



Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)

နိုင်ငံရေးအကျဉ်းသားများကူညီစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအသင်း (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ)

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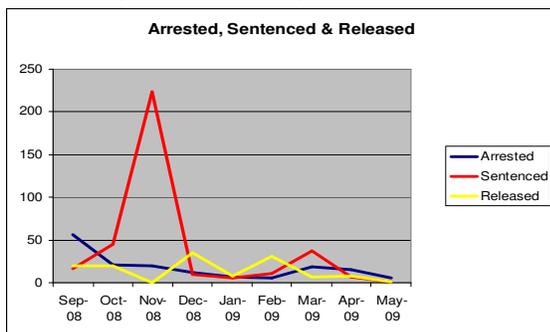
Summary of current situation

There are a total of 2,155 political prisoners in Burma.¹ These include:

| CATEGORY | NUMBER |
|---|------------------|
| Monks | 220 |
| Members of Parliament | 15 |
| Students | 283 ² |
| Women | 190 |
| NLD members | 469 |
| Members of the Human Rights Defenders and Promoters network | 43 |
| Ethnic nationalities | 195 |
| Cyclone Nargis volunteers | 21 |
| Teachers | 26 |
| Media activists | 50 |
| Lawyers | 11 |
| In poor health | 130 |

Since the protests in August 2007 leading to last September's Saffron Revolution, a total of 1,082 activists have been arrested and are still in detention.

Monthly trend analysis



During the month of May 2009, at least **6** activists were arrested, **1** sentenced and **7** were transferred to different prisons. **1** was released. The news this month has been dominated by the arrest and trial of Nobel Peace Prize winner and National League for Democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, her two live-in party members Daw Win Ma Ma and Daw Khin Khin Win, and US national John William Yettaw.

¹ Around 30 political prisoners were released in December. Some had come to the end of their prison term and others were released without charge.

² This figure includes 46 88 Generation Students group members.

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They are facing charges that they broke the terms of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest, after John Yettaw broke into her home on 3 May. The trial began on 18 May and is due to resume on 5 June. AAPP-B released two reports this month. The first - released to mark the anniversary of Cyclone Nargis - highlighted the cases of over 20 Cyclone Nargis volunteers, facing up to 35 years in prison for their efforts to help after the disaster. The second, entitled "Burma's prisons and labour camps: Silent killing fields", outlines the health impact of systematic torture, long-term imprisonment, transfers to remote prisons, and denial of healthcare on the country's pro-democracy activists.

The Trial Of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, her two live in party members Daw Win Ma Ma and Daw Khin Khin Khin Win, and US citizen John Yettaw are currently on trial facing charges under Article 22 of the 1975 State Protection Act for allegedly breaking the rules of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest. On the 3 May 2009 American citizen John Yettaw entered her home and stayed there for two days. Burmese authorities arrested him as he was returning from the house. He also faces additional charges. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her companions were removed from her house on 14 May and have since been detained in a 'guesthouse' facility within Insein prison compound. The trial began on the 18 May and has been adjourned until 5 June. The trial has sparked international outcry, including unprecedented criticism from ASEAN. Many statements have been issued by world leaders and international bodies, but as yet no action has been taken against the military regime.

Treatment of prisoners and their families

This month, AAPP-B released a report highlighting the growing health crisis for political prisoners in Burma. The report – entitled “Burma’s prisons and labour camps: Silent killing fields” – outlines the health impact of systematic torture, long-term imprisonment, transfers to remote prisons, and denial of healthcare on the country’s pro-democracy activists. Over 350 activists have been sentenced since October last year, and the majority of them have been transferred to remote jails away from their families. Due to the lack of proper healthcare in Burma’s jails, political prisoners rely on their families for medicine and food. However, the prison transfers make it difficult for family members to visit, and provide essential medicine. At the time the report was published, 127 political prisoners were in poor health and 19 of them required urgent medical treatment. ([11 May 2009 AAPP](#))

Prisoners Released

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's family doctor **Dr. Tin Myo Win** was arrested on 7 May but released again nine days later on 16 May. He was apparently arrested in connection with US citizen John Yettaw's intrusion into Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's compound on 3 May.

88 Generation Students

46 members of the 88 Generation Students group are currently imprisoned. The AAPP report entitled "Burma's prisons and labour camps: silent killing fields" documents the deteriorating health of several members of the 88 Generation Students group, including leading members Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi, Htay Kywe, and Hla Myo Naung.

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19 May 2009

South Korea: 2009 Gwangju Human Rights Award to Burmese activist

Born in the Burmese capital of Yangon in 1962, **Min Ko Naing** organized the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU), a nationwide student union, in 1988. Later, he was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment for triggering the "8888 Uprising". After being imprisoned for 15 years, he was released from prison and continued his pro-democracy resistance. Finally he was re-arrested and sentenced to 65 years imprisonment for organizing a demonstration which gave rise to the Saffron Uprising. He is currently serving this sentence. The 2009 Gwangju Prize for Human Rights Committee has therefore chosen Min Ko Naing to be this year's prizewinner. Min Ko Naing and his colleagues have devoted themselves to Burma's democratization, and it is their devotion that we hope to remember and share as we commemorate the May 18 Gwangju Uprising. ([19 May 2009 MyNews](#))

6 May 2009

88 Generation Student leaders Min Ko Naing and Ko Ko Gyi are in poor health

Min Ko Naing, one of the 88 Generation Student leaders sentenced to 65 years and 6 months in prison, has been suffering from hypertension, spondylitis and an eye problem while in solitary confinement. 88 Generation leader **Ko Ko Gyi** who is in Monghsat prison, Shan State is suffering from Hepatitis B and his health condition is deteriorating. ([6 May 2009 RFA](#))

4 May 2009

Min Ko Naing' family is worried for his health

88 Generation Student leader **Min Ko Naing**, who is in Kengtung prison, was treated by an eye specialist in March and April. His eyesight has improved but he is suffering from high blood pressure. He has now been advised by a doctor to take medicine every day for hypertension. ([4 May 2009 DVB](#))

National League for Democracy members

469 National League for Democracy (NLD) members are currently in prison. The AAPP report entitled "Burma's prisons and labour camps: silent killing fields" documents the deteriorating health of several members of the NLD, including Su Su Nway, Daw Win Mya Mya, U Than Lwin and Khun Tun Oo. 5 NLD members were transferred to prisons away from Rangoon this month.

18 May 2009

NLD Youth member arrested

NLD Youth member **Htwe Thein** was arrested at around 10.30 am outside Insein Prison. He had been distributing black ribbons to NLD members and supporters of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the first day of her trial. He was later released, but has since been re-arrested and is currently held in Insein Prison. ([31 May 2009 AAPP](#))

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11 May 2009

NLD members transferred

National League For Democracy member **Aung Than Tun** was transferred to Myaungmya prison in Irrawaddy division, **Aung Tun** was transferred to Bassein prison in Irrawaddy division, **Aung Kyaw** and **Zaw Win** were transferred to Moulmein Prison in Mon State, and **Khin Soe** was transferred to Shwebo Prison in Sagaing Division. ([11 May 2009 RFA](#))

8 May 2009

NLD youth member charged

Ye Htut Khaung, an NLD Youth leader, from Twante township was charged under the criminal procedure code, but the details are unknown. He was arrested at his house on 7 May by a group of police led by Win Htut Htut Oo. ([8 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

7 May 2009

NLD youth member arrested

NLD youth leader **Ye Htut Khaug** was arrested in Twante Township after the local authorities searched his house at 11 A.M. They accused him of illegal gambling, but without evidence. Before he was arrested, the authorities tried to force him to sign a document confessing to the crime but **Ye Htut Khaug** refused. The local authorities also took his money. ([7 May 2009 RFA](#))

Three arrested NLD members are still missing after two months

Three NLD members **Shwe Gyoe**, **Sein Hlaing**, and **Ma Cho** were arrested and charged in Bahan police station two months ago but no information has come out about what they were charged with. After the accusation, there were unconfirmed reports that they had been sentenced and sent to Insein prison. However the authorities have said that they are not in prison. ([7 May 2009 RFA](#))

5 May 2009

NLD prosecute local authorities in Twante Township

Twante Township NLD will prosecute local authority Vice-Chairman Kyauk Shwe and other members of the local authority, under Section 295 of the Penal Code in connection with insulting religion. The hearing is due to take place on 7 May. This development follows the arrest of Twante Township NLD Vice Chairman **Chit Pe** and Township Organizer **Aung Soe Wai**, currently under trial, also under Section 295. The two men organized a prayer service, calling for the release of NLD Chairman U Tin Oo, Nobel Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and all other political prisoners. After the service, they were not allowed to meet with their family and were arrested. The local authorities and their followers from Zee Phyu Khone village also threatened villagers who were involved in prayer meetings which meant that most villagers are now afraid to pray. ([5 May 2009 RFA](#))

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3 May 2009

Alon Township NLD Vice-Chairman Ba Myint is poor in health

Alon Township NLD Vice-Chairman **Ba Myint** who was sentenced to 20 years prison and is currently in Insein Prison, is suffering from cholera. Other prisoners are also suffering from the same kind of health problem in prison because of the hot summer season. ([3 May 2009 RFA](#))

Monks

There are currently 220 monks in prison.

13 May 2009

Monk leader U Gambira transferred again

U Gambira was transferred to Kale prison in Sagaing division from Hkamti prison in Sagaing division. ([13 May 2009 AAPP](#))

Cyclone Nargis volunteers

There are currently 21 Cyclone Nargis volunteers in prison. The AAPP report entitled "Burma's prisons and labour camps: silent killing fields" documents the deteriorating health of Cyclone Nargis volunteers Zarganar and Kyaw Kyaw Thant.

