

BURMA BULLETIN

XXXXXXXX A month-in-review of events in Burma XXXXXXXX

ALTERNATIVE ASEAN NETWORK ON BURMA
campaigns, advocacy & capacity-building for human rights & democracy

Issue 31

July 2009

- The SPDC's trial of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi continues. Facing intense international pressure and fearing a new wave of anti-junta street protests, the regime postpones the verdict to 11 August.
- SPDC uses UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-Moon's visit to Burma as a public relations ploy. SPDC Chairman denies Ban's request to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
- ASEAN FM meeting in Phuket issues statement calling on the SPDC to release all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Meanwhile, the regime jails 87-year old NLD elected MP Kyaw Khaing.
- Newly established ASEAN human rights body fails to provide protection and enforcement mechanisms.
- US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton expresses concern over possible nuclear ties between the North Korean and Burmese regimes at the ARF.
- US President Barack Obama extends economic sanctions on the SPDC.
- Two-hundred more Karen refugees flee to Thailand, seeking protection from DKBA abuses.
- Kachin Independence Organization delegates fail to reach agreement with SPDC on transforming KIA into border guard force. In response, the regime sends reinforcements and more armaments to its military forces in Kachin State.
- Rohingya flee SPDC harassment and oppression in Arakan State, only to face violence and expulsion from Bangladesh.
- For the first time, Malaysian authorities confirm that government officials were involved in the exploitation of Burmese migrants at its border.
- SPDC obstructs aid to the survivors of Chin famine, Kachin landslides, and cyclone Nargis.

Altsean-Burma extends condolences and solidarity to the peoples of the Philippines on the passing of President Corazon Aquino, a prominent supporter of democracy in Burma.

IN THIS ISSUE

KEY STORY

- 2 Daw Aung San Suu Kyi trial
- 2 Timeline
- 3 More awards and honors

INSIDE BURMA

- 4 Martyrs' Day
- 4 SPDC hampers aid
- 5 2010 election loans
- 5 Kachin resist SPDC's demand
- 5 Desertions
- 6 Drugs seized

HUMAN RIGHTS

- 6 SPDC announces amnesty
- 6 Arrests and imprisonment
- 6 Detention conditions

DISPLACEMENT

- 6 Karen still not safe
- 7 Bangladesh abuses Rohingya
- 7 Malaysia admits trafficking
- 8 Migrants' "passports"

INTERNATIONAL

- 8 SPDC rebuffs Ban Ki-moon
- 9 SPDC feels ASEAN heat
- 10 ASEAN sputters on HR
- 10 SPDC-NK ties alarm US
- 10 US' carrot and stick

ECONOMY

- 11 China dominates investment
- 11 Fueling the SPDC
- 11 Sharing Burma's risk

11 OTHER BURMA NEWS

12 REPORTS

Receive the Burma Bulletin monthly!
email publications@altsean.org
Online copies are available for
download at www.altsean.org

KEY STORY

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi trial

The SPDC's trial of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi continued throughout July. On 28 July, the court in Insein prison announced it would deliver the verdict on 31 July.¹ However, facing intense international pressure and fearing a new wave of anti-junta street protests, the regime postponed the verdict to 11 August.²

Timeline

- 3 Jul** The court in Insein prison adjourned the trial to 10 July for the testimony of defense witness Khin Moe Moe.³
- 5 Jul** State-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar reported that SPDC Chairman Sr Gen Than Shwe denied the UN Secretary-General's request for a meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi because "the case is being heard freely and fairly."⁴
- 8 Jul** Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with her defense team in Insein prison to discuss closing arguments.⁵
- 10 Jul** The court in Insein prison heard the testimony of defense witness Khin Moe Moe. During three and a half hours of cross-examination, Khin Moe Moe argued that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was innocent because the SPDC charged her under the 1974 constitution, which the military regime had abolished in 1988. At the end of the hearing, Khin Moe Moe told reporters that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi looked "healthy and alert." The court adjourned the trial to 24 July to hear closing arguments.⁶
- 17 Jul** Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met her lawyers in Insein prison to discuss closing arguments.⁷
- 22 Jul** SPDC authorities prevented Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from meeting her legal team.⁸
- 23 Jul** Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met her lawyers in Insein prison to finalize closing arguments.⁹
- 24 Jul** Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's lawyer Kyi Win presented closing arguments.¹⁰ Kyi Win argued that she was innocent because the SPDC charged her under the 1974 constitution which the military regime had abolished in 1988.¹¹ The SPDC allowed diplomats from the embassies of US, UK, France, Germany, Italy, and Norway to attend the hearing.¹² "She [Daw Aung San Suu Kyi] was well and in good spirits," said a diplomat.¹³

¹ AP (28 Jul 09) Suu Kyi Verdict Set for Friday; AP (28 Jul 09) Aung San Suu Kyi verdict on July 31; AP (28 Jul 09) Aung San Suu Kyi verdict set for Friday in Myanmar; BBC (28 Jul 09) Suu Kyi verdict 'set for Friday'; AFP (28 Jul 09) Suu Kyi verdict set for Friday in Myanmar; Fox News (28 Jul 09) Suu Kyi Verdict Set for Friday in Burma; NYT (28 Jul 09) Myanmar Dissident Verdict on Friday; Bloomberg (28 Jul 09) Myanmar to Deliver Verdict in Suu Kyi Trial July 31, Party Says; IANS (28 Jul 09) Verdict in Aung San Suu Kyi case expected Friday; Mizzima News (28 Jul 09) Court verdict of Suu Kyi's trial on July 31

² Reuters (31 Jul 09) Myanmar court adjourns Suu Kyi verdict: sources; VOA (31 Jul 09) Verdict for Aung San Suu Kyi Delayed Until August 11; Guardian (31 Jul 09) Aung San Suu Kyi trial verdict delayed; Bloomberg (31 Jul 09) Myanmar Court Postpones Suu Kyi's Verdict to Aug. 11; Al Jazeera (31 Jul 09) Myanmar's conundrum over Suu Kyi

³ Mizzima News (03 Jul 09) Aung San Suu Kyi's trial postponed to July 10; DVB (03 Jul 09) Suu Kyi trial postponed as UN chief arrives in Burma

