arrest.

She was sentenced to three years in prison, and later commuted to 18 months of house arrest by the military's court. The politically motivated persecution of the leader of the National League for Democracy, who has persistently pursued a path that would benefit the entire nation, including the military, not only dashes Burma's hope for lasting peace but also proves that the Burmese generals are intimidated by people's will for democracy that she personifies. The unblinking attempt by the Burmese generals to remove Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and by extension, the National League for Democracy, from the political scene before their scheduled elections must no longer be tolerated by the international community.

Prime Minister Dr Sein Win said, "The time for pacification and soft diplomatic approaches is over. All countries, particularly neighboring countries with any self-respect, must side with justice and stop posturing in a way that encourages the generals to commit such crimes." With the imprisonment of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Burmese generals believe they are closer to their ultimate dream of establishing permanent military rule in the country based on a unilaterally drafted constitution and through the elections in 2010. It is, therefore, vitally important that the international community not let that happen. One deterrent action that would prevent that and also gain the freedom of all political prisoners in Burma is for governments and international institutions to publicly declare in no uncertain terms that there will be no recognition for the elections or the outcome unless Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners are freed and allowed to participate in the national political process. We also call on the UN Security Council to respond effectively and impose arms embargo against the regime.

**International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
Burma Lawyer Council (BLC)
Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma (Altsean-Burma)**

11 August 2009

The International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), Burma Lawyer Council (BLC) and The Alternative ASEAN Network on Burma (Altsean-Burma) express their outrage regarding the condemnation of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi by the Insein prison court in Rangoon to 18 months house arrest.

“This shocking verdict illustrates once more the Burmese junta's total disregard for its international human rights obligations and shows the real face of the regime. With the main opposition leader and 2,100 political prisoners behind bars, the elections planned by the regime for next year will be nothing but a mockery”, said Aung Htoo, General Secretary of BLC.

In an advocacy note released today, FIDH, BLC and Altsean-Burma demonstrate that the widespread and systematic violations of international human rights and humanitarian law documented by numerous Burmese, regional and international NGOs and UN mechanisms over the past years amount to crimes against humanity and war crimes. FIDH, BLC and Altsean-Burma therefore call for the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry by the UN Security Council.

“The condemnation of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is not an isolated act of repression : it is taking place in a context where crimes against humanity and war crimes have been perpetrated for decades in Eastern Burma together with other grave human rights violations in the rest of the country. The international community must move immediately to stop this inhumanity : the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry by the Security Council is the first step for any process of justice to be initiated”, concluded Souhayr Belhassen, President of FIDH.

“The ongoing atrocities in Burma increase the urgency for a Commission of Inquiry. Even now, men, women and children continue to be subjected to extreme and systematic forms of violence and murder. The world should not allow this to go on”, emphasized Debbie Stothard, Coordinator of Altsean-Burma.

UK Trade Union Congress condemns Aung San Suu Kyi sentence

11 August 2009

Commenting on the sentencing of Burma's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi today (Tuesday), to a further 18 months under house arrest, TUC General Secretary Brendan Barber said: 'This verdict against Aung San Suu Kyi is a complete sham. It is a flimsy excuse to shut her out of sham elections next year, held under a sham constitution. It's time to turn up the heat on the Burmese regime to force it to release all political prisoners, to allow unions to operate freely, to stop imposing forced labour on its citizens and to stop waging war against ethnic minorities in Burma.

'This regime spends nearly half of its budget on its military. The global community needs to unite and cut off the supply of arms to the regime, to force it to begin a genuine transition to democracy.

'The TUC backs the call for a UN global arms embargo against Burma, and we call on the UK and EU to support this and impose financial sanctions against this tyranny.'

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) President calls for release of Aung San Suu Kyi

12 August 2009

IPU President, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, expressed his dismay at the verdict announced today whereby Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is sentenced to a further eighteen months house arrest. Dr. Gurirab recalled numerous past statements by the global parliamentary community to the effect that the long-awaited transition to democracy in Myanmar will require an inclusive, free and transparent process. It can only be achieved if all political parties and ethnic groups can participate in the process, political prisoners are released unconditionally, and restrictions on human rights and political activity are lifted. The IPU President therefore invites the authorities of Myanmar to reconsider their decision so that Aung San Suu Kyi can participate freely in the necessary dialogue.

From Asia Governments

ASEAN: ASEAN Chairman's Statement on Myanmar

12 August 2009

Thailand, as the ASEAN Chair, has learned with deep disappointment that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was sentenced to serve eighteen months of house confinement with limited freedom. The Chair wishes to reiterate the calls made by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers

attending the 42nd ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the 16th ASEAN Regional Forum held in July 2009 in Phuket, for the immediate release of all those under detention, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, with a view to enabling them to participate in the 2010 General Elections.

