

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

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June 2010

- SPDC Election Commission issues Directive 2/2010, which imposes severe restrictions on political parties' freedom of expression, assembly, and movement.
- An SPDC Army defector provides new evidence regarding the SPDC's program to develop nuclear weapons.
- The SPDC acquires jet trainer aircraft and artillery from China and multiple launch rocket systems from North Korea.
- The SPDC tells ethnic ceasefire groups that the BGF issue will be resolved after the elections.
- Daw Aung San Suu Kyi turns 65. Activists, worldwide mark her 65th birthday with ceremonies while international leaders and lawmakers call for her release.
- UNODC's annual drug report says there has been a 50% increase in opium poppy cultivation in Burma since 2006. Amphetamine tablet seizures both in and outside Burma indicate a huge increase in amphetamine production inside the country.
- For the tenth straight year, the US puts Burma on its human trafficking blacklist.
- The UNHCR ranks Burma as the world's fifth largest source of refugees and second largest source of asylum seekers.
- EU gains 11 allies in placing sanctions on the SPDC. Slovakia express its support for a Commission of Inquiry on the SPDC's international crimes.
- Privatized petrol stations open throughout the country.
- Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao oversees the signing of 15 bilateral agreements on trade, finance, energy, science, and technology during his three-day visit to Burma.

For comprehensive monitoring of the 2010 elections, please visit the "[2010 Election Watch](#)" at [www.altsean.org](#)

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KEY STORY

SPDC issues more election restrictions

On 23 June, the SPDC Election Commission issued [Directive 2/2010](#) which imposes severe restrictions on political parties' freedom of expression, assembly, and movement.¹ According to Directive 2/2010:

- Political parties that want to hold gatherings outside their headquarters must apply for permission a week in advance from the local Election Sub-commission;²
- Political parties that want to hold gatherings at their headquarters or branches must notify the Election Sub-commissions seven days in advance and speakers must be approved;³
- Political parties cannot chant slogans, march or carry flags as part of their rallies;⁴
- Political parties cannot give speeches or publish materials that “tarnish” the image of the state or the armed forces, criticize the constitution, or harm “security and community peace;” and⁵
- Political parties must avoid causing disturbances near government offices, factories, markets, schools, sports grounds, hospitals, and religious places.⁶

In addition to these restrictions, on 28 June the SPDC issued new rules that prohibit media outlets from including political reports in the last-minute news.⁷ The editor of the Monitor journal said that SPDC censorship would get “worse than before.”⁸

Forced recruitment of party members

While many parties complained that they hadn't received the authorization from the SPDC Election Commission to carry out election campaign activities, the junta-sponsored Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) faced no obstacles in campaigning or openly coercing voters into joining the party:

- The USDP in Karenni State forced residents over 18 to become members, and charged them 1,000 kyat (US\$1) to join.⁹
- SPDC authorities in Falam Township, Chin State, issued orders requiring at least one member from each family to become a USDP member.¹⁰

Parties' financial woes

Political parties voiced concerns over the prohibitive costs imposed by the SPDC election laws. On 17 June, the Union Democratic Party released a statement that urged the SPDC to subsidize the 500,000 kyat (US\$500) candidate registration fee because the fee was excessive and would prevent candidates from standing for election.¹¹ In addition, the Union Democratic Party and the Democratic Party (Myanmar) said they could not publish election-related material because of financial constraints.¹²

Registration still delayed

As of 30 June, the SPDC Election Commission had granted final approval to 33 parties to participate in the elections. However, the SPDC Election Commission continued to delay the approval of the two Kachin parties because of the Kachin Independent Organization's failure to comply with the junta's

¹ AFP (23 Jun 10) Myanmar restricts political activity ahead of polls; NLM (23 Jun 10) Union Election Commission Issues Directive No. 2/2010

² AFP (23 Jun 10) Myanmar restricts political activity ahead of polls

³ Xinhua (23 Jun 10) Myanmar issues directive for election campaigning by political parties

⁴ AFP (23 Jun 10) Myanmar restricts political activity ahead of polls

⁵ AP (23 Jun 10) Myanmar: No chanting to drum up political support

⁶ AP (23 Jun 10) Myanmar: No chanting to drum up political support

⁷ DVB (28 Jun 10) 'Unprecedented' censorship rules enacted; Irrawaddy (28 Jun 10) Junta Starts New Censorship Rules