5 May 2009

Calls for release of imprisoned cyclone aid workers

Calls for the release of over 20 aid workers who were arrested after assisting in cyclone Nargis relief efforts last year, have been issued by a number of Burmese groups to mark the cyclone's one-year anniversary. Last year, in a wave of sentencing of activists and journalists critical of the regime's response to the cyclone, 21 aid workers were sentenced under charges ranging from sedition to the Unlawful Association Act. "Firstly, these people were not arrested under criminal charges and also they did not do anything wrong," said Bo Kyi, joint secretary of Thailand-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma). "They were only helping the cyclone victims and it was a very graceful act according to Buddhist teachings." His statement was echoed by the leader of 88 Generation Students group, Htun Myint Aung. "The government not only failed in their responsibility to take the lead in aid work for the cyclone victims, but even arrested people who were doing what they can to help," he said. "This was such a very ugly crime committed [by the government] and they should release these people immediately." U Pyinyawuntha, spokesperson of the All-Burmese Monks Alliance, said the aid workers should be released given that they did nothing wrong. "They didn't commit any political crime and were only helping out collecting corpses," he said. "I want to make a request to the government to see the same view as us and release these people immediately." ([5 May 2009 DVB](#))

1 May 2009

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) released a report to mark the anniversary of Cyclone Nargis, which struck Burma a year ago. The report highlights the cases of 21 volunteers who are currently facing up to 35 years in prison for their efforts to assist in the aftermath of the cyclone,

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including gathering dead bodies and burying them. At least eight of the volunteers had been in hiding since their participation in September 2007's Saffron Revolution, but came out of hiding to co-ordinate relief efforts after the cyclone devastated the Irrawaddy Delta. Five of the volunteers are former political prisoners, who have already spent many years in jail. AAPP Secretary Tate Naing said, "Their punishment is completely unacceptable. Their 'crimes' were to help people and tell the truth about the situation. We call on ASEAN and UN to press the military regime to release the Cyclone Nargis volunteers – and all political prisoners – immediately." ([1 May 2009, AAPP](#))

Women

There are currently 190 women in detention.

Students

There are currently 283 students in detention, including 46 members of the 88 Generation Students group.

26 May 2009

ABFSU leader in poor health

De Nyein Lin's mother Daw Htay Htay Win visited her son in Hkamti prison, in Sagaing Division. **De Nyein Lin** has had an ongoing fever, and has been feeling faint and unable to keep food and water down from 8 to 12 May 2009. Although he has received medicine, **De Nyein Lin** has still been denied access to a proper medical doctor. He has also had a blood test for malaria; so far, the family has not been informed of the results. ([1 June 2009 Yoma3](#))

13 May 2009

Student Pyae Phyo Hlaing in poor health, transferred again

According to a source close to his family, student activist **Pyae Phyo Hlaing** is suffering from tuberculosis. He has been held in Buthidaung Prison, Arakan State. On 5 May he was moved to Buthidaung hospital for medical treatment. His health deteriorated, so he was transferred to Sittwe hospital on 10 May. On 13 May he was moved to Sittwe Prison. ([18 May Yoma3](#))

Lawyers

11 lawyers are currently in detention.

16 May 2009

Defence lawyer's licence revoked in Daw Aung San Suu Kyi case

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) has learned that lawyer **U Aung Thein** has had his licence to practise law revoked by the authorities, on grounds that he was not abiding by professional ethics. **U Aung Thein** is one of the lawyers in Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy legal advisory team. Together with her lawyers U Kyi Win and U Nyan Win, members of

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the NLD legal advisory team are currently preparing the defence case for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her two live-in party members, Daw Khin Khin Win and her daughter Daw Win Ma Ma. The revoking of his licence to practise law is a blatant attempt by the regime to damage the defence for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her two live-in party members, stated AAPP. **U Aung Thein's** close associate **U Khin Maung Shein** - not directly involved in Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's case - has also had his lawyer's licence revoked. ([16 May 2009 AAPP](#))

Other organizations

No news this month.

Journalists Bloggers, and Writers

There are currently 50 media activists in detention.

Individual Activists

28 May 2009

Solo protestor arrested outside Insein

An elderly solo protestor demonstrating today outside of the prison courtroom where Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi is on trial was arrested by plain-clothed security officials and taken away. The man, said to be in his 50's, was identified as retired army officer **Zaw Nyunt**, who is a member of activist group 88 Generation Workers. He held a banner saying 'Release Mother Suu at once'. "He had about less than a minute to protest and was quickly taken away by government officials nearby," said an eye witness. ([28 May 2009 DVB](#))

5 May 2009

Mrat Tun sentenced to 5 years

Former policeman **Mrat Tun** was sentenced to 5 years in prison under section 13/1 of the Immigration Act, apparently because he had been in contact with exiled media based in Bangladesh. ([5 May 2009 Narinjara](#))

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Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

The Trial of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

Court: Special Court inside Insein Prison

Judges: U Thaung Nyunt (Northern District - Rangoon)

U Nyi Nyi Soe (Western District - Rangoon)

Plaintiff: Special Branch Police Lt Col Zaw Min Aung, two others

Defendants: 1. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

2. Daw Khin Khin Win

3. Daw Win Ma Ma

4. John William Yettaw

Charges: *Under Article 22* (State Protection Act or Law to Safeguard the State against the Dangers of Those Desiring to Cause Subversive Acts): "Any person against whom action is taken, who opposes, resists or disobeys any order passed under this Law shall be liable to imprisonment..."

-- **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi**

Under Article 109 (The Penal Code): "Whoever abets any offense shall, if the act abetted is committed in consequence of the abetment, and no express provision is made by this Code of the punishment of such abetment, be punished with the punishment provided for the offense. *Explanation:* An act or offense is said to be committed in consequence of abetment, when it is committed in consequence of the instigation, or in pursuance of the conspiracy, or with the aid which constitutes the abetment."

-- **Defendants 2, 3 & 4**

Under Article 13 (1) (Immigration Act -- Emergency Provisions) and *under Article 28* (Yangon City Development Committee Law) "for breaching the restriction on swimming in Inya Lake"

-- **Defendant 4**

Defense Team: U Kyi Win (For Daw Aung San Suu Kyi)

Daw Khin Htay Kywe (For two companions of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi)

U Hla Myo Myint, and U Nyan Win (Assist both the lawyers above)

High Grade Pleader U Khin Maung Oo (For John William Yettaw)

(Information courtesy of [NCGUB](#))

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Trial Chronology

31 May 2009

Inside Update

Burma's military junta defended its prosecution of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, saying she is not above the law and warning other countries not to meddle in its internal affairs. "If offenders are not (prosecuted), anarchy will prevail, and there will be breach of peace and security," Burmese Deputy Defense Minister Maj-Gen Aye Myint told a security conference. ([31 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

30 May 2009

Inside Update

Nyan Win, Daw Aung San Kyi's lawyer stated that her health had recovered and she was now able to sleep well. ([30 May 2009 BBC](#)) The closing arguments in her trial were delayed until 5th June. ([20 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

29 May 2009

Inside Update

The special court in Insein Prison on Friday extended the date for lawyers to submit arguments on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's trial until June 5, according to her lawyers. Kyi Win, a member of Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's legal team, said authorities sent them letters today informing them of the extension of the date for submission of arguments on the case. ([29 May 2009 Mizzima / 30 May 2009 DVB](#))

Lawyers for Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi expressed optimism about her case after the only witness allowed to testify for the defense addressed the court in her trial on charges of violating house arrest. One of Suu Kyi's lawyers, Nyan Win, said on Thursday he was "very confident of victory if the trial is carried out according to law." The court was in recess Friday. ([29 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

Detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi urgently needs medical attention in the prison where she is being held, her party said. A party statement said it was "gravely concerned" about the Nobel Peace Prize laureate's health, saying she cannot sleep well because she suffers from leg cramps. ([30 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

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International Update

More Asean MPs Call for Suu Kyi's Release

Support for Burma's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has stepped up with about 100 more parliamentarians from Southeast Asian countries adding their voices to the growing international calls for her release. Two Members of Parliament (MPs) from Singapore, Charles Chong and Inderjit Singh, called for the suspension of Burma from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) due to the Burmese junta's disregard for Asean's concerns over Suu Kyi.

In Malaysia, 30 MPs on Tuesday joined half a million other signatories on a petition organized by an umbrella group called "Free Burma's Political Prisoners Now!" Among the politicians was Malaysian opposition leader Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. ([29 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

Thai senators call for Suu Kyi's release

Thirty senators of Thailand on Thursday submitted a petition to the Burmese military junta urging that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi be released and the creation of a favorable ambience for political stability in the country. ([29 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

Singapore says ASEAN expulsion will not change Burma

Expelling Burma from ASEAN isn't the way to bring about reform in the military-ruled nation even if it tarnishes the group's credibility, the Singapore government said yesterday. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations will have greater influence on Burma by maintaining dialogue instead of isolating it or imposing sanctions, said Zainul Abidin Rasheed, senior minister of state at Singapore's foreign ministry. ([29 May 2009 DVB](#))

28 May 2009

Inside Update

The trial began at 10:00 AM and ended at 2:00 PM. Media and diplomats were not allowed to attend the hearing. The only witness of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Kyi Win (same name with the lawyer defending Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, but different person) testified before the Court for about two hours. U Kyi Win is a MP-elect from Labutta Township and a Supreme Court Attorney with legal experience of over 3 decades. He was asked by both prosecutor and defense lawyer about two hours. He clearly testified that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi didn't violate her detention and rebutted the fact that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made contact with anyone "outside" her residence. He explained the limitation imposed by the authorities, based on the 1974 Constitution, was not valid as the Constitution was already abolished since September 1988. The witness was thoroughly cross examined but he stood his ground, said NLD lawyers. U Kyi Win told the court that if the restrictions imposed on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were based on the 1974 constitution, "then from the legal perspective, the case is wrong because the constitution is no longer in force."

He also testified that providing "shelter temporarily" to an uninvited intruder did not constitute breach of house arrest terms. According to the restrictions order imposed on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi she is

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specifically prohibited from contacting anyone "outside". She did not contact anyone outside because Yettaw arrived by his own will and breached the security cordon in doing so. Hence, legally speaking no offense had been committed by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The responsibility solely lies with the person who had come in", he argued.

As testimonies of witnesses from both sides were completed, the Judge adjourned the hearing to June 1, 2009, Monday. Both lawyers were supposed to make their final arguments and the verdict made on that day or later. (This was later extended till the 5th June). Lawyer U Nyan Win said yesterday that the trial was being speeded up at too fast a pace. "I am not saying what they are doing is illegal because every court can be convened every day. But my view is that it is unfair because our witnesses were rejected without any examination".

Another point U Nyan Win raised was what Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had advised him. "She asked me to convey this message. Everyone has the right to his beliefs". U Nyan Win said she was commenting about some people reacting negatively in court to John Yettaw's repeated comments about his "Mission of God".

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's is suffering severe muscle pain at her legs, especially when she lies down. The authorities sent doctors to treat her pain and the doctor gave her some medicine.