Such actions will contribute to national reconciliation among the people of Myanmar, meaningful dialogue and facilitate the democratization of Myanmar. Only free, fair and inclusive General Elections will then pave the way for Myanmar's full integration into the international community.

ASEAN member countries wish to see Myanmar, a fellow ASEAN member, be at peace, prosperous and well respected in the international community. We stand ready to cooperate with the Myanmar Government in its efforts to realize the seven steps to democracy and remain constructively engaged with Myanmar in order to build the ASEAN Community together. We also continue to support the ongoing good offices of the United Nations.

India: Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson on sentencing of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

11 August 2009

In response to a question on sentencing of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi the Official Spokesperson said: "We have seen reports of the sentencing of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Myanmar for a period of eighteen months.

India has emphasised to the Government of Myanmar the need to expedite their political reform and national reconciliation process and have noted the various steps taken so far by the Government of Myanmar in this direction. We have maintained that this process should be broad based, including the various ethnic groups. In this context, the issue of release of political prisoners will no doubt receive due attention."

Japan: Statement by Mr. Hirofumi Nakasone, Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the situation in Myanmar (statement and action of house arrest against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi)

11 August 2009

1. The Special Court of Insein Prison delivered statement of 3 years of imprisonment with labor to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, whereas the Government of Myanmar announced that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will be under house arrest for one and a half year. Japan has been urging the Government of Myanmar to act in an appropriate way taking into account of the voice of international community. Japan is deeply disappointed by this statement and, although Japan takes note of the above-said decision made by the Government of

Myanmar, deeply regrets the current situation of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

2. Japan has been urging the Myanmar government to release all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi immediately and proceed a democratization process with participation of all the parties concerned. In addition, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, who visited Myanmar at the beginning of July, also urged the Myanmar side to release all political prisoners. Japan strongly expects that the Myanmar government seriously heeds the above-stated views of international community and conducts positively towards the democratization in Myanmar.

Malaysia: Statement by Minister of Foreign Affairs Malaysia on The Court Verdict of The Trial of Aung San Suu Kyi

11 August 2009

Malaysia is deeply disappointed over the decision to place Aung San Suu Kyi (ASSK) under house arrest for eighteen months. In light of the regrettable verdict, Malaysia will undertake immediate consultation among ASEAN member countries to discuss further on this development. Malaysia wishes to reiterate its earlier call on the Government of Myanmar to release all political detainees including ASSK to enable them to take part in the elections process which is scheduled to take place in the year 2010.

The Government of Myanmar should show its strong commitment towards national reconciliation and democratization process to implement its Road Map for Democracy.

Philippines: Statement of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo on the Verdict on Aung San Suu Kyi

11 Aug 2009

The Philippine Government finds the decision by a court in Myanmar imposing on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi an 18-month sentence under house arrest as incomprehensible and deplorable. The Philippines urges the Government of Myanmar to reconsider its decision and renews its call for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's immediate and unconditional release. This new ruling places doubt on the commitment of the Government of Myanmar to hold free, fair, participatory, transparent, and credible elections in 2010.

This development is a step backward and has once again sidetracked Myanmar's efforts to carry out its own "Roadmap for Democracy": its avowed program of releasing political detainees, including unfettering the National League for Democracy, and allowing its unconditional participation in free elections.

The Philippines echoes the statements made by United Nations Secretary General Ban

Ki-Moon that there can be no way forward in Myanmar's quest for political, economic and social progress without respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Philippines has a deep friendship with the people of Myanmar, and as conveyed earlier by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to Prime Minister Thein Sein, has only their welfare at heart.

Singapore: MFA Spokesman's Comments on the Verdict of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Trial

11 August 2009

We are disappointed to learn that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was found guilty and sentenced to three years hard labour. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi did not plan to violate the terms of her house arrest, and the intrusion into her house was by a person who appears to be of unsound mind.

We are however happy that the Myanmar Government has exercised its sovereign prerogative to grant amnesty for half her sentence and that she will be placed under house arrest rather than imprisoned. We are heartened that Minister of Home Affairs Major General Maung Oo had announced that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will be allowed to see doctors and nurses, communicate with her party, watch local television channels, read local newspapers and journals, and can receive visitors with the government's permission and that there is a possibility that she could receive amnesty for the remainder of her sentence.

These are significant gestures by the Myanmar Government. We hope that the Myanmar Government will allow Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to participate in the political process as soon as possible. A meaningful dialogue between the Myanmar Government, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political groups in an open and inclusive process of national reconciliation is the only hope for the long term political stability of the country."