⁴ AP (09 Jul 09) Gloom in Yangon as Aung San Suu Kyi trial resumes

⁵ DPA (08 Jul 09) Aung San Suu Kyi ready for resumption of her trial, lawyer says; Mizzima News (09 Jul 09) Aung San Suu Kyi meets legal team refuses comment on Ban visit; Irrawaddy (09 Jul 09) Suu Kyi denied access to news

⁶ AP (10 Jul 09) Defence witness testifies Nobel laureate Suu Kyi violated no law in her trial in Myanmar; AP (11 Jul 09) Last witness testifies in Suu Kyi trial in Myanmar; AP (12 Jul 09) Suu Kyi is being charged under abolished constitution; BBC (10 Jul 09) Burma trial hears defence witness; CNN (10 Jul 09) Suu Kyi trial nears end in Myanmar; UPI (13 Jul 09) End in sight of Suu Kyi trial; DVB (10 Jul 09) Suu Kyi instructs witness to 'answer straight'; Irrawaddy (10 Jul 09) Suu Kyi's Long Friday; Mizzima News (10 Jul 09) Misinformation circulated on Suu Kyi's trial WSJ (14 Jul 09) Suu Kyi trial in Myanmar could be nearing an end

⁷ DPA (17 Jul 09) Case is "totally unfair," says Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi; Mizzima News (17 Jul 09) Aung San Suu Kyi meets lawyers to discuss final stages of trial

⁸ AP (22 Jul 09) Myanmar authorities forbid Suu Kyi's lawyers from meeting her; Al Jazeera (22 Jul 09) Suu Kyi lawyers barred from visit; Irrawaddy (22 Jul 09) Lawyers Denied Access to Suu Kyi; DVB (22 Jul 09) Suu Kyi denied final meeting with lawyers

⁹ AP (23 Jul 09) Myanmar grants lawyers access to Aung San Suu Kyi; Irrawaddy (23 Jul 09) Lawyers Finally Allowed to Visit Suu Kyi; Mizzima News (23 Jul 09) Aung San Suu Kyi meets lawyers to oversee final argument

¹⁰ BBC (24 Jul 09) Burma trial reaches final stages; AFP (25 Jul 09) Myanmar defiant as Suu Kyi trial enters final stage; CNN (24 Jul 09) Suu Kyi faces Myanmar trial verdict; VOA (24 Jul 09) Closing Arguments Set in Trial of Aung San Suu Kyi; Washington Post (25 Jul 09) Defense Begins Final Arguments in Trial of Suu Kyi; NYT (24 Jul 09) Myanmar Dissident's Trial Nears End; AFP (24 Jul 09) Suu Kyi lawyers give final arguments

¹¹ Mizzima News (24 Jul 09) Aung San Suu Kyi's lawyers present arguments in conclusion

¹² AFP (24 Jul 09) Suu Kyi lawyers give final arguments; AFP (25 Jul 09) Myanmar defiant as Suu Kyi trial enters final stage; AFP (25 Jul 09) Myanmar rejects criticism at end of Suu Kyi trial; DPA (24 Jul 09) Trial of Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi set to end; AP (24 Jul 09) Trial of Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi to continue; AP (24 Jul 09) Aung San Suu Kyi's Trial Adjourned to Monday; DVB (24 Jul 09) Suu Kyi trial to resume Monday

¹³ AP (24 Jul 09) Trial of Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi to continue; AP (24 Jul 09) Aung San Suu Kyi's Trial Adjourned to Monday

State-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar said that demanding the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shows “reckless disregard for the law. [...] The court will hand down a reasonable term to her if she is found guilty,” it said.¹⁴ “Daw Suu Kyi [...] is not a political prisoner, but a person who is on trial for breaching an existing law.”¹⁵

27 Jul Lawyers for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s two female aides and John Yettaw presented their closing arguments.¹⁶ The prosecution also gave its closing arguments.¹⁷ The prosecution lawyer said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi violated her detention law under the 1974 constitution by allowing John Yettaw into her house.¹⁸ Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s legal team petitioned the court to allow the testimony of a third defense witness, the SPDC’s former Ambassador to the UN Nyunt Maung Shein. The defense argued that the SPDC could not try Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for allegedly breaking her detention order because she was never officially under detention. Indeed, Nyunt Maung Shein had stated on various occasions at the UN that the SPDC had kept Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at her Rangoon home “for her own safety.”¹⁹ The SPDC allowed diplomats from the embassies of US, Japan, Singapore, Australia, Malaysia, and the Philippines to attend the morning hearing.²⁰

28 Jul The court rejected the petition of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s defense team to hear the testimony of the SPDC’s former Ambassador to the UN Nyunt Maung Shein.²¹ Lawyers for Daw Aung Suu Kyi and her three co-defendants replied to closing arguments presented by prosecutor Myint Kyaing the previous day. The court announced it would deliver the verdict on 31 July.²² The SPDC allowed diplomats from Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and the US to attend the hearing.²³ After the hearing, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi thanked the diplomats “for trying to promote a just outcome.”²⁴ Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told her lawyer Nyan Win that she was “prepared for the worst.”²⁵ “I’m afraid the verdict will be painfully obvious,” she added.²⁶

31 July The court postponed the verdict to 11 August. “The judge said he was adjourning the trial because of the need to interpret legal terms relating to the 1974 constitution,” said a diplomat who had attended the proceedings.²⁷

More awards and honors

As the SPDC continues to prosecute Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, prestigious international institutions bestowed awards on the pro-democracy icon.

- **7 July:** University of Ulster awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.²⁸

¹⁴ BBC (24 Jul 09) Burma trial reaches final stages; DPA (24 Jul 09) Trial of Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi set to end; AFP (24 Jul 09) Suu Kyi lawyers give final arguments; AFP (25 Jul 09) Myanmar defiant as Suu Kyi trial enters final stage; AFP (25 Jul 09) Myanmar rejects criticism at end of Suu Kyi trial; WSJ (24 Jul 09) Suu Kyi Trial Reaches Final Stage

¹⁵ NYT (24 Jul 09) Myanmar Dissident’s Trial Nears End

¹⁶ AP (27 Jul 09) Suu Kyi trial enters final phase in Myanmar; Reuters (27 Jul 09) Myanmar court hears final arguments in Suu Kyi case; BBC (27 Jul 09) Burma trial hears final arguments; AP (27 Jul 09) Myanmar’s Suu Kyi Trial Nears End; AFP (27 Jul 09) Prosecutors give final arguments in Suu Kyi trial; AFP (27 Jul 09) Burma hears final arguments in Suu Kyi case; DPA (27 Jul 09) Prison court extends Aung San Suu Kyi case by a day; DPA (27 Jul 09) Lawyers to wind up arguments in Aung San Suu Kyi case

