

Solidarity Call from Women Activists in Burma

22 November, 2007

Dear friends and women's rights advocates around the world,

We, women democracy and human rights activists in Burma, would like to bring your attention to the current serious human rights violations committed against women in Burma. There is an urgent need for the international community to take measures in support of women activists and female family members of detainees.

We hope that solidarity friends and women's human rights groups around the world will take the International Day against Violence against Women (November 25) and International Women Human Rights Defenders Day (November 29), as opportunities to advocate and take actions for the safety and rights of the women human rights defenders and all women of Burma oppressed by the military regime.

Today on November 22 we have requested the UN Human Rights Council to send the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and the UN Special Representative on the Situation of Human Rights Defender to Burma to conduct a fact-finding mission and set up a mechanism to safeguard and protect our rights.

As has happened several times in the history of Burma, many women took a leading role in the recent wave of peaceful protests. Because of their political activism they now face imprisonment, harassment, sexual violence, economic hardships, and lack of security.

There are many well-documented cases of grave violations of women's basic human rights which have occurred in public, and we fear even worse abuses are being committed against those women in detention. Among the detainees are pregnant women in need of medical care, as well as women suffering from critical health problems. The harsh conditions of prison life with lack of food, water and access to medical treatment, pose a serious threat to their physical wellbeing and even survival.

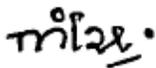
Along with the sufferings of the detained women, severe hardship is also imposed on children, mothers, wives, and sisters of detainees and political prisoners in the country. Children are separated from their parents, and female family members of detainees and hiding activists are harassed, threatened, and in several cases even taken hostage in the hunt down for protesters. In addition, the detention of family providers causes serious economic difficulties for their wives, mothers and sisters.

Although our struggle for protection of human rights, democracy and peace in Burma imposes immense hardship on ourselves and our families, we will stay with our commitment to the cause.

As our role model and leader Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has urged the world, please use your liberty to promote ours. We deeply wish for you, solidarity friends of Burma and of women's human rights, to do everything in your power to help free Burma.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Nilar Thein
88 Generation Students



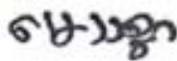
Tin Moe Lwin
88 Generation Students



Phyu Phyu Thin
National League for Democracy



Ni Mo Hlaing
National League for Democracy



May Thitsa
All Burma Federation of Student Unions