⁸ DVB (28 Jun 10) 'Unprecedented' censorship rules enacted

⁹ Kantarawaddy Times (18 Jun 10) USDP recruits members forcibly, charges Kyat 1000

¹⁰ Khonumthung News (21 Jun 10) One member per family to enroll in USDP in Chin state

¹¹ Irrawaddy (17 Jun 10) PM's Party, Gov't 'All Mixed Up'

¹² Irrawaddy (15 Jun 10) Political Parties Can't Afford Campaign Material

Border Guard Force demand. On 16 June, the Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP) sent two delegates to meet with SPDC Election Commission members in Naypyidaw to inquire about the delays in the party's registration approval.¹³ KSPP Secretary Tu Raw expressed his frustration: "We feel upset. We feel that we don't get equal rights. There is no equality," he said.¹⁴

INSIDE BURMA

SPDC nuclear program revealed

In June, evidence once again surfaced regarding the SPDC's desire to develop nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles to deliver them.¹⁵ On 4 June, Al Jazeera TV aired a documentary based on a five-year investigation conducted by the exiled media outlet Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB). DVB relied on information provided by Thein Win, an SPDC Army Major and engineer who trained in Russia as a missile expert and defected in February of this year.¹⁶

According to the DVB report, a so-called "nuclear battalion" based near Thabeikkyin, north of Mandalay, is responsible for building a nuclear reactor, with the objective of producing nuclear weapons from both plutonium and enriched uranium.¹⁷ The regime has also been mining the uranium for the nuclear reactor.¹⁸ The development of long-range missiles is being carried out at another facility near Myaing, southwest of Mandalay. Two trading companies in Singapore supplied the German machinery for this facility.¹⁹ Thein Win claimed that the SPDC initiated the nuclear program using oil and gas revenues from the Yadana off-shore field.²⁰

Although the evidence suggested that the junta is still far from producing a nuclear weapon,²¹ the documentation is irrefutable in that it showed that the SPDC has the "intent" to eventually build a nuclear bomb.²² In this regard, analysts pointed out that the SPDC is exploring technology that is only designed for nuclear weapons and not for civilian use.²³

On 14 June, the IAEA sent a letter to the SPDC asking the junta to outline any nuclear-related activities or ambitions.²⁴ On 18 June, the SPDC replied to the IAEA insisting it had no current or future plan to develop a nuclear program.²⁵

Junta rattled by leaks

Despite the SPDC's repeated denials that it is developing a nuclear weapons program,²⁶ the leaks about the nuclear program rattled the regime.

¹³ Kachin News Group (19 Jun 10) Election Commission keeps KSPP on tenterhooks

¹⁴ Irrawaddy (22 Jun 10) Are Kachin Parties Being Excluded?

¹⁵ Asia Times (04 Jun 10) Myanmar's nuclear bombshell

¹⁶ AP (04 Jun 10) Report: Myanmar seeking nuclear weapons; AFP (04 Jun 10) Myanmar nuclear arms drive under way: media; AP (11 Jun 10) Myanmar denies having nuclear weapons program; Al Jazeera (12 Jun 10) Myanmar denies nuclear arms pursuit

¹⁷ AP (04 Jun 10) Report: Myanmar seeking nuclear weapons; Asia Times (04 Jun 10) Myanmar's nuclear bombshell

¹⁸ Washington Post (04 Jun 10) Report says Burma is taking steps toward nuclear weapons program; India Today (06 Jun 10) Myanmar junta mines uranium to make N-bomb

¹⁹ Irrawaddy (04 Jun 10) Burma's Nuclear Ambitions 'Threaten Regional Security'; UPI (07 Jun 10) Evidence points to Myanmar nuclear program

²⁰ Irrawaddy (04 Jun 10) Evidence Points to Burma's Nuclear Weapons 'Intent'; Huffington Post (11 Jun 10) Oil companies financing nuclear threat in Burma, refusing transparency

²¹ AP (05 Jun 10) Ex-inspector says Myanmar has nuclear goals; VOA (04 Jun 10) Expert Accuses Burma of Trying to Build Nuclear Bomb

²² Economist (10 Jun 10) Secrets will out

²³ AP (04 Jun 10) Report: Myanmar beginning a nuclear weapons program; AFP (04 Jun 10) Myanmar nuclear arms drive under way: media; Nation (22 Jun 10) Burma's nuclear ambition is apparently real and alarming