¹⁷ AP (27 Jul 09) Myanmar’s Suu Kyi Trial Nears End; BBC (27 Jul 09) Burma trial hears final arguments; AFP (27 Jul 09) Prosecutors give final arguments in Suu Kyi trial; DPA (27 Jul 09) Lawyers to wind up arguments in Aung San Suu Kyi case; DPA (27 Jul 09) Prison court extends Aung San Suu Kyi case by a day

¹⁸ Mizzima News (27 Jul 09) Final hearing of Suu Kyi’s trial to continue on Tuesday

¹⁹ AP (27 Jul 09) Suu Kyi trial enters final phase in Myanmar; Reuters (28 Jul 09) Lawyer Gets Last Chance to Argue Suu Kyi Innocence; AFP (27 Jul 09) Prosecutors give final arguments in Suu Kyi trial; BBC (27 Jul 09) Burma trial hears final arguments; DPA (27 Jul 09) Prison court extends Aung San Suu Kyi case by a day

²⁰ AP (27 Jul 09) Suu Kyi trial enters final phase in Myanmar; AP (27 Jul 09) Myanmar’s Suu Kyi Trial Nears End; BBC (27 Jul 09) Burma trial hears final arguments; AFP (27 Jul 09) Prosecutors give final arguments in Suu Kyi trial; AFP (27 Jul 09) Burma hears final arguments in Suu Kyi case; Guardian (27 Jul 09) Aung San Suu Kyi ‘preparing for worst’ as trial nears end

²¹ DVB (28 Jul 09) Suu Kyi trial ends with verdict due Friday; Irrawaddy (28 Jul 09) Suu Kyi Insists Her Trial Will Test Rule of Law in Burma

²² AP (28 Jul 09) Suu Kyi Verdict Set for Friday; AP (28 Jul 09) Aung San Suu Kyi verdict on July 31; BBC (28 Jul 09) Suu Kyi verdict ‘set for Friday’; AFP (28 Jul 09) Suu Kyi verdict set for Friday in Myanmar; NYT (28 Jul 09) Myanmar Dissident Verdict on Friday; Bloomberg (28 Jul 09) Myanmar to Deliver Verdict in Suu Kyi Trial July 31, Party Says

²³ AP (28 Jul 09) Suu Kyi Verdict Set for Friday; BBC (28 Jul 09) Suu Kyi verdict ‘set for Friday’; AFP (28 Jul 09) Suu Kyi verdict set for Friday in Myanmar; AP (28 Jul 09) Aung San Suu Kyi verdict on July 31

²⁴ NYT (28 Jul 09) Myanmar Dissident Verdict on Friday

²⁵ Mizzima News (28 Jul 09) “Prepared for the Worse” Suu Kyi told her lawyer

²⁶ AP (29 Jul 09) Diplomats Say Suu Kyi Expects ‘Guilty’ Verdict; ANI (29 Jul 09) Suu Kyi expects painfully obvious verdict; Times (29 Jul 09) Prison looms for Aung San Suu Kyi as Burma show trial draws to a close

²⁷ Reuters (31 Jul 09) Myanmar court adjourns Suu Kyi verdict: sources; VOA (31 Jul 09) Verdict for Aung San Suu Kyi Delayed Until August 11; Bloomberg (31 Jul 09) Myanmar Court Postpones Suu Kyi’s Verdict to Aug. 11; Al Jazeera (31 Jul 09) Myanmar’s conundrum over Suu Kyi

²⁸ BBC (07 Jul 09) Honorary degree for Burma laureate

- **20 July:** The Durban-based Gandhi Development Trust awards Daw Aung San Suu Kyi the 2009 Mahatma Gandhi International Award for Peace and Reconciliation.²⁹
- **27 July:** Amnesty International awarded the Ambassador of Conscience Award to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.³⁰

INSIDE BURMA

Martyrs' Day

On 19 July, the NLD held a Martyrs' Day ceremony at its Rangoon headquarters. Hundreds of party members, activists, and foreign diplomats attended the event. SPDC, authorities, USDA members, and Swan Arr Shin thugs closely monitored the function.³¹

SPDC authorities in Rangoon briefly detained 21 pro-democracy activists who were marching to the Martyrs' Mausoleum to commemorate Martyrs' Day.³² SPDC authorities in Thingangyun Township harassed monks from the Laydaunkan monastery for accepting food donations given by NLD members to mark Martyrs' Day and threatened to close down the monastery.³³

SPDC's restrictions on the NLD activities spoiled Martyrs' Day commemoration ceremonies in Mandalay, Meikhtila, and Yenanchaung.³⁴

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi marked the anniversary of Martyrs' Day by donating food to patients at Insein prison's hospital.³⁵

SPDC hampers aid

The SPDC's ongoing restrictions on aid and the failure to provide adequate relief to its own people continued to have a negative impact in the Irrawaddy delta and beyond.

The SPDC continued to impede post-Nargis reconstruction in Burma by holding up visas for foreign aid workers.³⁶ In July, there were over 200 visa applications pending with the SPDC's Foreign Affairs Policy Committee.³⁷ Cyclone Nargis survivors voiced their concern that the lack of visas will lead to the departure of foreign aid workers from the Irrawaddy delta before projects were completed, exposing them to greater food insecurity and risk.³⁸

In early July, the Chin State Peace and Development Council Chairman Col Hung Ngai banned all local SPDC officials from receiving foreign assistance, despite the continued famine. The order stated that those who receive foreign aid will be suspected of opposing the junta.³⁹ "We are totally dependent on foreign aid. We cannot understand the current order, which has been issued," said a local resident from Chin State's Falam Township.⁴⁰

On 4 July, heavy monsoon rains triggered landslides that swept away a jade miners' settlement in Phakant, Kachin State, killing over 30 people and leaving over 1,300 left homeless. Many sought

