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“PROTECT AND SAVE BURMA CYCLONE VICTIMS” PLEAD SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA GROUPS
IN A GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION FOR BURMA

Cyclone Nargis Victims Face Second Wave of Devastation

(San Francisco, CA USA) A coalition of Bay Area organizations will rally at United Nations Plaza, Market Street between 7th & 8th Streets, in San Francisco on Saturday May 17, 2008 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm to urge the UN to protect the cyclone victims of Burma as part of a Global Day of Action. The rally protests the malign neglect and intransigence of the military dictatorship in Burma in response to the devastation caused by Cyclone Nargis.

The Global Day of Action has been called for by the Burma Global Action Network, the Burma Campaign UK, and other organizations with events scheduled in the US, Australia, Canada, the UK, India, Chile and other countries around the world.

The Burmese military regime has consistently blocked the international community from providing food, water and medical supplies to the areas hardest hit by the cyclone, seizing aid and perhaps selling it. Over a million people are at risk of death through starvation, dehydration and preventable diseases such as malaria and diarrhea.

Burma's rulers, valuing their own political survival over the survival of whole villages,, are neglecting the dire needs of its population. The regime continues to consistently refused the assistance of disaster relief experts as thousands of tons of aid accumulate in Burma's airport waiting to be distributed. Thousands of lives could have been saved had aid reached them in time. Instead, the regime removed victims who took refuge in school buildings and used the schools as polling stations during their sham May 10th constitutional referendum. Organizers and participants of the San Francisco rally are calling on the international community to provide aid to Burma by any means possible.

“The survivors of Cyclone Nargis are without clean water, food or healthcare. They are living surrounded by flood waters contaminated by rotting corpses, animals and raw sewage,” said Nyunt Than, President of the Burmese American Democratic Alliance. “Over 1.5 million people are at risk of cholera, dysentery and malaria. If the world does not intervene soon, the death toll will rise dramatically.”

“We call on the United Nations and the international community to take decisive action,” said Ko Ko Lay, West Coast Director, National Council of Union of Burma. “Governments around the world need to make a vital decision to save millions of lives, by whatever means possible. Likewise, it is imperative for the friends of Burma's military regime in the international community to initiate dialogue pressuring the junta to open the country's borders for an international relief effort to get underway.”

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Burmese American Democratic Alliance (BADA) – badasf.org
Burmese American Women's Alliance (BAWA) - bawasf.org
Buddhist Peace Fellowship (BPF) – bpf.org
Association of Burmese Students San Francisco (ABSSF)
Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS)

Committee for Responsibility to Protect - burmarelief.blogspot.com
Burma Global Action Network - burma-network.org