Solo Protestor

U Zaw Nyunt, a supporter of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, was arrested this afternoon at 1:30 PM for his solo protest. He held a sign board, which carried the words, "Let's Save Our Mother Daw Aung San Suu Kyi", written in red on white fabric and marched on the street leading towards Insein Prison. "He also shouted slogans demanding the release of Daw Suu," said Win Tin. "He was arrested by security forces and members of the USDA after taking just four or five steps," he added, referring to the Union Solidarity and Development Association, a junta-backed organization. According to witnesses at the scene of the arrest, **Zaw Nyunt** had been coming to the area every day since last Monday, when legal proceedings against Suu Kyi began at a special court inside the prison. He was brought to Insein Police Station and detained there. Retired Capt Zaw Nyunt was a leading member of the Labor Strike Committee during the mass protests of 1988 and a founder of a United Workers group. He is the son-in-law of Brig Gen Myo Aung, former commander of Rangoon Command. (Information courtesy of [NCGUB](#) / [US Campaign for Burma](#))

International Update

Media Watchdog Criticizes 'One-Sided' Coverage of Suu Kyi Trial

The international media watchdog organization Reporters without Borders released a statement on Thursday condemning Burma's ruling military junta for allowing only one-sided coverage of the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi. ([28 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

Indian Human Rights Activists Support Suu Kyi

Indian politicians, human rights activists, religious leaders and artists have appealed to the international community for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, and criticized the Indian government for its silence over the trial of the Burmese democracy leader. At the conference, G. Devarajan, the secretary

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of the Central Committee of All India Forward Bloc, Nandita Das, an Indian actress and social activist, the former Samata Party President Jaya Jaitley, former Defence Minister George Fernandez, Sumit Chakravartty, the editor of *Mainstream* weekly, film director Amar Kanwar and other Indian artists called for the government to pressure the junta for the early release of Suu Kyi and to take proactive actions against the Burmese junta. G. Devarajan said he was not optimistic that Indian politicians would respond to their call. ([28 May 2009 DVB](#), [28 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

Surin criticizes Burma

Burma's treatment of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners has damaged the image of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean), said Surin Pitsuwan, Asean Secretary-General. "The discussion in the room back there was that it [the issue of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners] ...affects Asean's image and Asean's collective interests," Surin said ([28 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

Asean Parliamentarians Turn Heat on Burma

In a move reflecting growing anger towards Burma, parliamentarians from across Southeast Asia want the military-ruled country suspended from a 10-member regional bloc for the unjust treatment of Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's pro-democracy leader. The comments made in Singapore's legislature during the current parliamentary session offers a window onto the growing pressure that Burma is up against from the countries that belong to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. ([28 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

Burma rejects foreign 'interference' over Suu Kyi

Burma angrily rejected foreign "pressure and interference" over the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi, denying that the trial was a political ploy to keep her locked up for elections in 2010. The ruling junta handed down a stinging rebuttal to Asian and European ministers at a meeting in Cambodia, in its strongest reaction yet to the storm of international outrage over its treatment of the pro-democracy icon. "It is not political; it is not a human rights issue. So we don't accept pressure and interference from abroad," Burma Deputy Foreign Minister Maung Myint told counterparts in Phnom Penh. ([28 May 2009 DVB](#))

Junta rejects UN Security Council's demand

Despite the United Nations Security Council urging implementation of an all inclusive political dialogue including Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and other stake-holders and initiate reconciliation, Burma's military government has said it will continue with its planned 2010 election as part of its roadmap to democracy. ([28 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

27 May 2009

Inside Update

The trial began at 10:00 AM and ended at 4:00 PM. The highlights of 27 May court session in Insein Prison were Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's written testimony and the explanation by US citizen John William Yettaw of why he sneaked into the Nobel Laureate's residence.

Daw Suu Kyi was allowed to meet with her lawyer for about an hour.

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The two live-in companions of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi -- Daw Khin Khin Win and Ma Win Pa Pa -- each testified for about half an hour with both admitting that John Yettaw could not have entered the home if the door was not opened by them.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi denied she violated the terms of her house arrest since John Yettaw came into her compound by breaching the security cordon set up by the security personnel. "No action has yet been taken against those responsible for security and instead I alone have been charged. Hence, the case is prejudicial and discriminatory", she argued. As for John Yettaw's entry into her home on 4 May, she said she informed the uninvited guest to leave the premises immediately but he told her that he was risking arrest if he left the home during the day and promised to leave at night. "That night, citing health reasons, he requested that he be allowed to stay overnight".

She told the court that many of her colleagues were serving long prison terms without the protection or leniency of law. "My political conviction is to not let anyone be arrested or imprisoned, so I granted him shelter temporarily". She added that she did not want either the intruder or the guards suffer because her action. "My action was based on my political conviction and therefore, for me, it does not matter who the intruder was or what his intentions were".

She recalled being informed by her live-in companion about John Yettaw's visit to her home in November 2008 when he was turned away. When her personal physician came for a checkup in December, she informed the authorities about the visit through the doctor. "The authorities did not make any inquiry about the incident nor did I hear anything to indicate that any action was taken. Furthermore, I was not reminded by the authorities to report immediately about any intrusion into my compound", she testified. "Since the authorities concerned did not protest, criticize, or reacted in any way to my action, I presumed that the way I acted was acceptable to them".

Following the second visit by Mr Yettaw, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said she was about to keep the authorities informed about it through her doctor when he visits her on 7 May. "The doctor was prevented from entering my home that day and only the police came in", she said.

Defending herself from a legal point of view, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said she was being charged "under Article 22 of the 'Law to Safeguard the State against the Dangers of Those Desiring to Cause Subversive Acts'" and "the prosecution has testified that the Restriction Order was imposed to restrict (or) withdraw my Fundamental Rights as stipulated in the 1974 Constitution of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma. That Constitution was nullified and abolished on the day a military coup was staged in 1988. Hence, the Restriction Order imposed on the basis of these invalid legal provisions is unlawful", she said.

Explaining the proceedings of the court session for the day, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's lawyer U Nyan Win said John Yettaw told the court that he was on God's mission "to warn Aung San Suu Kyi and the Government" about what he saw in his vision. He said he saw Daw Aung San Suu Kyi being assassinated by 'terrorists' who would later put the blame on the government for her death".

He testified that he encountered security personnel on both occasions when he visited Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's residence. During the 2008 trip, when he left her home, "he met face to face with a security

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guard who pointed his gun at him and asked what he was doing there. Although the guard spoke in Burmese he heard him in English and told the guard that he was on a mission of God," said U Nyan Win. On his second trip, when he was approaching Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's residence, "he met with four or five security guards who did not shoot him or stop him. Instead, they pelted me with rocks", testified Yettaw, according to U Nyan Win.

When questioned about his belongings being left behind at the residence of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, he admitted that he had left them behind and that none of his belongings were missing, he said. He had to leave the residence at night so he left them behind. He said he gave some of his belongings as gifts to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi but she did not accept them, said Yettaw. The two-year Vietnam War Veteran admitted taking documentary photos and videotaping in the residence "without the knowledge of the residents, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi". He also said he was provided with a helping of fried rice and bottles of purified water.

The prosecutor and the Judge took over 3 hours questioning Mr. Yettaw, however Daw Khin Khin Win and Win Ma Ma were questioned by the prosecutor and the Judge for 30 minutes each.

Witnesses

The Special Court permitted 15 of the 23 witnesses called by the prosecution to testify but rejected three out of the four defense witnesses named by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's lawyers. The four defense witnesses named are National League for Democracy (NLD) Vice Chairman U Tin Oo, NLD Central Executive Committee Member U Win, and Daw Khin Mo Mo, and NLD Elected Representative U Kyi Win of Labutta Township Constituency. Only U Kyi Win was permitted to testify. ([US Campaign for Burma / NCGUB](#))

NLD issued a statement today, which contained the written statement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, submitted to the Court on May 26, 2009. Please find unofficial translation below;

Unofficial Translation of the Written Statement by Daw Aung San Su Kyi, Submitted to the Judge according to the Section 256 of the Criminal Case Regulation Act, Dated May 26, 2009 (Translated by Aung Din of US Campaign for Burma)

(1) This is the case against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is charged with the Section 22 of the Law to Safeguard the State against the Dangers of Those Desiring to Cause Subversive Acts. Daw Khin Khin Win (father- U Tin Ohn), Ma Win Ma Ma (father- U Nyan Lin) and Mr. John William Yettaw are also charged with Section 22 of the said Act and the Section 109 of the Penal Code, for collaboration with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in breaching the restrictions of her house arrest, complained by Police Lt. Colonel Zaw Min Aung, of the Police Special Branch, to Bahan Township Police Station on May 11, 2009.

(2) I learned about the entering of Mr. Yettaw into my compound first time on November 30, 2008, from Daw Khin Khin Win, who stayed together with me. I reported this incident to the authorities through Dr. Tin Myo Win, who came for medical check-up on December 4, 2008. The authorities did not make any effort to investigate me over this incident. I didn't hear any action was taken. I was also not warned by the authorities that I should report to them if there is an intrusion by a stranger into my

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compound. I saw Mr. Yettaw, who entered my residence second time, only in the morning of May 4, 2009. I told him to leave. He said that now is the day time and he would be arrested if he leaves now. He also promised to leave at night. However, at night, he again requested to allow him to stay one night due to his health situation.

(3) Thousands of my fellow politicians and activists are being incarcerated in prison for a long time, without receiving lawful protection and mercy of the legal system now. Therefore, I hold a political belief that I will never involve in making someone to get arrested and imprisoned. With this belief, I allowed him to stay temporarily.

(4) I didn't count who he is and what kind of intention he has. I acted based on my political belief. I planned to report his entrance to the authorities through Dr. Tin Myo Win. However, on May 7, 2009, police officials came to my house and Dr. Tin Myo Was not allowed seeing me.

(5) I acted on the account of Nov 30, 2008, with intention not to exaggerate the smaller case bigger and not to unnecessarily create trouble for security officials who guarded my residence. As there was no complaint and action from the authorities, I assumed that the authorities accepted and agreed my action. When a prosecution witness testified before the Court, he testified that I and the authorities are jointly responsible for the security of my residence. It was totally wrong.

(6) I was accused by the authorities that I breached the orders of limitation and restriction, according to the Section 22.

(A) According to the testimonies of prosecution witnesses and the evidence of the continued restriction orders, it is obvious that I do not violate any rule.

(B) The prosecution said that the limitation orders were imposed upon me, which banned me the fundamental rights of a citizen, described in the 1974 Constitution of the Peoples' Socialist Republic Union of Burma. Actually, since the current military government took over the power in September 1988, the 1974 Constitution was abolished and no longer valid. Therefore, limitation order based on the already expired Constitution will have no legal authority.

