

For Immediate Release  
May 8, 2008

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**BURMA SUPPORTERS VIGIL AND FUNDRAISE FOR CYCLONE VICTIMS AND  
ASK UNITED STATES TO PUSH FOR MORE INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE  
AGAINST BRUTAL BURMA'S JUNTA**

**When: Friday, May 9, 2008 4-8pm \*\* Press conference at 5:30pm.**  
**Where: San Francisco Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Avenue**  
**Visuals: Burmese monks and Burma supporters, meditation, signs, music, prayer & collection for Burmese cyclone victims**

**What:** The Burmese American Democratic Alliance (BADA), the Buddhist Peace Fellowship (BPF) and other Burma supporters will hold a rally and vigil on May 9 to spotlight the death and disaster that Cyclone Nargis left in its wake in Burma. Compounding the suffering of 46 years of military rule, the cyclone has left a devastating legacy in this already impoverished country.

This vigil will also highlight two other concerns of Burma supporters:

1. The scheduled May 10 referendum in which Burmese will vote on a “new constitution”, which gives sweeping power to the military. It is thought that no matter what the actual vote, the regime, which will allow no international observers, will claim a “Yes” victory, giving them constitutional control.
2. The Burma Democracy Promotion Act of 2007, which was passed 5 months ago by Congress, is stalled in conference.

“The world should be truly alarmed that on the heels of one of the largest natural disasters, the military regime is still using its energy and resources to ensure a favorable outcome in its sham referendum instead of focusing on helping the hundreds of thousands of cyclone victims,” says Nyunt Than, president of the Burmese American Democratic Alliance. Five days later, Bay Area Burmese remain unable to contact their families in country and fear for their safety.

In the aftermath of the storm, the ever-present military, which immediately cracked down on peaceful monk-led protests during the Saffron Revolution last fall, was nowhere to be found. More than 14 millions are affected, 100,000 deaths are reported, tens of thousands missing, and millions are without food, shelter and water. Some say the death toll could rise to as high as 600,000. The junta says the election will be held in most of Burma, but the hardest hit areas will vote at a later date.

Meantime, reports are coming in that the misery is deepening in Burma. Relief agencies say decomposing corpses litter ditches and fields in the worst-hit Irrawaddy delta area as survivors try to conserve fuel for transporting much-needed supplies. Streets that should be full of vehicles carrying food and water are empty. Supporters are concerned that the regime is refusing to accept aid and that many more will die if the United Nations does not step in right away. “I am very disappointed that China and Russia has blocked the UN Security Council’s discussion to send aid even without the military’s permission,” says Than.

The Burmese of the Bay Area are mobilizing to ensure that aid is being distributed to those in greatest need. BADA is working to make sure that all monies donated to help Burma are used for its intended purpose and will be accepting donations at the May 9<sup>th</sup> rally and at [www.badasf.org](http://www.badasf.org). Specify “for cyclone victims” and 100% of your donations will go to help the victims of Cyclone Nargis.

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Burmese American Democratic Alliance (BADA) – [www.badasf.org](http://www.badasf.org)  
Buddhist Peace Fellowship – [www.bpf.org](http://www.bpf.org)