²⁴ AP (19 Jun 10) Myanmar denies allegations it is seeking nukes; NLM (19 Jun 10) As regards allegations against Myanmar on nuclear programmes, Resident Representative of Myanmar to IAEA Ambassador U Tin Win sends reply to Director Mr. Marco Marzo of Division of Operations A, Department of Safeguards, IAEA; DVB (21 Jun 10) Burma responds to IAEA request

²⁵ AP (19 Jun 10) Myanmar denies allegations it is seeking nukes; NLM (19 Jun 10) As regards allegations against Myanmar on nuclear programmes, Resident Representative of Myanmar to IAEA Ambassador U Tin Win sends reply to Director Mr. Marco Marzo of Division of Operations A, Department of Safeguards, IAEA; DVB (21 Jun 10) Burma responds to IAEA request

²⁶ Irrawaddy (08 Jun 10) Ambassador Denies Nuclear Allegations; UN to Investigate; My Paper (07 Jun 10) Myanmar rebuts nuclear talk; NLM (12 Jun 10) Press Statement of Ministry of Foreign Affairs on unfounded allegations against Myanmar regarding nuclear programme; AP (11 Jun 10) Myanmar denies having nuclear weapons program; Reuters (11 Jun 10) Myanmar denies nuclear plans, North Korean help; AP (19 Jun 10) Myanmar denies allegations it is seeking nukes

- SPDC Deputy Defense Minister Maj Gen Aye Myint at the last minute canceled his participation in the 9th Asian Security Summit (aka “Shangri-La Dialogue”), which was held in Singapore on 4-6 June.²⁷
- Following the publication of the information provided by Thein Win, the SPDC interrogated his relatives in Rangoon and in Shan State’s Kyaukme Township.²⁸
- The SPDC increased surveillance of SPDC Army officials who possess sensitive information concerning tunnel construction and the nuclear program.²⁹
- According to unconfirmed reports, the SPDC detained the Director General of the Ministry of Science and Technology and a Brigadier General over the nuclear program leaks.³⁰

New arms procurement

Reports of new arms purchases surfaced following the SPDC’s decision to significantly increase military expenditure at its quarterly meeting held in Naypyidaw at the end of May.³¹

- The SPDC Air Force expanded its fleet of K-8 jet trainer aircrafts with the purchase of fifty additional jets from China.³²
- The regime set up North Korean-made multiple launch rocket systems at SPDC Army bases in Mohnyin in Kachin State, Nawngkhio and Kengtung in Shan State, and Kyaukpadaung in Mandalay Division.³³ It is believed that North Korean cargo ships delivered the equipment.³⁴
- The SPDC acquired SH-1 155mm howitzers from China North Industries³⁵

Junta shelves BGF issue until after polls

On 22 June, SPDC officials told the United Wa State Army (UWSA) that the Border Guard Force (BGF) issue would be resolved after the elections.³⁶ Despite this, the SPDC appeared to retaliate against the Kachin Independence Organization’s refusal to accept the SPDC’s BGF ultimatum by not approving the registration of Kachin political parties to participate in the election.³⁷ [See above *Registration still delayed*]

Daw Suu’s birthday

On 19 June, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi turned 65. Daw Suu’s supporters planned to plant about 20,000 saplings around Burma to mark the occasion.³⁸ About 300 people attended a birthday ceremony at the home of an NLD member in Rangoon. Plainclothes security watched and videotaped the event.³⁹ Supporters of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi around the world also celebrated her birthday. Activists held events and ceremonies in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, India, Bangladesh, Taiwan, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, Canada, US, UK, Ireland, the Czech Republic, Italy, and Spain.⁴⁰

²⁷ Irrawaddy (05 Jun 10) Burma’s Deputy Defense Minister Skips Security Summit; DVB (07 Jun 10) Burma dismisses nuclear ‘stereotyping’; My Paper (07 Jun 10) Myanmar rebuts nuclear talk

²⁸ SHAN (08 Jun 10) Nuclear defector’s hometown swarmed with junta agents; Irrawaddy (08 Jun 10) Police Question Missile Expert Defector’s Family; Chinland Guardian (09 Jun 10) Burma Detains Senior Officials over Nuclear Leaks

²⁹ Irrawaddy (09 Jun 10) Army Increases Surveillance of Possible Defectors

³⁰ Chinland Guardian (09 Jun 10) Burma Detains Senior Officials over Nuclear Leaks

