

June 13, 2003

**Zhang Guo Qing
General Consular
Chinese Consulate
Chiangmai, Thailand**

Dear General Consular Zhang Guo Qing,

Greetings of peace!

On 30th of May, 2003, un-armed pro-democracy supporters were violently attacked by the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) troops and members of the Union Solidarity Development Association (USDA), a group that is patronized by Sen-Gen Than Shwe. According to Amnesty International and other independent reports, this has resulted to scores of deaths and injuries of civilians.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, General Secretary of the National League for Democracy (NLD), its Vice Chair U Tin U and several other leaders are held in custody by the military regime. There are still other leaders reportedly missing.

After an immense pressure from the international community, United Nations Special Envoy Mr. Razali Ismail was allowed to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for only 30 minutes in Rangoon, Burma, 11 days after her abduction.

In the meantime, more democracy activists are being rounded up and senior members placed under house arrest. The NLD HQ and other NLD offices have been sealed.

This violent ambush on Black Friday and the ensuing crackdown is the most serious attack on Burma's democracy movement since 1988, where hundreds were killed when military gunned down people who participated in a peaceful demonstration.

The current political situation in Burma at the moment is in a critical stage and international support, particularly from the neighbours of Burma, is much needed more than ever.

The government of China is one of the strongest few allies of the SPDC. With the other governments condemning the violent incident and the continuing detention of Aung San Suu Kyi and the other NLD leaders, SPDC has remained unyielding. The military junta has expressed such confidence that as long as that China is on their side, then Burma has nothing to fear.

The violence against the people of Burma must be put to an end, before any genuine step towards democracy and peace may be achieved. We believe that the Chinese government, as one of the leading key players in the region, can play an influential role in this process.

The Friends of Burma-Thai-Burma Border is a group of organisations and individuals concerned with the continuing violence in Burma, and supportive of the struggle of the people of Burma for peace and democracy.

We would like to appeal to the Chinese government:

- to call for the immediate, unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi, NLD leaders and all other political prisoners;
- to cease providing the regime with arms and military equipment;
- to engage the regime in pro-active efforts to dialogue with the pro-democracy movement and ethnic nationality groups;
- to actively support the efforts of the UN and other key stakeholders to achieve peace, human rights and democracy in Burma; and
- to put Burma and its current political crisis as a priority agenda in the upcoming Asean Regional Forum (ARF) meeting.

We are hopeful that the Chinese government will play an important and critical role in the peace building efforts in Burma.

For peace and democracy,

Friends of Burma Coalition – Thai-Burma Border

Signatories for the Coalition:

Prayas Grameen Vikas Samiti

The Coordinating Committee of Human Rights of Thailand (CCHROT)

Thai Action Committee for Democracy in Burma (TACDB)

NGO Coordinating Committee on Development (NGO-COD)

Chantana Banpasirichota - Peace Way Foundation

Women's Solidarity for Human Rights - Indonesia

Task Force Detainees of the Philippines

PEACE-Camp Philippines

Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-Asia)

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD)

Southeast Asian Council for Food Security & Fair Trade – Malaysia

Asian Human Rights Committee (AHRC)

ERA Consumer - Malaysia

Ching-Jen Labor - Taiwan

Liu Wan-Ling - Taiwan

Primya Boonridrerthalkul - Thailand

Bencharat Chua - Thailand

Anna Cody - Australia

Meena Sripathy - Australia

Xavier Renard - France

Heleen – Belgium

Amarsanaa Darisuren – Mongolia

Alison Aggarwal – Australia

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