(7) Original cause of this case is a security breach or lack of security (by the authorities). However, until now no action has been taken on those who are responsible to guard my residence. The fact that I am the only party being prosecuted shows the partiality of the prosecution

(8) I hereby submit my statement that I do not violate any crime as charged by the plaintiff.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

(Information and statement translation courtesy of Aung Din, [US Campaign for Burma](#))

NLD Issues List of Demands to Junta

Burma's opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), marked the 19th anniversary of its election victory by issuing a statement to the Burmese military government with a list of political demands.

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- Unconditionally releases all political prisoners, including NLD party leaders Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin Oo;
- sets proper conditions for political dialogue; • allow the reopening of NLD offices across the country;
- allows free election campaigning;
- accepts the registration of political parties (including ethnic parties) that were banned after they won seats in the 1990 election. ([27 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

International Update

In an op-ed released in the New York Times titled “End Burma’s System of Impunity”, Paulo Sergio Pinhero called for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. “During eight years as United Nations Special Rapporteur on Myanmar, I repeatedly called on the Burmese junta to release Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi and Burma’s 2,100 other political prisoners, to no avail. It is imperative that she be released immediately for the country’s process of reconciliation to move forward”. ([27 May 2009 New York Times](#))

Throwing Burma out of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) would not be an appropriate way to pressure the country to release pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva said on Wednesday. ([27 May 2009 Bangkok Post](#))

A website created for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s birthday has begun to get worldwide and high profile attention. Gordon Brown released a video on the website in which he says “I add my voice to the growing chorus of those demanding your release. For too long the world has failed to act in the face of this intolerable injustice. That is now changing....The clamor for your release is growing across Europe, Asia, and the entire world. We must do all we can to make this birthday the last you spend without your freedom." The website also includes a letter signed by members of the "Not on Our Watch" campaign, including Clooney and U2 front man Bono. ([27 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#)) Click [here](#) for site.

Obama backs calls for Suu Kyi release

United States’ President Barack Obama has called for the immediate and unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi, and has criticized the ongoing court hearing as a “show trial based on spurious charges”. In his first statement on the trial of the opposition leader, now in its eighth day, Obama echoed international outcry over the arbitrariness of the charges she faces. Many critics of the trial, including members of Suu Kyi’s legal team, have said that the verdict is likely a foregone conclusion. If convicted, she could be sentenced to up to five years. ([27 May 2009 DVB](#) , [26 May 2009 VOA](#) , [27 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#) , [26 May 2009 RFA](#))

26 May 2009

Inside Update

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived in court at about 12:55 p.m. (local time) on Tuesday. As she walked in, her lawyer Nyan Win handed her a note. After reading it, she greeted diplomats, who had come to hear her testimony in court. Diplomats and other invited guests stood up as a sign of respect as she entered

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the courtroom, prompting security personnel to remind them to sit down. Burmese opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on Tuesday looked a little weak, but otherwise appeared fine. She spoke to the audience before and after today's hearing but since her voice was low the only words that could be heard were reportedly, "Thank you for your concern," and "I am happy to see you."

The trial began at 1:05 p.m. (local time) and concluded at 2:00 p.m. (local time). One of her lawyers, Nyan Win, apparently complained to the judges that he had not had adequate opportunities to meet with his client. But his complaint drew no reply from the judicial panel.

As the proceedings began the judge read out questions to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who generally answered in one or two sentences. She was first asked whether she knew about the restriction order on herself and her two live-in aides, to which she answered she only knew of the restrictions on her. When asked of whether she knew about a November 30, 2008, incident in which American John Yettaw reportedly made his first visit to her house, she said she had heard about it but did not see him. Asked of whether she knew about his subsequent intrusion on the night of May 3, 2009, she replied she knew about it only in the morning at around 5 a.m. (local time), adding that it was Khin Khin Win, one of her live-in aides, who informed her. Asked whether she knew Yettaw prior to his visit, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said she only learned of him and his identity when he was found in her home. She was then asked whether she reported to the police when Yettaw left the premises on May 5 at about 11:45 p.m. She replied, "No." Next asked whether she had spoken to Yettaw, she responded, "Yes."

She was then questioned as to whether she knew of Yettaw's return path following his visit. She replied that she knew he headed toward the lake but that since it was dark she could not say for sure what route he took. The judge then asked whether Yettaw had left items, including a Mormon book, at her home on purpose or had forgotten them. She replied she did not know whether he had forgotten them or deliberately left them behind. She was then asked whether she had provided food and accommodation to Yettaw. She said she had afforded him temporary refuge. Asked whether she knew about Yettaw taking photos and video, she replied that she only knew of the photos and videos when they were presented in the court. The judge then asked of the situation of the security personnel at her home. She replied that there were no security guards inside her compound, but did not know the situation outside her compound. ([NCGUB](#))

The New Light of Myanmar released Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's testimony regarding the intrusion of John Yettaw. On the next page, it detailed the SPDC's press conference "on clarifying Articles 10 (a) and 10 (b) of the Law to safeguard the state against the dangers of those desiring to cause subversive acts held. Please click [here](#) to see the articles.

Suu Kyi 'composed and confident'

Mark Canning, the British ambassador to Burma, told the Guardian that Suu Kyi looked "composed and confident", and had suggested that some of the questions directed at her should instead be asked of Yettaw, seated just a few metres away. Canning said the regime had been "taken aback" by the strength of international opposition to Suu Kyi's arrest. "That's why they have allowed us to attend some of the hearings, to give the impression they are being transparent in the hope of warding off any more criticism," he said. ([26 May 2009 Guardian](#))

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Junta 'had considered' freeing Suu Kyi

The Burmese government had considered releasing Aung San Suu Kyi tomorrow on her scheduled release date until her alleged breach of house arrest conditions earlier this month, said a senior police official today. Speaking to reporters gathered outside the Rangoon courtroom where Suu Kyi today begins her seventh day of trials, Brigadier General Myint Thein also said that the government had the legal right to extend her detention to November this year. "Because Aung San Suu Kyi was the daughter of state leader General Aung San, we gave deep consideration (to the issue of ending her house arrest)," he told AFP reporters this morning. ([26 May 2009 DVB](#))

Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest lifted

Burma's military authorities on Tuesday lifted the house arrest order of opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, her lawyer said. But she remains under detention inside Rangoon's notorious Insein Prison, where she is facing trial on charges of breaching her terms of detention. One of her lawyers, Nyan Win, told Mizzima that Police Brigadier General Myo Thein, along with Burma's Police Chief Khin Yi, on Tuesday morning read out an order removing restrictions imposed on Aung San Suu Kyi under her former sentence of house arrest. ([26 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

Aung San Suu Kyi and deputy leader expected to testify

Burma's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi is expected to testify Tuesday at her trial for allegedly violating the terms of her house arrest, by permitting an American intruder to stay at her home earlier this month. Aung San Suu Kyi's lawyer Kyi Win told VOA Burmese Service that the Nobel Peace laureate's three co-defendants - her two caretakers and U.S. citizen John Yettaw - will also take the stand. The lawyer says the defence team did not get time to consult with the defendants prior to their testimonies. ([26 May 2009 VOA](#) / [26 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

International Update

Indian MP urges junta to release Suu Kyi

An Indian Member of Parliament and activists on Tuesday echoed the international outcry for the release of Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, facing a trial in Rangoon's Insein prison. Sharad Yadav of the Janata Dal (United) party and a Member of Parliament of India from Bihar State in the Rajya Sabha (Upper House), said he supports the international community's demand for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi. ([26 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

Asem Foreign Ministers Issue Statement on Suu Kyi

Asian and European Union foreign ministers concluded a two-day meeting in Hanoi on Tuesday with a statement calling on Burma's junta to release detained political prisoners, as international pressure mounts on the regime over its trial and detention of democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi. "In light of the concern about the recent developments relating to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, ministers ... called for the early release of those under detention and the lifting of restrictions placed on political parties," said the chair's statement issued at the end of the annual Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) of foreign ministers from the two regions. Asem groups the ten-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) with the EU, China, South Korea, Japan, Mongolia, Pakistan and India. Burma is a member of Asean. ([26 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#) / [26 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

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Asian and European ministers agree on Burma

Foreign ministers from Asia and Europe called for the release of Burma opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi at a summit in Hanoi yesterday. ([26 May 2009 DVB](#))

South Africa Urges Burma to Adopt Civilian Rule

The South African government has called on the Burmese military regime to release opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, saying it wants to see Burma adopt civilian rule under a democratic multiparty system. The South African stand was delivered by Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Ebrahim Ebrahim at a meeting on Monday with Burma's ambassador designate to Pretoria, Tin Oo Lwin. ([26 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

E.U. backs Thailand over Suu Kyi's trial

The European Union has announced its support for Thailand's statement as ASEAN Chair on the political situation in Burma, according to Thailand's Foreign Minister. The announcement came after Thai Foreign Minister Kasit Piromya met with Jan Kohout, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, which currently holds the Presidency of the E.U. and heads the European's delegation to the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) underway in Hanoi. ([26 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

Obama issues statement

Making his first statement on the trial of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, President Obama issued a stern statement late Tuesday calling on the Burmese government to release her "immediately and unconditionally." Obama, in his statement, strongly condemned her most arrest and detention, saying it was "arbitrary, unjustified, and in contravention of Burma's own law." ([26 May 2009 Washington Post](#))

The Elders release statement on trial

The Elders, an independent group of eminent global leaders, released a statement calling for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Former United States President Jimmy Carter said: "Aung San Suu Kyi is a hero for those who believe in human rights and democracy. Her ongoing detention is a further reflection on the integrity of the government." Mary Robinson, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said: "It hurts profoundly that an eminent woman leader has been wrongly held under house arrest for 6 years and now faces being even further punished for conduct over which she had no control." (Click [here](#) for statement)

25 May 2009

Inside Update

Trial started at 10:30 AM and ended at 2:00 PM today.

Defense lawyers asked cross questions to four out of five prosecution witnesses, who were recalled by the request of the defense team. They were able to expose irregularities of these witnesses. Defense team also questioned one out of ten prosecution witnesses who were not testified yet. Prosecution decided to

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withdraw its other 9 witnesses, who were submitted at the start of the trial and haven't called to testify yet. Therefore, the questioning of the prosecution witnesses ended.

The trial will continue tomorrow. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will testify, as well as Daw Khin Khin Win, Win Ma Ma, and Mr. John W. Yettaw. Defense team requested the Judge to grant a permission of discussion with Daw Aung Suu Kyi to prepare for her testimony tomorrow. The request was denied.