³¹ Irrawaddy (04 Jun 10) Burma’s Military Budget to Increase Significantly

³² Irrawaddy (15 Jun 10) Burma Buys 50 Fighter Jets From China; Strategy Page (16 Jun 10) Myanmar: The Nuclear Mystery

³³ Irrawaddy (24 Jun 10) More North Korean Rockets Reported in Burma; DVB (24 Jun 10) N Korea missiles at Burma base

³⁴ DVB (24 Jun 10) N Korea missiles at Burma base

³⁵ DVB (29 Jun 10) Norinco ‘sold Burma arms’ pre-copper deal

³⁶ SHAN (24 Jun 10) Junta sets no new deadline for BGF program at latest meeting

³⁷ Asia Times Online (26 Jun 10) Myanmar elections mute ethnic voices; Kachin News Group (04 Jun 10) USDA’s vitriolic attack on KIO, KSPP over elections; Irrawaddy (07 Jun 10) Kachin Party Links to KIO Criticized

³⁸ AFP (18 Jun 10) Suu Kyi supporters worldwide mark her 65th birthday; BBC (18 Jun 10) Aung San Suu Kyi’s supporters mark her 65th birthday

³⁹ AP (18 Jun 10) Myanmar’s Aung San Suu Kyi turns 65 in confinement; AP (19 Jun 10) Myanmar’s Aung San Suu Kyi turns 65; Reuters (19 Jun 10) Supporters mark birthday of Myanmar’s Suu Kyi; VOA (19 Jun 10) Aung San Suu Kyi’s Supporters Mark Her 65th Birthday

⁴⁰ AP (19 Jun 10) Myanmar’s Aung San Suu Kyi turns 65; Reuters (19 Jun 10) Supporters mark birthday of Myanmar’s Suu Kyi; BBC (18 Jun 10) Aung San Suu Kyi’s supporters mark her 65th birthday; DPA (18 Jun 10) Philippine activists demand Suu Kyi’s

As with previous years, there was an international outpouring of birthday wishes for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from international leaders and lawmakers who called for her immediate and unconditional release.

- **UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon** said he was “deeply concerned” that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi remained under house arrest and called for her release.⁴¹
- **US President Barack Obama** called on the SPDC to “immediately and unconditionally” release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners.⁴²
- **UK PM David Cameron** wrote an open letter to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in which he told Daw Suu that his government will do all it can to bring a brighter future for Burma.⁴³
- **UK Foreign Secretary William Hague** called on the SPDC to immediately and unconditionally release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.⁴⁴
- **The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus** wished Daw Aung San Suu Kyi a very happy and meaningful 65th birthday.⁴⁵
- **The US Senate Women’s Caucus on Burma** renewed calls for the immediate release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners.⁴⁶
- **The Indian Parliamentarian’s Forum for Democracy in Burma** urged UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon to adopt pragmatic actions for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners in Burma.⁴⁷
- **Ninety British MPs** sent their best wishes to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and called for her immediate release.⁴⁸
- **The European Parliamentary Caucus on Burma** wrote an open letter to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in which the caucus members pledged to continue to work for genuine democracy and human rights in Burma.⁴⁹

UN: Daw Suu detention “arbitrary”

On 17 June, the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomás Ojea Quintana urged the SPDC to immediately release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Ojea Quintana said that the SPDC should “heed the call” of the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, which called for the sixth time for Daw Suu’s release.⁵⁰ In its 7 May opinion, which was made public on 16 June, the UN Working Group said that the continued deprivation of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s liberty was arbitrary.⁵¹

Floods hit Northern Arakan State

From 13 to 15 June, torrential rains in Northern Arakan State caused flash floods and landslides in Maungdaw, Buthidaung, Minbya, Ponnagyun, and Kyauktaw Townships.⁵² The SPDC set the death toll

release for 65th birthday; AFP (18 Jun 10) Suu Kyi supporters worldwide mark her 65th birthday; AP (18 Jun 10) Myanmar’s Aung San Suu Kyi turns 65 in confinement; Kachin News Group (20 Jun 10) Suu Kyi’s 65th birthday celebrated in New Delhi; Chinland Guardian (19 Jun 10) Aung San Suu Kyi’s 65th Birthday Celebrated In Protest; DVB (19 Jun 10) World unites to honour Suu Kyi; ABC (18 Jun 10) Australian women gather to support Suu Kyi; Burma Partnership (21 Jun 10) Resounding International Support for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her 65th Birthday