²⁹ AFP (20 Jul 09) Gandhi trust awards Aung San Suu Kyi peace prize; DPA (21 Jul 09) Myanmar opposition leader Suu Kyi awarded Gandhi peace prize; Irrawaddy (21 Jul 09) Suu Kyi Awarded Gandhi Prize; PTI (21 Jul 09) Mahatma Gandhi Peace award conferred on Suu Kyi; IANS (21 Jul 09) Gandhian award in South Africa for Aung San Suu Kyi

³⁰ AP (27 Jul 09) Amnesty gives top honour to detained Myanmar democracy leader; AFP (27 Jul 09) Suu Kyi to get Amnesty honour; Mizzima News (27 Jul 09) "Ambassador of Conscience" award, 2009 for Aung San Suu Kyi

³¹ Irrawaddy (19 Jul 09) Junta Arrests 50 People on Martyrs Day; Mizzima News (19 Jul 09) Martyr's Day in Burma observed in silence

³² DPA (19 Jul 09) Myanmar junta detains Martyr's Day marchers; CNN (20 Jul 09) Opposition members arrested in Myanmar; DVB (22 Jul 09) Monks harassed by authorities

³³ DVB (22 Jul 09) Monks harassed by authorities

³⁴ Irrawaddy (18 Jul 09) NLD to Mark Martyrs' Day, Despite Restrictions

³⁵ AP (19 Jul 09) Myanmar detains dozens of opposition members

³⁶ DVB (03 Jul 09) Aid workers still being denied Burma visas

³⁷ Irrawaddy (03 Jul 09) INGOs Kept Waiting for Visas; Irrawaddy (21 Jul 09) Visa Backlog Holds Up Irrawaddy Delta Relief Work

³⁸ Irrawaddy (22 Jul 09) As Foreign Aid Workers Leave, Food Security Concerns Grow

³⁹ Khonumthung News (30 Jul 09) Chairman of Chin State bars foreign aid

⁴⁰ Khonumthung News (30 Jul 09) Chairman of Chin State bars foreign aid

shelter in monasteries and schools.⁴¹ SPDC authorities failed to provide any immediate relief to affected communities and State-run media remained silent about the disaster for five days.⁴² Local and international relief organizations provided needed aid to areas where the SPDC failed to mobilize support for survivors.⁴³

2010 election loans

In July it was reported that the Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank offered farmers in Mon State loans. Considering the SPDC-run bank had never offered local farmers assistance in the past, residents believed the move was designed to garner support for the SPDC ahead of the 2010 election.⁴⁴ Loans would be subject to interest rates of 3% per month and could be collected at the village headman's house instead of traveling to banks in larger towns.⁴⁵

In a further attempt to gain public popularity, the SPDC instructed 25 top Burmese companies with close ties to the SPDC to disburse agricultural loans to farmers in Irrawaddy and Pegu Divisions. The business cronies, many of whom are blacklisted by the US and EU, were instructed to provide agricultural loans of 50,000 to 100,000 kyat [approximately US\$50-100] per acre at an interest rate of 2% per month to local rice farmers.⁴⁶

Kachin resist border guard force demand

On 8-11 July, Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) delegates and the SPDC Army Northern Command Commander Maj Gen Soe Win met in Myitkyina, Kachin State, but failed to reach agreement on integrating the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) into the proposed border guard force (BGF) scheme.⁴⁷ The KIO presented Maj Gen Soe Win with an alternate proposal to transform its armed-wing into a Kachin Regional Guard Force preserving the KIA's current size and chain of command.⁴⁸ During the three days of negotiations, the KIO called for increased autonomy in Kachin State and demanded "direct involvement" in the State's executive, legislative, and judicial powers after the 2010 election.⁴⁹

As tensions increased over the transformation of ethnic ceasefire armies into BGFs, the SPDC sent reinforcements and more armaments to its military forces in Kachin State. On 17 July, over 100 SPDC Army soldiers were seen off-loading military equipment from a ship in Bhamo.⁵⁰ These new troop movements followed reports of SPDC military weapons and ammunition being transported into Putao District.⁵¹

Desertions

Desertions continued to plague the SPDC Army and its allied armed ethnic groups.

- **15 July:** It was reported that 12 SPDC Army soldiers from Infantry Battalion 32 deserted and fled to Thailand.⁵²

⁴¹ Reuters (08 Jul 09) Landslide caused by rain kills 30 in Myanmar; Reuters (14 Jul 09) Myanmar "Jade Land" mudslide uproots 1300; Kachin News Group (06 Jul 09) Floods in Hpakant jade land, hundreds suffer, Kachin News Group (09 Jul 09) Jade tycoons distribute food, water to flood victims. NOTE: wires services reported a death toll of 30, while the Kachin News Group quoted local officials' figures of "over 100" on Jul 9.

⁴² AP (10 Jul 09) 24 miners killed in Myanmar by landslide; Kachin News Group (06 Jul 09) Floods in Hpakant jade land, hundreds suffer

⁴³ Kachin News Group (09 Jul 09) Jade tycoons distribute food, water to flood victims; MSF (14 Jul 09) Myanmar: In Kachin State, MSF Provides Assistance After Landslides, Floods; Kachin News Group (15 Jul 09) Hpakant flood affected areas in desperate need of aid; DVB (15 Jul 09) UN providing aid for landslide victims

⁴⁴ IMNA (08 Jul 09) Loans offered to farmers through village headmen with mixed reviews

⁴⁵ IMNA (08 Jul 09) Loans offered to farmers through village headmen with mixed reviews

⁴⁶ Mizzima News (22 Jul 09) Tycoons close to junta to disburse agri loans

⁴⁷ Kachin News Group (10 Jul 09) Northern Commander Meets Kachin Church Leaders On Transformation Issue

⁴⁸ Kachin News Group (13 Jul 09) KIA wants to change to Kachin Regional Guard Force; Mizzima News (14 Jul 09) KIO wants armed wing to become KRGF

⁴⁹ Irrawaddy (16 Jul 09) Kachin Reject Border Guard Force Second Time

⁵⁰ Mizzima News (20 Jul 09) Junta beefs up military presence in Kachin State

⁵¹ Kachin News Group (20 Jul 09) Junta transports armaments to Puta-O district

⁵² Kaowao News (15 Jul 09) Burmese Army officer and soldiers desert, flee to Thailand

- **Second week of July:** Two SPDC Army soldiers and 67 DKBA and Karen Peace Force (KPF) soldiers defected to the Karen National Union's Brigade 6.⁵³