The regime will hold a press conference in front of the Special Court. It has invited 21 journalists (10 from foreign media) to attend the press conference and the hearing.

Tomorrow, the defense team will submit four defense witnesses to testify before the Court. They include NLD Vice Chairman U Tin Oo (who is still under house arrest), NLD CEC member U Win Tin and NLD MP U Kyi Win. ([US Campaign for Burma](#))

NLD and 88 Generation Student Group Members Pray for Suu Kyi

More than 20 members of Burma's opposition National League for Democracy and the 88 Generation Student group prayed at the Zedigyi Pagoda in Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Division, on Sunday for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners. A Kyaukpadaung resident told *The Irrawaddy* on Monday that local authorities kept the group under observation but no arrests were made. ([25 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

International Update

China and Russia veto 'denies' Burma progress

China and Russia's power of veto in the United Nations Security Council has impeded pressure on progress towards democracy in Burma, said an exiled government official reacting to a UN statement on Burma last week. On Thursday the UN Security Council (UNSG) released a press statement "expressing concern about the political impact of recent developments relating to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi". The statement was read out by the current UNSG president, Vitaly Churkin of Russia. Russia currently holds the revolving chair of the UNSG. ([25 May 2009 DVB](#))

23 May 2009

International Update

Suu Kyi to Receive Gandhi Award

In the latest in a long list of international honors, Burmese pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been named the recipient of this year's Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Peace and Reconciliation, which will be awarded at a ceremony to be held in Durban, South Africa on July 20. The prize, also known as the MAGI Award, is given to those who inspire young people to make a commitment to non-violence, forgiveness and reconciliation. It was inaugurated in 2003 to mark the centenary of *Indian Opinion*, a newspaper published in South Africa by Mahatma Gandhi. ([23 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

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UN Security Council Issues a Statement on Suu Kyi

The 15-member UN Security Council on Friday expressed its concern about the trial of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and the current political situation in Burma in a council statement. The Security Council president for the month of May Ambassador Vitaly Churkin of Russia said: “The members of the Security Council express their concern about the political impact of recent developments relating to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.” ([23 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#) , [23 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

22 May 2009

Inside Update

Burma Court Accepts Case against Suu Kyi

The court trying Burma’s pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi agreed Friday to accept the charge she violated the terms of her house arrest after an American man swam to and entered her lakeside home. The court's decision should allow her trial to proceed to a verdict that could see her jailed for up to five years. She has been in detention without trial for more than 13 of the past 19 years. ([22 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

American in Spotlight at Suu Kyi Trial

The middle-aged American man whose nighttime swim to visit democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi may cost her a chance at freedom came into fuzzy focus as a court in Myanmar showed a home movie he allegedly shot at her lakeside residence. ([22 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

International Update

UN Security Council Urges Burma to Release All Political Prisoners

The U.N. Security Council has called for the release of all political prisoners in Burma, including opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and expressed its concern over her recent trial. In a unanimous statement, the 15-council members expressed their concern about the "political impact" of the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi charging her with violating the terms of her house arrest. ([22 May 2009 VOA](#))

US Senate Passes Resolution against Junta

The US Senate on Thursday condemned the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi by the Burmese military government and called for her immediate, unconditional release. A unanimous resolution passed by the Senate also recognized that the current conditions in the country are not conducive for a credible national election in 2010. ([22 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

Nobel Laureates Call for Arms Embargo on Burma

Nine Nobel Peace Prize laureates, led by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica, called on UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday to impose an arms embargo on the Burmese military junta and urged immediate action against the false imprisonment of fellow Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. ([22 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

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21 May 2009

Inside Update

Court access for diplomats merely ‘a gesture’

Burma opposition party, the National League for Democracy, have said that allowing diplomats to observe Aung San Suu Kyi’s trial was merely a “gesture” and still falls short of making it an open trial. In a statement released yesterday, the NLD, whose leader Suu Kyi is facing charges of breaching conditions of her house arrest, denounced the trial and said that proceedings were not consistent with the regulations of the court. NLD Central Executive Committee Member Win Tin added that allowing journalists and diplomats into the courtroom did not make it a free and fair trial. ([21 May 2009 DVB](#))

Burma bars access to Suu Kyi trial again

Burma's military regime put the trial of opposition icon Aung San Suu Kyi back behind closed doors today, after allowing diplomats and journalists to attend the hearing for just one day. The junta had opened up the proceedings at the notorious Insein Prison near Yangon on Wednesday, in an apparent concession to fierce international criticism of the charges against the Nobel Peace Prize winner. "The press will not be allowed today (Thursday). Only for one day diplomats and press was allowed," a Myanmar official told AFP on condition of anonymity. ([21 May 2009 DVB / 21 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

International Update

UN chief says to visit Burma 'as soon as possible'

United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon said he was "deeply concerned" by the trial of Burma democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi and would visit Burma as soon as possible to urge the junta's chief to release her. Ban spoke out as the Nobel Peace Prize laureate faced five years in jail over an incident last month when an American man swam across a lake to her prison home where she has been held for most of the last 19 years. "I'm going to visit Burma as soon as possible. Now I am very serious in discussing with (the) government of Burma when I could be able to visit Burma," Ban told CNN in an interview filmed on Wednesday. ([21 May 2009 DVB / CNN. 22 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

20 May 2009

Inside Update

Suu Kyi’s trial a ‘half-open court’; defense counsels

Defence counsels of Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi said the trial on Wednesday was a ‘half-open’ court but welcomed the authority’s permission to allow foreign diplomats and a few journalists to witness the trial. Kyi Win, Aung San Suu Kyi’s lawyer, said all together 30 embassy officials and 10 journalists were present in the court session on Wednesday, where two witnesses were cross examined. ([20 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

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Diplomats meet with Suu Kyi

Three foreign diplomats who were granted access to the courtroom where Aung San Suu Kyi is on trial today met face-to-face with the defendant following the hearing. On the third day of the trial against the Burmese opposition leader accused of breaching conditions of her house arrest, the court heard testimonies from two witnesses. ([20 May 2009 DVB / 20 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

Journalists and diplomats allowed inside Suu Kyi trial

In a surprise move, the Burmese government has allowed 10 reporters and a number of foreign diplomats inside the courtroom where Aung San Suu Kyi is currently on trial. The move has surprised many observers given that media is usually barred from trials involving high-profile Burmese political prisoners. Five reporters from international media agencies Reuters, Agence France-Presse (AFP), Nippon TV, Sankei Shimbun and Jiji Press – the latter three Japanese – have entered. They are soon to be followed by five domestic Burmese journalists. ([20 May 2009 DVB](#) , [20 May 2009 RFA](#) , [20 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#) , [20 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

New Light of Myanmar Article

Prosecution witness Police Captain Sa Kyaw Win of the Special Investigation Department (Foreign Affairs Division) made his statement in the morning. ([21 May 2009 New light of Myanmar](#))

The Myanmar Ministry of Foreign Affairs invited the Singapore Ambassador, as well as a representative of Thailand as the ASEAN Chair and a representative from Russia, as the current President of the United Nations Security Council, to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi after the adjournment of her trial. The Singapore Ambassador reported the meeting took place at a guest house within Insein Prison. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi informed the three diplomatic representatives that there could be many opportunities for national reconciliation if all parties so wished, and that she did not wish to use the intrusion into her home as a way to get at the Myanmar authorities. ([20 May 2009 MFA Singapore](#))

20 May 2009

International Update

EU discusses Burma with China

The European Union has talked to China about military ruled Burma, which was one of the regional issues in the bilateral summit held in Prague, capital of Czech Republic on Wednesday. Burma was among the many issues ranging from global challenges including the financial crisis, climate change, and international affairs which EU officials and Chinese representatives discussed for nearly two hours, according to a Joint Press communique of the 11th China-EU Summit released on May 20. ([21 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

Suu Kyi on trial amid increased calls for UN action

As Burma's pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi's trial in Insein prison continues, there is mounting international pressure on the military regime to release her. Many of the world's leaders have voiced their concerns at the new charges that have been brought against her, as a result of an unwanted

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visit to her residence by an American psychology student. Several south-east Asian leaders, normally coy to criticise their neighbours, have also joined the international outcry. Thailand as the president of the regional bloc, ASEAN, issued a collective statement raising the region's concerns. ([20 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

Clinton Calls Trial of Aung San Suu Kyi Outrageous

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Wednesday called the Burmese government's trial of Aung San Suu Kyi outrageous, and said its treatment of the democracy leader will render the country's planned elections next year illegitimate. Clinton's comments on Burma, in two Senate hearings Wednesday on the State Department budget, were the strongest to date by the Obama administration on the latest prosecution of Aung San Suu Kyi. ([20 May 2009 VOA / 21 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

Security Council Members Hold Informal Discussions on Burma

Members of the UN Security Council have informally begun discussions on the possibility of issuing a statement on the current situation in Burma, especially the ongoing trial of Aung San Suu Kyi, following an initiative by the United States, France and Britain. Members of the Security Council and UN secretary-general have been under pressure during the past one week following a global outcry against the detention and trial of Aung San Suu Kyi by the Burmese military government. ([20 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

19 May 2009

Inside Update

The trial began at 10.30 am today, and finished late afternoon. 5 out of a total of 22 witnesses for the prosecution testified today. Two of them were Police Lt-Col Maung Maung Khin of the Criminal Investigation Department, and Immigration Officer Myat Twin [other details are unknown]. In the morning about 700 people were waiting for the start of the court hearing in front of and around Insein Prison. Less people were gathered outside the prison than yesterday. Security around the prison was even tighter than yesterday, and roads leading to the prison were again blocked. About 30 riot police came to where U Win Tin and National League for Democracy youth members were sitting and asked them to move, so they switched to another place close to Insein Market. They were under the careful watch of riot police at all times. No-one was arrested. In an unusual move, today's state-run English language newspaper The New Light of Myanmar reported details of the case. ([19 May 2009 AAPP](#))

Prosecutor makes some concessions on Suu Kyi

The first witness called in the prosecution of Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday acknowledged that she had not violated a condition under which she is forbidden to make contact with an external political body. Speaking to DVB, Suu Kyi's lawyer, Kyi Win, said that the first day of the trial yesterday against the Burmese opposition leader had heard a statement from prosecutor, Lieutenant Colonel Zaw Min Aung. "We read out the restriction order against Daw Suu, which pointed out that she is prohibited from meeting with foreign diplomats and people with links to political organizations, to [Zaw Min Aung] and asked him if that would be correct to say she didn't violated this prohibition, and he said that was correct," said Kyi Win. ([19 May 2009 DVB](#) , [18 May 2009 VOA](#))