⁴¹ Al Jazeera (19 Jun 10) UN and US urge Suu Kyi’s release

⁴² ANI (19 Jun 10) Obama urges Burmese military regime to free Suu Kyi

⁴³ Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK) Press Release (19 Jun 10) PM letter to Aung San Suu Kyi

⁴⁴ AFP (18 Jun 10) Britain urges Suu Kyi’s release

⁴⁵ AIPMC (21 Jun 10) Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Birthday Message 2010

⁴⁶ Senate Women’s Caucus on Burma Press Release (18 June 10) Members of the Senate Women’s Caucus on Burma Call on Burmese Military Junta to Release Democratic Leader Aung San Suu Kyi on Her Birthday

⁴⁷ Narinjara News (21 Jun 10) Indian Parliamentarians urge for Suu Kyi’s release

⁴⁸ BCUK (19 Jun 10) British MPs Call For UN Action On Burma

⁴⁹ European Parliamentary Caucus on Burma (18 Jun 10) European MPs Reject Sham Elections and Pledge Support for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

⁵⁰ UN News Center (17 Jun 10) Myanmar: UN rights expert urges release of Aung San Suu Kyi; OHCHR (17 Jun 10) Myanmar: UN Special Rapporteur calls for the immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi

⁵¹ DVB (17 Jun 10) UN slams Suu Kyi’s ‘unlawful’ detention; Mizzima News (18 Jun 10) UN working group condemns Suu Kyi’s detention

⁵² NLM (17 Jun 10) Heavy rains, strong winds destroy houses, cause floods and landslides in some townships of Rakhine State Local authorities, officials provide assistance for rescue and evacuation of flood victims; Xinhua (19 Jun 10) Death toll of Myanmar landslide increases to 63

from the flooding at 63 and said that more than 2,000 residents were evacuated.⁵³ Local residents believed that over 200 people had been killed.⁵⁴

International aid agencies reacted quickly to the crisis while the SPDC treated the disaster as a photo opportunity. On 17 June, UNHCR deployed eight boats to reach remote villages affected by the flooding.⁵⁵ Several other UN agencies and local NGOs were also involved in the relief efforts.⁵⁶ On 23 June, SPDC authorities seized rice and other supplies from markets in Maungdaw for a visit by SPDC PM Thein Sein. Thein Sein, along with other SPDC ministers, had their photos taken in front of the good for publication in state-run media.⁵⁷

Forced relocation continues

In early June, the SPDC began to forcibly relocate three more villages from the Myitsone dam site. Over 100 villagers from Dawng Pan, Sut Ngai Yang and Shoi Ba Villages were relocated to Lungga Zup Village about 18 miles from Myitkyina, Kachin State.⁵⁸ The villagers said that there were no opportunities to make a living in the relocation site as the area is not suitable for agriculture. They also complained about the lack of healthcare facilities in the new location.⁵⁹

Drug production increase in Burma impacts the region

On 24 June, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) released its annual World Drug Report. Findings in the UNODC report included:⁶⁰

- Burma, the second largest opium poppy cultivating country (17% of global cultivation), saw a 50% cultivation increase over the last three years.
- Opium that originates in Burma is consumed in Southeast and East Asia. More than three quarters of Burma's heroin production (some 40 metric tons) supplied local and regional markets, primarily China. Opiates, especially heroin, are still reported as the most prevalent drug in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Burma.

In addition, according to a Shan Herald Agency for News (SHAN) report, the SPDC's 15-year plan to eradicate opium poppy cultivation in Burma by 2014 has failed miserably. The report said only 10 Townships of the 51 targeted by the SPDC plan are poppy free. Moreover, nine of the 10 drug free Townships were in ethnic ceasefire controlled areas - not in areas controlled by the SPDC.⁶¹

The UNODC World Drug Report also noted a huge spike in amphetamine seizures in Burma, Thailand, and China that indicated a marked increase in amphetamine production in Burma.⁶²

- In 2009, the SPDC seized 23 million methamphetamine tablets up from one million in 2008.⁶³
- In Thailand, the amphetamine seizure rate rose to 26 million tablets from 22 million amphetamine tablets in 2008.⁶⁴ The Thai army's anti-drug task force said that there had been an "explosion" in the number of drug runs from Burma in recent months. Thai authorities said that in the first six months of 2010 they had already seized 5 million amphetamine tablets being smuggled from Burma. The anti-