Drugs destined for Thailand seized

On 10 July, an SPDC anti-narcotics squad in Tachilek, Shan State, seized 950 kilos of high-grade heroin and 340,000 methamphetamine tablets in a truck attempting to cross into Thailand's Mae Sai District.⁵⁴ The drugs had an estimated street value of around US\$7.5 million.⁵⁵ On 13 July, a police source said that 156,000 amphetamines tablets were found in a football field in Tachilek.⁵⁶

HUMAN RIGHTS

SPDC announces amnesty

On 13 July, the SPDC Ambassador to the UN Than Shwe said the junta planned to grant amnesty to prisoners to enable them to take part in the 2010 elections. Than Shwe however did not say how many prisoners would be released, when they would be released, or whether those released would include key political prisoners.⁵⁷ On 14 July, the NLD said it was skeptical the SPDC would release political prisoners and recounted that the regime had freed very few political prisoners in previous amnesties.⁵⁸

Arrests and imprisonment

- **13 July:** A court in Taunggoat, Arakan State, sentenced 87-year-old NLD elected MP Kyaw Khaing to two years in prison for defamation.⁵⁹
- **19 July:** SPDC authorities in Rangoon briefly detained 21 pro-democracy activists who were marching to the Martyrs' Mausoleum to commemorate Martyrs' Day.⁶⁰

Detention conditions

- The health of political prisoners Moe Nay Soe and Ni Ni May Myint deteriorated due to harsh prison conditions and lack of proper medical treatment in Buthidaung prison, Arakan State.⁶¹
- Shan Nationalities League for Democracy leader Khun Htun Oo, 66, suffers swelling in the legs due to inadequate exercise and medical treatment in Putao prison, Kachin State.⁶²

DISPLACEMENT

Karen still not safe

On 1 July, it was reported that Thai authorities planned to relocate about 3,000 recently arrived Karen refugees living in the Tha Song Yang makeshift camp in Tak Province to Thinukhok makeshift camp.⁶³ However, following Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) threats, Thai authorities abandoned this plan due to the camp's proximity to the border and concerns for the safety of the refugees.⁶⁴

⁵³ DVB (15 Jul 09) Burmese army troops defect to Karen group

⁵⁴ Bangkok Post (15 Jul 09) One tonne of heroin seized in Tachilek

⁵⁵ DVB (13 Jul 09) Drugs worth \$7.5 million seized on Thai-Burma border

⁵⁶ Irrawaddy (20 Jul 09) More drugs seized in Tachileik

⁵⁷ Reuters (13 Jul 09) Myanmar says to amnesty prisoners before elections; Xinhua (13 Jul 09) Myanmar voices commitment to continue cooperation with UN

⁵⁸ AFP (13 Jul 09) Suu Kyi's Party Skeptical On Myanmar Amnesty Claim

⁵⁹ AP (14 Jul 09) Pro-democracy politician sentenced in Myanmar; DVB (14 Jul 09) 87-year-old opposition member imprisoned

⁶⁰ DPA (19 Jul 09) Myanmar junta detains Martyr's Day marchers; CNN (20 Jul 09) Opposition members arrested in Myanmar; DVB (22 Jul 09) Monks harassed by authorities

⁶¹ Narinjara News (02 Jul 09) Health of Political Prisoners Deteriorating in Buthidaung

⁶² SHAN (10 Jul 09) Detained ethnic party leader suffering from leg swelling

⁶³ Mizzima News (01 Jul 09) Karen refugees to be shifted to another camp

⁶⁴ Irrawaddy (01 Jul 09) Mae La Refugees Fear DKBA Attack; Mizzima News (02 Jul 09) Camp plan abandoned, fear of attacks forces rethink

On 24 July, the Thailand Burma Border Consortium reported a new wave of Karen fleeing into Thailand, with about 200 Karen arrived at Tha Song Yang. The new arrivals sought protection from DKBA abuses such as forced recruitment, forced labor as porters, and extortion of money, food, and livestock.⁶⁵

Bangladesh continues Rohingya abuse

Rohingya who attempted to flee SPDC harassment and oppression in Arakan State were denied entry to Bangladesh or deported after entering Bangladesh illegally. Since January, Bangladeshi authorities have forcibly returned over 900 Rohingya to Burma⁶⁶ and the push-back policy continued in July.

- **2-7 July:** Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel pushed back 49 Rohingya from Burma after entering Bangladesh illegally.⁶⁷
- **13 July:** BDR personnel handed over to Na Sa Ka forces 11 Rohingya detained after entering Bangladesh illegally.⁶⁸
- **14 July:** BDR personnel pushed back four Rohingya after entering Bangladesh illegally.⁶⁹
- **15 July:** BDR personnel pushed back 18 Rohingya after entering Bangladesh illegally.⁷⁰
- **16 July:** BDR personnel pushed back six Rohingya after entering Bangladesh illegally.⁷¹
- **19 July:** BDR personnel arrested six Rohingya for illegal entry, and hand them over to the police station in Teknaf, Cox's Bazaar.⁷²
- **22 July:** Bangladeshi police arrested 29 Rohingya and handed them over to the BDR who pushed them back to Burma.⁷³
- **24 July:** During the week of 20 July BDR forces pushed back 72 Rohingya to Burma.⁷⁴

Inside Bangladesh, Bangladeshi authorities continued to impose restrictions on Rohingya refugees and destroy their homes.

- **14 July:** Bangladeshi police and local officials destroyed 259 makeshift homes in Kutupalong camp near Cox's Bazaar.⁷⁵
- **25 July:** Bangladeshi authorities barred over 12,000 refugees Rohingya living in the Lada unofficial refugee settlement from working outside the camp. BDR forces said that since refugees received services from NGOs there was no need for them to seek employment.⁷⁶

Malaysia admits trafficking of Burmese migrants

On 1 July, eight Burmese detainees sustained injuries during a riot at the Semenyih Immigration camp in Southern Malaysia. The riot broke out after camp authorities beat 30 detainees who refused to board a truck for transfer to an unknown location. On 10 July, Malaysian immigration authorities moved 598 Burmese refugees from the camp to unknown locations.⁷⁷

On 17 July, Malaysian authorities arrested five government immigration officers and four other Malaysian nationals on charges of being part of a syndicate involved in selling Burmese migrants to human traffickers in Thailand.⁷⁸ For the first time, Malaysian authorities produced evidence that

