

Australian Senate calls for government not to endorse the 2010 elections

The Senate has unanimously supported a motion put by Senator Ludlam today to call on the Australian government to refuse to endorse the outcome of the 2010 Burmese election if the political climate does not change and apply all possible diplomatic pressure to provide for an open and inclusive political process in Burma. The full motion is below.

A delegation of Burmese MPs elected in 1990 will visit Parliament House today to meet with Scott and the other members of Australian Parliamentarians for Democracy in Burma.

The Senate Notes that:

1. the 13th of March is recognised as Burma Human Rights Day;
2. the global campaign "Free Burma's Political Prisoners Now!" will commence on 13 March 2009;
3. the democratically elected parliament was not convened in Burma after the 1990 election;
4. The referendum on the current constitution was held immediately following Cyclone Nargis was a sham and the result cannot be considered credible.

Calls on the Australian Government to:

1. Use all diplomatic means to encourage the Burmese regime to make meaningful progress towards democracy and to immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Sui Kyi;
2. Refuse to endorse the outcomes of the election in 2010 unless the political climate improves in Burma;
3. Press the Burmese regime to engage in genuine multi-party talks leading to an inclusive, open and transparent political process, including constitutional reform;
4. Engage other nations through the UN and other multilateral fora to press for multiparty talks and an inclusive, open and transparent political process;

Expresses its support for the democratic aspirations of the people of Burma.

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