



The 88 Generation Students
Yangon (Rangoon), Myanmar (Burma)

October 16, 2007

Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Permanent Representatives of Members of the United Nations Security Council
United Nations

Secretary-General and Members of the UN Security Council,

As you know, we are on the run and may be arrested any day. Even under this situation, we are still committed to work for national reconciliation in Burma by peaceful means. This may be the last letter we send to you before our own arrest and torture and we send it with the utmost urgency.

We welcome the Presidential Statement of the UN Security Council on October 11, 2007, in which the Security Council "strongly deplores the use of violence against peaceful demonstrators in Myanmar, emphasizes the importance of the early release of all political prisoners and remaining detainees"¹. The Security Council also "stresses the need for the Government of Myanmar 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 with the direct support of the United Nations."²

We expected that the unanimous decision of the members of the Security Council would effectively force the Burmese military regime to stop violence against and arrest of peaceful protesters, treat detainees humanely and release all detainees and political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. However, the response of the Burmese military regime is the exact opposite. While the regime announces to the world that it is willing to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on the other hand, it is trying to eliminate democracy forces by using violence and arbitrary arrest.

The Burmese military regime quickly rejected the Statement of the Security Council with Announcement No.3/2007, issued on October 12, 2007. In its response, the military regime claimed that the Security Council Statement is not in line with the desire of entire people of the country and it will continue its seven-step road map.³

¹ The UN Security Council Presidential Statement S/PRST/2007/37, October 11, 2007, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/sc9139.doc.htm>

² The UN Security Council Presidential Statement S/PRST/2007/37, October 11, 2007, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/sc9139.doc.htm>

³ Government of the Union of Myanmar issues Announcement No. 3/2007, <http://www.myanmar.com/newspaper/nlm/index.html>

The next day, on October 13, 2007, three of the remaining leaders of our group, the 88 Generation Students, Htay Kywe, Aung Thu and Thin Thin Aye (aka) Mie Mie, were arrested by security forces. The military has arrested many activists throughout the country and thousands of students, civil servants and civilians are forced to attend the mass rallies, organized by the regime to support the national convention and denounce the protesters. Thousands of protesters, including monks and students, continue to suffer ill-treatment and severe torture in detention centers and some have passed away in custody. Many monks in detention are forcibly disrobed and sent to prison labor camps. The military regime is continuously creating a climate of fear and the people of Burma are continuously being traumatized and brutalized. Apparently, the Statement issued by the UN Security Council is not enough and more decisive measures are needed immediately.

We would like to ask the UN Security Council to:

(1) Adopt a binding resolution with targeted sanctions such as an investment ban and an arms embargo. The UN Security Council must also call for the regime to immediately stop the use of violence against and arrest of the peaceful demonstrators, release all detainees and political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, engage in a meaningful political dialogue with the National League for Democracy party and ethnic representatives for genuine national reconciliation and democratization, stop military offensives and hostilities in ethnic minority areas, and lift all restrictions imposed upon the ICRC and international humanitarian organizations, and threaten with further measures if these demands are denied.

(2) Send UN Special Envoy, Mr. Ibrahim Gambari, to Burma immediately and ask him to stay in Burma as long as necessary to facilitate a meaningful political dialogue. The UN permanent presence in Burma to monitor the situation and facilitate a meaningful political dialogue is now more important than ever.

We would like to ask the Secretary-General to:

(3) Immediately telephone Senior General Than Shwe to demand an end to the torture of those currently being detained and to fulfill the demands made by the Security Council in the Presidential Statement without further delay. Ambassador Gambari has a critical role to play but the Secretary-General's voice is also urgently needed at this time.

(4) We also would like to ask the Governments of China and Russia to refrain from exercising veto powers at the UN Security Council concerning the resolution on Burma. We re-emphasize our willingness to work with China and Russia. We see these countries as friends and respectfully request that they exercise maximum understanding when considering our plight.

As long as an effective action from the international community is delayed, Burma continues to be a lawless society and the regime will continue to kill peaceful demonstrators systematically and quietly in torture chambers. We seriously stress that lack of an international enforcement action in Burma grants the Burmese military junta a license to kill.

The 88 Generation Students

Signed by:

Tun Myint Aung

Nilar Thein

Soe Htun