⁶⁵ IMNA (24 July 09) DKBA ramps up civilian abuses and set sights on Brigade 6

⁶⁶ Kaladan News (10 Jul 09) Forty nine Burmese nationals pushed back in July

⁶⁷ Narinjara News (06 Jul 09) Push-Back of Muslims to Burma Continues; Kaladan News (10 Jul 09) Forty nine Burmese nationals pushed back in July

⁶⁸ Kaladan News (15 Jul 09) Smuggled goods seized, Burmese nationals pushed back by BDR

⁶⁹ Kaladan News (15 Jul 09) Smuggled goods seized, Burmese nationals pushed back by BDR

⁷⁰ Narinjara News (17 Jul 09) Burmese trying to enroll in Bangladeshi voters list arrested

⁷¹ Kaladan News (18 Jul 09) BDR pushes back five families to Burma

⁷² Kaladan News (20 Jul 09) Bangladesh to file case against illegal entry

⁷³ Kaladan News (24 July 09) BDR pushes back illegal Burmese nationals

⁷⁴ Kaladan News (24 July 09) BDR pushes back illegal Burmese nationals

⁷⁵ DVB (16 Jul 09) Bangladeshi police attack Rohingya camp

⁷⁶ Narinjara News (28 July 09) Bangladesh Bans Work Outside Refugee Camp; Kaladan News (28 July 09) Unregistered Rohingya refugees unsafe in Lada camp

⁷⁷ Irrawaddy (11 Jul 09) Burmese detainees in danger; Irrawaddy (02 Jul 09) Burmese injured in Malaysian camp riots

⁷⁸ AP (21 Jul 09) Malaysian officers held over Myanmar migrant sale; DVB (21 Jul 09) Malaysia arrests human trafficking officials

implicated government officials in the exploitation of Burmese migrants at its border. [See *April 2009 Burma Bulletin*] Federal Crimes Investigation chief Mohamad Bakri Zinin said that investigations showed that the officers brought Burmese migrants to Malaysia's border with Thailand and handed them to human traffickers in exchange for up to US\$170 each. The traffickers then took the migrants into Thailand and demanded US\$570 for their freedom or face being forced to work in the fishing industry.⁷⁹

Have passports, will work

On 15 July, SPDC officials opened three nationality verification centers at Tachilek, Shan State, Myawaddy, Karen State, and Kawthaung, Tenasserim Division, to provide up to 600 workers a day with “passport documents” [but not passports – See *June 2009 Burma Bulletin*].⁸⁰ Thai Labor Minister Paitoon Kaewthong said that after the nationality verification process is completed, Burmese workers would be eligible for a two-year work permit in Thailand.⁸¹ However, the SPDC excluded the Rohingya from these services which prevents them from obtaining legal work permits in Thailand.⁸²

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SPDC rebuffs UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon

*“The refusal of the senior leadership to allow me to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was not only a deep disappointment, but also a major lost opportunity for Myanmar.”*⁸³ UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon

Despite his best intentions to press the SPDC on key issues in Burma, UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon became another casualty in a long line of prominent international figures who fell prey to the SPDC’s propaganda.

In a highly scripted⁸⁴ two-day visit on 3-4 July, Ban met with SPDC Chairman Sr Gen Than Shwe on two occasions, as well as NLD representatives, the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD),⁸⁵ and various pro-junta political parties, seven ceasefire groups, and made a brief visit to the Irrawaddy delta to view the progress of relief efforts following the devastation of cyclone Nargis.⁸⁶

During the two meetings with Sr Gen Than Shwe, Ban requested that he be allowed to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Than Shwe refused both requests because Daw Suu was on trial. Ban’s meetings with political parties and ethnic ceasefire groups, only served as window dressing for state-run media to showcase the junta’s planned 2010 elections.⁸⁷

On 4 July, in a speech delivered in Rangoon, Ban urged the SPDC to release all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The UN Sec-Gen also demanded the SPDC allow Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to participate in genuine dialogue.⁸⁸

On 13 July, Ban briefed members of the UN Security Council on his visit. Ban told the council members he had conveyed to SPDC leaders what was expected of them. and that it was up to the regime to respond positively. Ban stressed the need for the immediate release of all political prisoners,

⁷⁹ AP (21 Jul 09) Malaysian officers held over Myanmar migrant sale; AFP (21 Jul 09) Trafficking syndicate: Malaysia busts officials; AP (27 July 09) Malaysian Official Accused of Selling Burmese Man

⁸⁰ TNA (10 Jul 09) Thailand and Myanmar cooperate to verify nationality of Myanmar workers

⁸¹ Bangkok Post (12 Jul 09) Major boost for officials tackling illegal labour; Irrawaddy (14 Jul 09) Application for Migrant Worker Documents Begins; IMNA (15 Jul 09) New Thai-Burmese passport issued, meets mix of hope and skepticism; Bangkok Post (12 Jul 09) Major boost for officials tackling illegal labour

⁸² TNA (10 Jul 09) Thailand and Myanmar cooperate to verify nationality of Myanmar workers; DVB (13 Jul 09) Rohingya excluded from Thai migrant worker permits

⁸³ UN News Center (13 Jul 09) Ban calls on Myanmar’s authorities to engage more closely with the UN

⁸⁴ DVB (07 Jul 09) DKBA meeting with UN chief ‘scripted’ by junta

⁸⁵ SHAN (04 Jul 09) Shan party meets UN chief, non-party activists might be released

⁸⁶ NLM (07 Jul 09) Senior General Than Shwe receives UNSG for two times

⁸⁷ NLM (07 Jul 09) Senior General Than Shwe receives UNSG for two times

⁸⁸ Mizzima News (05 Jul 09) Ban Ki-Moon’s remarks on Burma

particularly Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. He said the elections may not be regarded as legitimate or credible if Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is not released and the NLD is not allowed to campaign freely.⁸⁹

Security Council members reacted predictably:

- **China:** “We believe that the events happened inside Myanmar are the internal affairs of Myanmar itself, which should be handled by its own government and people in consultation.” - China's Deputy Ambassador Liu Zhenmin to the UN.⁹⁰
- **UK:** “The regime’s failure to take this opportunity has only served to isolate it further.” - Deputy Ambassador to the UN Philip Parham.⁹¹
- **US:** “Now is the time for Burma to match its words with deeds. - Alternate Representative for Special Political Affairs Rosemary A DiCarlo”⁹²
- **France:** “The current impasse is no reason for the international community to do nothing.” - Ambassador to the UN Jean-Maurice Ripert.⁹³
- **Vietnam:** “[...] We wish to reaffirm Vietnam’s continued support for the Secretary-General’s good will and other efforts conducive to the national reconciliation and democratization process in this country [Burma].” - Deputy Ambassador to the UN Bui The Giang,⁹⁴

In response to Ban’s briefing, the SPDC Ambassador to the UN Than Shwe reported to UN Security Council members on the SPDC’s latest promises and purported achievements:⁹⁵

- The SPDC was to “hand over State power to a civilian government after the 2010 general elections.”
- “[...] 2010 general elections will be free, fair, and credible and will arrange for participation of all citizens.”
- “[The SPDC] intends to implement all appropriate recommendations that [the] secretary-general had proposed.”
- “Myanmar today is steadfastly proceeding on its chosen path to democracy.”
- “[The SPDC is] making significant strides in national reconciliation and democratization process.”⁹⁶

SPDC feels the heat at ASEAN meetings

The SPDC was the center of attention in back-to-back meetings in Phuket, Thailand. The ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) convened first followed by the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). The SPDC’s continued trial of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi drew criticism towards the SPDC.

- **17 July:** Asif Ahmad, Southeast Asia head for the UK Foreign Office, said that the EU would impose tougher sanctions on the SPDC if Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was convicted.⁹⁷
- **20 July:**
 - The AMM issued a 12-page Joint Communiqué. The document urged the SPDC to hold “free, fair and inclusive elections in 2010” and reiterated ASEAN’s calls on SPDC “to immediately release all those under detention, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.”⁹⁸
 - Thai FM Kasit Piromya said that ASEAN cannot move forward until changes occur in Burma.⁹⁹
 - ASEAN Sec-Gen Surin Pitsuwan said that as long as Burma's political problems are not resolved, ASEAN will continue to have a burden on its lap to explain to the world.¹⁰⁰
- **21 July:** Indonesia’s FM Hassan Wirayuda said that the SPDC must release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi if its 2010 elections are to be credible.¹⁰¹

⁸⁹ UN News Center (13 Jul 09) Ban calls on Myanmar’s authorities to engage more closely with the UN

⁹⁰ Xinhua (14 Jul 09) China opposes putting Myanmar question on UN Security Council agenda: diplomat

⁹¹ Irrawaddy (14 Jul 09) US, Britain and France Doubt Credible Election; China Calls for Lifting Sanctions

⁹² Irrawaddy (14 Jul 09) US, Britain and France Doubt Credible Election; China Calls for Lifting Sanctions

⁹³ Irrawaddy (14 Jul 09) US, Britain and France Doubt Credible Election; China Calls for Lifting Sanctions

⁹⁴ VOV (15 Jul 09) VN backs UN chief’s role as mediator for Myanmar

⁹⁵ Xinhua (13 Jul 09) Myanmar voices commitment to continue cooperation with UN

⁹⁶ Xinhua (13 Jul 09) Myanmar voices commitment to continue cooperation with UN

⁹⁷ Irrawaddy (18 Jul 09) Burmese FM to Face Suu Kyi and North Korea Questions at ARF

⁹⁸ Mizzima News (21 Jul 09) ASEAN Foreign Ministers expect Burma to act responsively

⁹⁹ Bangkok Post (21 July 09) FM:Burma key to fate of Asean

¹⁰⁰ VOA (21 Jul 09) Indonesia says Burma must release democracy leader for elections to be credible

ASEAN sputters on human rights

On 20 July, ASEAN FMs endorsed the terms of reference for the ASEAN Inter-governmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).¹⁰² The new body cannot investigate alleged human rights violations or punish offending member states such as Burma, a weakness that prompted sharp criticism from activists and disappointment from Indonesia.¹⁰³ As established, the AICHR is a body that will only add a new dimension to ASEAN's usual "talk-shop" agenda. On 19 July, Thai FM Kasit admitted that compromises were made to ensure that Burma endorsed the rights body, but insisted it was still an important step forward for the regional organization. ASEAN Sec-Gen Surin Pitsuwan said endorsing the body would be a "good beginning."¹⁰⁴

SPDC - North Korea nuclear ties alarm US

On 22 July, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that the US was concerned about possible nuclear ties between the SPDC and North Korea.¹⁰⁵ On 24 July, evidence continued to surface regarding the SPDC's desire for a viable nuclear weapon and missile program when Japanese authorities served a second arrest warrant on Lee Kyoung Ho aka Ri Gyong Go, president of Toko Boeki Trading Company, on suspicion of illegally exporting to Burma a machine that can be used to develop missile control systems and centrifuge machines for uranium enrichment. Lee shipped the machine to Burma from Nagoya on 20 November 2008. He was first arrested on 29 June on suspicion of attempting to export to Burma a separate instrument that can be used to missile guidance systems.¹⁰⁶ [See Altsean-Burma's briefer, [Action Needed: Burmese Junta Threatens Comprehensive Regional Security](#)]

US' carrot and stick

On 22 July, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton appealed to the SPDC to release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, offering the prospect of direct US investment in Burma.¹⁰⁷ On the same day, a US delegation led by Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asia and the Pacific Scot Marciel held a bilateral meeting with SPDC officials led by FM Maj Gen Nyan Win. The US delegation clarified that if the SPDC released Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the US would be prepared to consider the prospect of direct US investment in Burma. A US official said Nyan Win had nothing to say except that they would take the messages back to senior SPDC leaders in Naypyidaw.¹⁰⁸

On 28 July, US President Barack Obama extended the 2003 Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act for one more year.¹⁰⁹ Following the extension, Congressman Joseph Crowley said, "We must show the military regime currently ruling with an iron fist in Burma that there are consequences for their actions."¹¹⁰ Congressman Kevin Brady noted that "these Burma sanctions are crafted to maximize their ability to effect change [in Burma]."¹¹¹

ECONOMY

China dominates investment

In July, SPDC Ministry of National Planning and Development released the statistical survey for the fiscal year 2008-09 (ending in March). The report disclosed that foreign investment in that period

¹⁰¹ VOA (21 Jul 09) Indonesia says Burma must release democracy leader for elections to be credible