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Burma state media gives first reports on Suu Kyi

Burma's tightly controlled state media has reported on the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi for the first time, giving a rare mention of the imprisoned pro-democracy leader. State television and radio carried brief items late Monday after the first day of proceedings, while the government mouthpiece New Light of Myanmar newspaper had a report on Tuesday. It was the biggest story on the back page of the English-language paper, but failed to knock a story about a state transport and agricultural scheme off the front page. ([19 May 2009 DVB](#))

'We Don't Accept the Trial': Win Tin

I don't think so. This is a conspiracy. The matter of her security is totally in their hands. If they [the authorities] don't open up the compound, no person can enter it. Daw Suu is going to be released within a few days. At this time, they [the authorities] have rejected her appeal and even charged her with another case. I believe that it is a conspiracy. I believe they did it because they don't want to release her. They want to ban her from being involved in politics in the future." ([19 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

International Update

Trial of Suu Kyi a Mockery: Nine Nobel Laureates

Nine Nobel Peace prize recipients on Monday called the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi a "mockery" and urged UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to discuss the issue with members of the Security Council as soon as possible. "We are outraged by the deplorable actions of the military junta against Suu Kyi and strongly encourage challenging this obvious harassment of our fellow Nobel laureate," the nine Nobel Peace Prize recipients wrote in a letter to the secretary-general. ([19 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

British PM Sends Open Letter to Suu Kyi

In an open letter of support to detained Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Monday, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said that people around the world "are heartened by your tremendous courage, your inspirational leadership, and by the knowledge that no oppression is so great that the forces of liberty cannot prevail." ([19 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#) / [19 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

David Beckham adds voice to calls for Suu Kyi's release

British footballing legend David Beckham has added his name to a list of celebrities calling for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, as international pressure mounts on the Burmese junta on the second day of her trial. American-based charity foundation, Not On Our Watch, issued a statement supported by over 40 celebrities last week demanding the release of Suu Kyi. The charity was set up by a group of celebrities, including George Clooney and Brad Pitt. ([19 May 2009 DVB](#))

EU to ask China to Push Burma

The European Union is asking China and other Asian nations to press Myanmar to drop charges against pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and free her from house arrest. EU officials said the issue will be raised Wednesday at the trade, economic and political talks in Prague with Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao, and in Hanoi next week with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which includes Burma. ([19 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

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Thailand ‘concerned’ but will not pressure Burma junta

Thailand, the current chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, has said it will go no further than rhetorical condemnation of Aung San Suu Kyi’s trial, having ruled out sanctions on the Burmese regime. ([19 May 2009 DVB](#) , [20 May 2009 Irrawaddy 2009](#))

UN envoy delivers message to Burma junta

The United Nations envoy to Burma has said that the international community, including the UN, should step up pressure on the regime to ensure unwarranted charges against Aung San Suu Kyi are dropped. The UN human rights envoy to Burma, Tomas Ojea Quintana, said that the charges are unsubstantiated. “The message to the government is first that this new file has to be dismissed immediately, because there are no grounds at all,” he said. “She cannot be accused of any crime at all.” Quintana reiterated a comment he made last week that the breach of security achieved by Yettaw is a fault of the government, and not Suu Kyi or her caretakers, who are also on trial for the incident. ([19 May 2009 DVB](#))

MP Lim Kit Siang: ASEAN should convene Emergency Meeting

The statement of “grave concern” by Thailand, as the ASEAN Chair, about the fragile health and perilous personal safety and freedom of Burmese pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi is welcome but grossly inadequate. While the reminder to the Myanmar military junta about the call of ASEAN leaders for the immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi is appropriate, it is meaningless unless ASEAN leaders are prepared to take concrete measures to address the first crisis faced by the ASEAN Charter which had committed the member ASEAN nations to protect and promote human rights in their respective countries. As Chair of ASEAN, Thailand should convene an emergency top-level meeting of ASEAN, whether of heads of governments or foreign ministers. ([19 May 2009 AIPMC](#))

ASEAN Chairman’s Statement on Myanmar

Thailand, as the ASEAN Chair, expresses grave concern about recent developments relating to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, given her fragile health. In this connection, the Government of the Union of Myanmar is reminded that the ASEAN Leaders had called for the immediate release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. ([19 May 2009 MFA](#))

18 May 2009

Inside Update

Aung San Suu Kyi trial update: 12.20pm

All the roads surrounding Insein prison have been blocked with barbed wire and there is a heavy armed police presence. Militia group Swan Arr Shin and the Union Solidarity and Development Association are also in the area, according to eye witnesses. Witnesses say that nearby Insein township market was also ordered to close down at 11am this morning by the police and municipal authorities. Stores and tea shops near the prison have been closed since yesterday. ([18 May 2009 DVB](#))

Hundreds Gather As Suu Kyi Trial Starts

Hundreds of people, including members of Burma’s opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) gathered outside Rangoon’s Insein Prison on Monday morning as the trial of pro-democracy leader

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Aung San Suu Kyi got under way in a special court. The ambassadors of four European countries were refused entry to the prison to attend the trial, reported the AFP news agency, quoting an unnamed diplomat. ([18 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

Security tight at Suu Kyi trial

Riot police behind barbed wire barricades ringed a notorious prison where pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi was to go on trial Monday for allegedly harboring an American man who swam to her lakeside home. The tight security came as activist groups, which spearheaded an uprising against Burma's military rulers in 2007, called for peaceful protest rallies in front of Rangoon's Insein prison until Suu Kyi is freed. ([18 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

International Update

72 Former Presidents, Prime Ministers Write to UN

The Club of Madrid has sent a letter, signed by 72 former presidents and prime ministers, to the United Nations urging Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to go to Burma to seek the release of Aung San Suu Kyi. ([18 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

Philippines 'outraged' over Aung San Suu Kyi case

The Philippines on Sunday expressed outrage over trial. Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo called for the immediate and unconditional release of the Nobel Peace Prize winner and other members of the political opposition detained by the country's military leaders. ([18 May 2009 Brunei Online](#))

Malaysian Opposition Party to ASEAN: "Suspend Burma"

The DAP wants Asean to suspend Burma from the regional caucus until democracy was restored in the country and called on the Malaysian government to lead the way by expediting the suspension process. ([18 May 2009 Malaysia Kini](#))

17 May 2009

Inside Update

Aung San Suu Kyi: Healthy and Ready for Trial in Burma

Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi says she is in good health and ready to defend herself against new charges filed by the military government. National League for Democracy spokesman Nyan Win says she made the comments when she met Saturday with her lawyer Kyi Win at Insein Prison. ([17 May 2009 VOA](#))

International Update

Philippines Foreign Affairs Secretary Romulo releases statement.

The Philippine Government stated they are outraged over the filing of trumped up charges against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her transfer to Insein prison. ([17 May 2009 Burma Campaign UK](#))

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16 May 2009

Inside Update

Suu Kyi's doctor released

Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's physician, Dr Tin Myo Win, who was arrested by government authorities on 7 May, has been released, according to a close relative. ([17 May 2009 DVB](#))

ABMA, 88 Generation Students & ABFSU release a statement

In it they condemn Burma's military government for its imprisonment of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and declare that they will oppose the government by any means including mass protests. ([16 May 2009 Burma Campaign UK](#))

International Update

ASEAN MPs condemn regime actions and takes ASEAN to task

The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus (AIPMC) unequivocally condemns the actions of Myanmar's military regime in detaining and charging Burma's democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and calls on tougher action by ASEAN. Parliamentarians from countries in ASEAN strongly call on its leaders to intervene in the current debacle by urging their Myanmar counterparts to release Aung San Suu Kyi and to be firm with the regime in respecting principles in the ASEAN Charter that are clearly breached in this instance. ([16 May 2009 AIPMC](#))

Two US Senators Call for 'Reform-minded' Junta Leaders

Two powerful US lawmakers, one from the ruling Democratic party and one from the opposition Republicans, have urged Burmese generals to challenge the current authoritarian rule of Snr-Gen Than Shwe in Burma. In a statement issued by Sen John Kerry and his Republican counterpart Sen Richard Lugar, both leaders of the powerful foreign affairs committee, they called for "reform-minded" leaders in the military junta to step forward. ([16 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

Nobel Committee issue rare protest on Suu Kyi

The Norwegian-based Nobel Committee has issued a rare statement protesting the arrest of Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, saying her recent detention is "totally unacceptable". ([16 May 2009 DVB](#))

India's Left constituent joins outcry over Suu Kyi's trial

India's Left Front constituent, the All India Forward Bloc, has condemned Burma's ruling junta for charging pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, saying that the whole incident was a ploy by the junta. Ashok Ghosh, member of the Central Secretariat of the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB), told Mizzima on Thursday that the charges against Burma's democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi, of breaching the detention law, was a ploy to continue detaining her. "We cannot accept that. We are opposed to it, it is a trick played by the government of Burma," Ghosh said. ([16 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

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Govts, Exiles Call for Suu Kyi's Release

The British prime minister, the Australian government and its opposition party joined the chorus of calls from Burmese activist groups around the world on Thursday for the immediate release of Burma's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. ([16 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

15 May 2009

Inside Update

'I did not commit any crime': Aung San Suu Kyi

Aung San Suu Kyi, who was transferred to Insein prison from house arrest to face trial on charges framed by the Burmese junta said through her lawyer today that "I didn't commit any crime," her lawyer Kyi Win quoted her as saying. ([15 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

Motives of 'Suu Kyi Swimmer'

The American in Burma custody after swimming across a lake to the home of detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi is eccentric but peace-loving, and had done the same thing last summer in an unsuccessful attempt to meet the Nobel Peace Prize winner, his wife said Thursday. John Yettaw wanted to talk to Suu Kyi as part of his research on forgiveness and resilience. ([15 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

International Update

World leaders demand freedom for Suu Kyi

World leaders, including Ban Ki Mon, the United Nations (UN) Secretary General are being urged to pressurize the Burmese military regime for the unconditional release of Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. Vaclav Havel, former president of the Czech Republic on Tuesday called on Ban Ki Mon to secure the release of Aung San Suu Kyi. ([15 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

Thailand hopes for transparency in Aung San Suu Kyi's trial

Thai Foreign Minister, Kasit Piromya, has said Thailand would not pressurize Burma on Aung San Suu Kyi's case, but hoped Burma would conduct the court trial with transparency. ([15 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