¹⁰² Mizzima News (21 Jul 09) ASEAN Foreign Ministers expect Burma to act responsibly

¹⁰³ Jakarta Post (21 Jul 09) Indonesia criticizes military-ruled Myanmar; AFP (20 Jul 09) SE Asia defends 'toothless' rights watchdog

¹⁰⁴ AFP (20 Jul 09) SE Asia defends 'toothless' rights watchdog

¹⁰⁵ DVB (22 Jul 09) US concerned on Burma nuclear ambitions

¹⁰⁶ Zee News (24 Jul 09) Tokyo trader charged with selling sensitive machine to Myanmar

¹⁰⁷ Washington Post (23 Jul 09) U.S. Offers Burma Possible Benefits

¹⁰⁸ Irrawaddy (23 Jul 09) US and Burma Meet in Phuket

¹⁰⁹ AP (23 Jul 09) US Senate approves Myanmar resolution; AFP (29 Jul 09) US extends Myanmar sanctions

¹¹⁰ AFP (29 Jul 09) US extends Myanmar sanctions

¹¹¹ VOA (22 Jul 09) US House Approves Extension of Ban on Imports from Burma

increased five-fold, from US\$173 million the previous year to US\$985 million.¹¹² China's US\$850 million investments in the mining industry accounted for 86% of Burma's total foreign direct investment in that period.¹¹³

Fueling the SPDC

On 14 July, a consortium led by South Korea's Daewoo International announced plans to invest over US\$3 billion in gas production from the offshore Shwe Gas fields in Arakan State.¹¹⁴ The announcement followed last month's MoU with China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) for the sale of natural gas from the Shwe gas field's A-1 and A-3 blocks [See *June 2009 Burma Bulletin*].¹¹⁵

Sharing Burma's risk

Indian ONGC Videsh announced plans to take a stake in the nearly US\$2 billion CNPC gas pipeline project to transport natural gas from Burma's west coast into China's Yunnan Province [See *June 2009 Burma Bulletin*].¹¹⁶ Such a partnership would help CNPC diffuse the risk of the precarious pipeline project crossing Burma's volatile ethnic regions.

OTHER BURMA NEWS IN JULY

1	About 100 Burmese activists demonstrate in Tokyo and call on UN Sec Gen Ban Ki-moon to press the SPDC to free political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
4	Thai PM Abhisit Vejjajiva says that the international boycott of Burma does not impact the SPDC generals and that Thailand will explore further investment opportunities in the country.
4	US House of Representatives and Senate introduce identical resolutions calling for the renewal of sanctions on the SPDC under the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.
5	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi marks her 5,000th day under detention.
8	KNLA seizes a KPF military base at That Chal, Karen State.
9	G8 leaders say that the SPDC must implement an inclusive process of dialogue and national reconciliation that will lead to transparent, fair, and democratic multiparty elections.
10	SPDC PM Gen Thein Sein meets with visiting Chinese Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region delegation.
13	SPDC Vice Sr Gen Maung Aye begins a five-day visit to Shan State.
15	SSA-South troops ambush and kill 11 SPDC Army soldiers from Light Infantry Battalion 515 in Kehsi Township, Southern Shan State.
15	SPDC sacks Aung Than Naing, a local SPDC official in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, for allegedly providing information on extortion to foreign media.
16	The SPDC requires Chinese tourists entering Burma through land entry points to get prior approval from SPDC military authorities.
19	Na Sa Ka in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, detain a 25-year-old local villager for marrying without the proper authorization.
19	Na Sa Ka from Area 2 in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, shoot and kill a local Rohingya villager.
19	Thai PM Abhisit Vejjajiva says that sanctions will not solve problems in Burma and should not be applied.
20	Three Diseases Fund accepts grant proposals from healthcare organizations combating malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV in Burma.
21	Over a dozen Indian MPs demand that the SPDC immediately release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
23	ASEAN Sec-Gen calls on ASEAN members to contribute more funds to help with post-Nargis reconstruction in Burma.
23	Thai PM Abhisit Vejjajiva says that ASEAN won't consider expelling Burma over the detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
26	Na Sa Ka from Area 6 in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, detains a 22-year-old local Rohingya for seeking to marry without the authorities' permission.

¹¹² AP (16 Jul 09) Foreign investment in Myanmar soars

¹¹³ DPA (14 Jul 09) China ranks as Myanmar's top investor in fiscal 2008-09; Irrawaddy (20 Mar 09) China Invests Heavily in Burma's Mining Operations

¹¹⁴ Mizzima News (14 Jul 09) Daewoo led consortium to invest US\$ 3 billion in Burma; PTI (13 Jul 09) Daewoo-OVL consortium to invest \$3.7 bn in Myanmar

¹¹⁵ Mizzima News (14 Jul 09) Daewoo led consortium to invest US\$ 3 billion in Burma; Mizzima News (16 Jun 09) Daewoo signs MoU to sell gas to China; Irrawaddy (19 Jun 09) Daewoo Forecasts US \$10 billion Profit in Gas Deal with China

¹¹⁶ PTI (14 Jul 09) ONGC Videsh to join Chinese gas pipeline from Myanmar

26	State-run newspaper Myanma Ahlin accuses US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton of interfering with the internal affairs of Burma.
28	Myanmar Central Bank announces that it will replace old and worn 10 to 200 kyat banknotes with new ones.
29	State-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar reports Burma's eighth and ninth cases of swine flu
29	UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon says the world wants Daw Aung San Suu Kyi free and that by sentencing her to another five-year prison term, the SPDC will miss another opportunity to engage the international community.
30	SPDC confirms the tenth case of swine flu virus.
30	US President Barack Obama and Philippines President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo meet. Obama thanks Arroyo for support on human rights issues in Burma.

REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN JULY

“Peoples Under Threat 2009”, Minority Rights Group International (MRGI)

http://www.minorityrights.org/7927/peoples-under-threat/peoples-under-threat-2009.html#links_and_downloads

“A Bridge to Recovery: ASEAN’s Response to Cyclone Nargis”, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

<http://www.aseansec.org/CN-Publication-ASEAN-Response-to-CN.pdf>

“Child Soldiers – Burma’s Sons of Sorrow”, Yoma 3 News Service

<http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs07/Yoma3CSreport220709-red.pdf>