Clinton to Raise Suu Kyi's Case Worldwide

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says she will raise the imprisonment of Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi with the UN, Burma's partners within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean)—and even China. Describing the removal of Suu Kyi from her home to Rangoon's infamous Insein Prison as unlawful and "a pretext to place further unjustified restrictions on her." ([15 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

International Pressure Mounts over Detention of Aung San Suu Kyi

International pressure for the release of Burma's opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, from prison is mounting. But Burma's pro-democracy activists and opposition politicians say the international response, including from the United Nations, needs to be coordinated. ([15 May 2009 VOA](#))

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Obama Renews US Sanctions on Burma

President Barack Obama has extended sanctions on Burma's military government for another year. Mr. Obama informed Congress of the decision Friday, saying Burma is "engaging in large-scale repression of the democratic opposition. He added that Burma's actions and policies are hostile to U.S. interests, and they pose a continuing threat to U.S. national security and foreign policy." ([15 May 2009 VOA](#) , [16 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#) , [16 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

International leaders unite in support for Suu Kyi

International leaders have expressed dismay at the pending trial of Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, with the United Nations Secretary General saying the issue was cause for "grave concern". ([15 May 2009 DVB](#))

ASEAN member urges governments not to fall for Burma 'fallacy'

The head of the Burma caucus of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations has said that the charges to be faced by Burma opposition leader are "just ridiculous", and urged fellow ASEAN governments not to fall for the "fallacy" of elections next year. ([15 May 2009 DVB](#))

MFA Statement on Reports of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Being Charged

Singapore is dismayed by this latest development. This is a setback for the national reconciliation process. We reiterate the call for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from detention. We are also concerned about recent reports on her poor health, and that the arrest may exacerbate her condition. ([15 May 2009 MFA](#))

Thailand Foreign Minister Kasit addresses issues related to Myanmar

On 15 May 2009 at 13:45 hours, Mr. Kasit Piromya, as follows: Minister of Foreign Affairs, held a press conference to address recent issues on Myanmar. ([15 May 2009 MFA](#))

Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs released statement

Regarding the case that on May 14 (Thu), Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who was under house arrest, was transferred to Insein Prison where a trial was held in the special court, Japan expresses its deep concern, and will keep observing the situation. ([15 May 2009 MOFA](#))

World leaders demand freedom for Suu Kyi

World leaders, including Ban Ki Mon, the United Nations (UN) Secretary General are being urged to pressurize the Burmese military regime for the unconditional release of Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. Vaclav Havel, former president of the Czech Republic on Tuesday called on Ban Ki Mon to secure the release of Aung San Suu Kyi. ([15 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

14 May 2009

Inside update

Embassy seeks legal representation for detained American

The US embassy in Rangoon said it will continue seeking consular access to ensure that the detained American citizen, John William Yettaw, has a lawyer to represent him in the trial that he is currently facing in Rangoon's Insein prison. Richard Mei, spokesperson of the US embassy in Rangoon told Mizzima on Thursday that consular officer Mr. Colin P. Furst was able to have a second meeting with Yettaw at the Insein prison court, where he stood trial, on Thursday. "We will continue to seek consular access... We will make sure that he gets legal representation," Mei told Mizzima. ([14 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

Detained Opposition Leader Rejects Charges

Opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has rejected claims by Burma's military regime that she violated the terms of her house arrest. Attorney Kyi Win said he met with the Nobel laureate after her first appearance in court May 13 at Insein Prison in Rangoon. ([14 May 2009 RFA](#) , [14 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

Suu Kyi and US citizen charged

Charges have been brought against opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi relating to her contact with the US citizen who last week spent two nights in her compound, where she is being held under house arrest. According to Suu Kyi's lawyer, Kyi Win, the official court trial will take place on 18 May, after Kyi Win has applied for the right for a formal legal defence. The charge falls under Article 22 of the Burmese penal code, which bars her from contact with foreign diplomats and political organisations, and contact with any outsiders without permission. Article 22 carries a sentence of between three and five years. The US citizen John William Yettaw, along with Suu Kyi's two caretakers, has been charged under Article 22/109, relating to aiding and abetting the breaking of Article 22. ([14 May 2009 DVB](#))

Suu Kyi to face charges related to 'swimmer'

Burmese opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been ordered to appear in court this morning to face charges related to the US citizen who broke into her compound last week. The imprisoned opposition leader met with her lawyer yesterday afternoon at 4pm to discuss the unsuccessful appeal for her release, and the incident involving US citizen John William Yettaw. Suu Kyi later asked lawyer Kyi Win to return to her compound, where she has been under house arrest for 13 of the last 19 years, and told him she had been ordered to appear in Rangoon's Insein prison court at nine o'clock this morning. ([14 May 2009 DVB](#) ,[14 May 2009 VOA](#) ,[14 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

Suu Kyi 'Looking Good, Mentally Strong': Lawyer

After meeting with Aung San Suu Kyi at Insein Prison on Thursday, her lawyer Kyi Win told *The Irrawaddy* that she says she is confident of being found "not guilty" of the charges against her and that she looked good and was mentally very strong.

([14 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

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Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, companions and Yettaw held in prison; appear in court

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) confirms that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, her two live-in party members Daw Khin Khin Win and her daughter Win Ma Ma and an American man, John William Yettaw were all charged under section 22 of the State Protection Act. The charges relate to violating the rules and regulations surrounding her house arrest. All four appeared at a special court in Insein Prison compound to hear the charges against them. The judge read out the charges to them in court. The judge did not ask any questions. The judge ordered the defendants to return to court again on May 18, 2009. The court is located in Insein prison compound. The court was presided over by the Rangoon Western District Justice Thaung Nyunt, and Nyi Nyi Soe, in the presence of district legal advisor Myint Kyaing. The defendants are allowed to have lawyers. They are U Kyi Win and U Hla Myo Myint. The American John William Yettaw also faces an additional charge under immigration law, although the details are not yet known. He appeared at a separate court hearing on this charge. According to the latest information, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Daw Khin Khin Win and Daw Win Ma Ma were not sent back to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's home. All of them are being held in Insein prison now. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Daw Khin Khin Win and her daughter Win Ma Ma were taken to Insein prison from Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's home early this morning by armed escort. John William Yettaw was taken from Aung Tha Pyay police interrogation center to Insein prison to appear at the court hearing this morning. ([14 May 2009 AAPP](#))

International Update

Clinton Urges Immediate, Unconditional, Freedom for Aung San Suu Kyi

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Thursday called for the immediate and unconditional release of Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who faces possible imprisonment for allegedly violating terms of her house arrest. Clinton discussed the issue with Malaysian Foreign Minister Datuk Anifah bin Haji Aman. Clinton says the latest criminal charges against Aung San Suu Kyi are baseless and she is urging Malaysia, other members of ASEAN - the Association of Southeast Asian Nations - and regional powers including China to use their leverage to gain the release of the opposition leader. ([14 May 2009 VOA](#))

U.S. Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton

"I am deeply troubled by the Burmese Government's decision to charge Aung San Suu Kyi for a baseless crime. It comes just before the six-year anniversary of her house arrest, and it is not in keeping with the rule of law, the ASEAN charter, or efforts to promote national reconciliation and progress in Burma." ([14 May 2009 State.gov](#))

PM "deeply disturbed" by Aung San Suu Kyi charges

The British Prime Minister said he was disturbed that Aung San Suu Kyi may be charged with breaching the terms of her home detention in Burma. In a statement released today, Gordon Brown called on the Burmese regime to release her and all other political prisoners. ([14 May 2009 Number10](#))

Nobel Women's Initiative:

"We urge the international community to exert immediate pressure on Burma to release Aung San Suu Kyi and, specifically, for the Security Council of the United Nations to issue a resolution denouncing the imprisonment. Equally important, an effective global arms embargo—and an end to the arms sales to

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Burma from China and Russia in particular—are more urgent than ever. We strongly urge Burma’s allies in the ASEAN, and in China, to denounce Burma’s actions.” ([14 May 2009 Nobel Women’s Initiative](#))

Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on Myanmar

The Secretary-General is gravely concerned about the news that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been moved to the Insein Prison to face criminal charges. The Secretary-General believes that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is an essential partner for dialogue in Myanmar's national reconciliation and calls on the Government not to take any further action that could undermine this important process.” ([14 May 2009 UN](#))

13 May 2009

Inside Update

US embassy still denied access to ‘swimmer’

The US Embassy in Rangoon is yet to meet the man arrested last week after allegedly entering imprisoned opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi’s compound, although they remain optimistic that permission will be granted. ([13 May 2009 DVB](#))

12 May 2009

Inside Update

Aung San Suu Kyi suffering from muscle cramp

Detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Monday received medical care for a muscle cramp and is still under examination, a party official announced on Tuesday.

“So far the cause of the muscle cramp that she is suffering from is still unknown. But her doctor said her health is improving,” Nyan Win, NLD spokesperson, told Mizzima. ([12 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

Suu Kyi in poor health, her doctor detained: NLD

Burma’s detained opposition leader and Noble Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi is in need of medical attention but her family doctor, Dr. Tin Myo Win, has been detained by the junta authorities, a spokesperson of her party said. Dr. Tin Myo Win was arrested on Thursday after visiting Aung San Suu Kyi as part of a regular medical check-up, a source who had spoken to Nyan Win, the NLD spokesperson on Saturday told Mizzima. Dr. Tin Myo Win on Thursday waited for over three hours, but was not allowed to meet the Nobel Peace Laureate, the source said. But, on Friday, authorities called Pyone Moe Ei, the medical assistant of Dr. Tin Myo Win and allowed her to check Aung San Suu Kyi’s health, the source said. ([12 May 2009 Mizzima](#) [12 May 2009 DVB](#))

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International Update

US concerned over detained Suu Kyi's health

The US state department on Monday expressed grave concern over reports of the deteriorating health of detained Burmese pro-democracy icon and Noble Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and the arrest and detention of her personal doctor last week.

Ian Kelly, the department's spokesperson, during a press briefing in Washington on Monday, said, "The U.S. Government is concerned about reports that Aung San Suu Kyi needs medical care and that the Burmese authorities have detained her primary personal physician, Dr. Tin Myo Win." He said the US government calls on Burma's military rulers to allow Aung San Suu Kyi access to medical attention, release her personal doctor and also allow her access to her personal lawyer. ([12 May 2009 Mizzima](#) ,[12 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

Suu Kyi Needs Regular Checkups: NLD

Aung San Suu Kyi's health is getting better, but she needs regular long-term medical checkups, a spokesman for the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) has said. Speaking with *The Irrawaddy* on Tuesday, NLD spokesperson Nyan Win said that Pyone Mo Ei—an assistant to Suu Kyi's family doctor—visited Suu Kyi on Monday afternoon at about 1 p.m. and spent about four hours at her lakeside house in Rangoon. "According to the doctor, Daw Suu's health is improving. She is getting better. There are no worries about her health at this moment," said Nyan Win. ([12 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

11 May 2009

Inside Update

NLD Requests Treatment for Suu Kyi

The condition of Aung San Suu Kyi's health is still unknown after reports surfaced last week that she has difficulty eating and is suffering from low blood pressure and dehydration. Nyan Win, a spokesperson for her political party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), told *The Irrawaddy* on Monday that they have no idea about the current health of the 63-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate. He also said that the military authorities have not allowed a doctor to see her since an assistant doctor treated her on Friday. ([11 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

Doctor detained after visiting ill Suu Kyi

Imprisoned opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's doctor has been detained after visiting Suu Kyi, who is reportedly in poor health. ([11 May 2009 DVB](#))

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9 May 2009

Inside Update

Aung San Suu Kyi on intravenous drip

The Burmese regime detained Aung San Suu Kyi's physician on Thursday and the Nobel laureate was treated by his assistant on Friday for dehydration and low blood pressure, following the arrest of an American who reportedly secretly entered her guarded compound on Sunday night. According to the National League for Democracy (NLD), Pyone Mo Ei, an assistance of Suu Kyi's family doctor, Tin Myo Win, gave her an intravenous drip on Friday, spending a few hours in her house. "First authorities permitted Pyone Mo Ei to enter for only one hour," said Khin Maung Swe, an NLD executive member on Saturday. "But the doctor told authorities that one hour was not enough to give her an intravenous drip so authorities allowed more time for the doctor."

Khin Maung Swe confirmed the arrest of her family doctor, Tin Myo Win, on Thursday evening. ([9 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

8 May 2009

Inside Update

Opposition party concerned for Suu Kyi's safety

The spokesperson of opposition party National League for Democracy has spoken of his concern for imprisoned NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi's safety following news of a break-in by an American citizen at her compound. A man identified as United States citizen John William Yeattaw was caught swimming away from Aung San Suu Kyi's compound across Inya Lake on Sunday evening and arrested. He had allegedly spent two nights in the compound. Nyan Win, spokesperson for the NLD, claimed government security forces were defenseless when it came to protecting her compound. ([8 May 2009 DVB](#))

7 May 2009

Inside Update

US Man Arrested for Entering Suu Kyi Home

An American man was arrested for allegedly swimming across a lake and sneaking into her lakeside home. The Myanmar Ahlin newspaper reported that authorities fished the man out of Rangoon's Inya Lake early Wednesday while he was returning from the visit to Suu Kyi's home. The report identified the man as John William Yeattaw but gave no details of his motives. It would be the first time anyone has sneaked into Suu Kyi's compound or swam across the lake in an attempt to get there. More than 20 police entered Suu Kyi's compound Thursday morning, according to neighbors. The American man had confessed to swimming across the lake Sunday evening, sneaking into Suu Kyi's residence and then swimming back late Tuesday before being spotted by police and arrested early Wednesday. "He secretly entered the house and stayed there," the newspaper reported, saying that he swam with an empty 5-liter plastic water jug, presumably to use as a float. "Further investigation is under way to find out his motive

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for secretly entering the restricted area." Police confiscated the man's belongings, which included a US passport, a black backpack, a pair of pliers, a camera and two US 100 dollar bills, the newspaper reported. Myanmar. ([7 May 2009 Irrawaddy.](#))

International Update

Regime Ignores Own Laws to Hold Suu Kyi: Rights Groups

Burma's ruling regime is breaking its own laws and ignoring world opinion by continuing to detain opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, say members of her party and human rights groups. On Friday, Hla Myo Myint, one of the lawyers representing Suu Kyi, traveled to the junta's capital of Naypyidaw to receive a letter rejecting an appeal for her release, according to sources from her party, the National League for Democracy (NLD). ([7 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#))

6 May 2009

International Update

EU-Japan Calls for Progressive Changes in Burma

Leaders of the European Union (EU) and Japan called for an inclusive political process in Burma and the release of political prisoners ahead of the 2010 election, during the EU-Japan Summit in Prague on Monday. According to a joint press statement from the summit, leaders of the EU and Japan pointed out that the elections in 2010 "could be welcomed by the international community if they were based on an inclusive dialogue among all stakeholders in Myanmar [Burma]." ([6 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#) , [5 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

5 May 2009

Inside Update

Suu Kyi's appeal rejected

An appeal submitted last month for the release of imprisoned opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, sent by her lawyer to the Burmese government, has been rejected. The appeal submitted on 28 April followed an initial appeal on 9 October last year which went unacknowledged by the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). Following the latest appeal, however, lawyer Kyi Win was notified via letter that the appeal had been rejected. "When it comes to the rejection [of the appeal], we had already guessed that it was likely to be so," said Kyi Win. "We can't hope that they will now accept Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's appeal and say that it is right." ([5 May 2009 DVB](#) , [6 May 2009 Irrawaddy](#) , [5 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

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Key International Developments

A lot of the key international developments this month are regarding Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's trial. They have been included in the Daw Aung San Suu Kyi section above.

29 May 2009

Italy backs \$5 million food aid package to Burma

The families of fishermen affected by Burma's cyclone Nargis last year will be the recipients of a multi-million dollar food aid programme organized by the Italian government and the United Nations. The programme will target 32,000 fishing and farming families in the Irrawaddy delta area where the cyclone struck last May, killing 140,000 people. The Italian government has sponsored the initiative, which is being managed by the UN's Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO). "The 32,000 families would join the 112,000 households whom FAO helped between June 2008 and May 2009, as part of its \$US17 million cyclone Nargis assistance project, and hundreds of thousands of other families in various parts of [Burma] that FAO is working with and has worked with during its 30 years in this country," said Shin Imao, FAO's representative in Burma. ([29 May 2009 DVB](#))

26 May 2009

Over 650,000 petition signatures for Burma's political prisoners

At a press conference at the Foreign Correspondents Club in Bangkok activists from the 'Free Burma's Political Prisoners Now!' campaign said more than 650,000 people from more than 200 countries and territories have signed their petition since it was launched March 13. The petition calls on UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to 'make it his personal priority to secure the release of all political prisoners in Burma'. ([26 May 2009 Sify](#))

22 May 2009

France wavers over full EU sanctions on Burma

France has voiced concerns that the proposed ramping-up of EU sanctions on Burma would hit French oil company Total and therefore a significant proportion of the Burmese population who depend on it for natural gas. Speaking to French parliament on Wednesday, Foreign Minister Benard Kouchner warned that imposing new sanctions on the regime could have far-reaching consequences. ([22 May 2009 DVB](#))

21 May 2009

EU discusses Burma with China

The European Union has talked to China about military ruled Burma, which was one of the regional issues in the bilateral summit held in Prague, capital of Czech Republic on Wednesday. Burma was among the many issues ranging from global challenges including the financial crisis, climate change, and international affairs which EU officials and Chinese representatives discussed for nearly two hours, according to a Joint Press communiqué of the 11th China-EU Summit released on May 20. ([21 May 2009 Mizzima](#))

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7 May 2009

British MPs are calling for a United Nations commission of inquiry into crimes against humanity in Burma

Over 60 British MPs are calling for a United Nations (UN) commission of inquiry into crimes against humanity in Burma, just two weeks before Nobel Laureate and democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is due for release from house arrest. Former Foreign Office Ministers, Ian McCartney, MP and Keith Vaz, MP join over fifty other MPs in signing an Early Day Motion (EDM) tabled by John Bercow MP, Co-Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Democracy in Burma, to express their profound concern at the deteriorating human rights situation in Burma. ([7 May 2009 Christian Solidarity Worldwide](#))

6 May 2009

Lawyers accuse junta of war crimes

An exiled Burmese lawyers group recently ruled illegal by the Burmese government have said that the extent and severity of crimes committed by the junta warrant accusations of war crimes and genocide. A conference yesterday convened by Thailand-based Burma Lawyers' Council (BLC) and umbrella organisation, Human Rights for All (FIDH), discussed the government's indifference to international pressure on human rights violations. "There are crimes committed in Burma including war crimes, genocide and massacre that are untouchable by the courts inside the country due to a breakdown of judicial system," said Thein Oo, chairman of BLC. The judicial system in Burma is under the direct jurisdiction of the ruling State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), and lawyers representing activists and opposition members are regularly intimidated. ([6 May 2009 DVB](#))

1 May 2009

Exiled lawyers group declared illegal

The Burmese lawyer Group which recently called for an end to the Unlawful Association Act under which many dissidents have been sentenced were declared an illegal organization by the Burmese government. The Thailand-based Burma Lawyers' Council last month called for the abolishment of the Unlawful Association Act, citing the malleability under which the government uses it to sentence opposition members, journalists and activists. But a statement in the New Light of Myanmar newspaper today said that the BLC had been declared unlawful. "The Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council believes and assumes that the objectives and acts of the Burma Lawyers' Council and its members, and related organizations and persons are hurtful to the rule of law in the Union of Myanmar, stability of the State and community peace," it said. U Myo, a legal analyst with BLC, said the law was being used beyond its remit. "The SPDC is also jailing people [under the Act] from groups that are not listed as unlawful associations, such as [opposition party] National League for Democracy," he said. "That is highly inappropriate under legal terms." ([1 May 2009 DVB](#))

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1 May 2009

Myanmar should release aid workers: rights groups

Human rights groups on Friday urged Myanmar's government to release more than 20 aid workers they said were imprisoned for making donations to cyclone victims and insulting authorities a year ago. New York-based Human Rights Watch said the ruling junta had unfairly jailed at least 21 volunteers, including locally well-known comedian Zarganar, for helping some of the 2.4 million people affected by Cyclone Nargis, which hit May 2-3 last year. "Donors and friends of the military government, such as China, should press Burma's generals to free activists like Zarganar who helped the survivors," said the organisation's deputy Asia director Elaine Pearson, using the country's former name. The Thailand-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners called on regional bloc the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the United Nations to pressure the regime to release the volunteers. "Their punishment is completely unacceptable. Their 'crimes' were to help people and tell the truth about the situation," said the group's secretary Tate Naing. Myanmar's junta was heavily criticised in the aftermath of the cyclone last year for the slow pace at which it organised aid to the worst-hit Irrawaddy delta region and for not allowing international relief agencies access. ([01 May 2009 AFP](#)) ([01 May 2009 AAPPB Statement](#))

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