⁵³ AP (21 Jun 10) Death toll from Myanmar floods, landslides hits 63; NLM (19 Jun 10) Relief and rehabilitation tasks extensively carried out for disaster victims in Rakhine State

⁵⁴ Kaladan News (18 Jun 10) Floods, landslides kill 87 in northern Arakan

⁵⁵ UN News Centre (18 Jun 10) UN deploys speedboats to save victims of floods in Myanmar and Bangladesh

⁵⁶ UN News Centre (23 Jun 10) UN aid agencies continue relief efforts in flood-affected Myanmar

⁵⁷ Kaladan News (25 Jun 10) Prime Minister arrives in north Arakan on flood survey; Narinjara News (22 Jun 10) Rice and Goods Borrowed from Shops to Show as Relief Aid

⁵⁸ Kachin News Group (09 Jun 10) Three more villages being shifted from Myitsone dam site

⁵⁹ Kachin News Group (14 Jun 10) Relocated Myitsone villagers face health problems in new place

⁶⁰ UNODC World Drug Report (24 Jun 10)

⁶¹ SHAN (09 Jun 10) Burma's 15 year drug effort still missing its targets

⁶² UNODC World Drug Report (24 Jun 10)

⁶³ AFP (24 Jun 10) Myanmar sees 'dramatic' surge in drug seizures: UN

⁶⁴ VOA (24 Jun 10) Report Warns of Increase in Amphetamine Production in Burma

drug task force noted that authorities were probably uncovering only a fraction - by most estimates between 1 and 2% - of what was being brought across the border.⁶⁵

- In China, the rate surged to 40 million from just 6 million.⁶⁶ In the Yunnan Province, anti narcotic authorities said that only 1% of the drugs that are smuggled from Burma are confiscated while the rest of the illegal drugs escape detection and flow into the underground markets in big cities of other provinces or even out of the country.⁶⁷

According to the UNODC, the marked increase in amphetamine production in Burma was having an adverse impact on the region - China and Thailand in particular. Most of the countries that reported an increase in amphetamines-group substance use over the last year were from East and Southeast Asia.⁶⁸

On 24 June in Bangkok, UNODC representative Gary Lewis said that drug seizures and opium poppy cultivation in Burma had “surged”. In 2009, the SPDC seized 23 million methamphetamine tablets up from one million in 2008. Lewis noted that Burma had experienced a "steep and dramatic" increase in opium cultivation since 2006. "We are at risk of having the situation unravel," Lewis said.⁶⁹

HUMAN RIGHTS

Burma still “worst of the worst”

In June, a series of reports underscored the SPDC’s protracted misrule:

- **4 June:** In its “**Worst of the Worst**” survey, Freedom House ranked Burma, alongside nine other countries, among the world’s worst violators of human rights.⁷⁰
- **8 June:** In its “**Global Peace Index**,” the Institute for Economics and Peace said that Burma was a key factor in ASEAN countries’ fall in peacefulness over the past four years, due to the SPDC’s substantial increase of military expenditure.⁷¹
- **21 June:** In its “**Failed State Index**,” Foreign Policy (FP) magazine listed Burma as a state in critical danger of collapse due mainly to human rights violations, delegitimization of the state, and uneven development. FP also ranked SPDC Chairman Sr Gen Than Shwe as the world’s third worst leader, surpassed only by North Korea’s Kim Jong Il and Zimbabwe’s Robert Mugabe. FP described Than Shwe as a “heartless military coconut head whose sole consuming preoccupation is power.”⁷²

Prison sentence

On 2 June, it was reported that the Rangoon’s Thingangyun Township court sentenced former NLD-LA member Than Myint Aung, 31, to five years in prison under the Immigration Act and the Unlawful Association Act.⁷³

No unions in the Union

On 2 June, 23 labor activists, including labor rights lawyer Poe Phyu, sent a letter to SPDC Chairman Sr Gen Than Shwe to ask for permission to form a national labor union.⁷⁴ On 23 June, the SPDC authorities in Rangoon summoned seven of the labor activists and rejected their request. In addition, SPDC authorities told the labor activists that they would face prosecution under the Unlawful

⁶⁵ SMH (18 Jun 10) Drug trade booms as rebels prepare for war – Ben Doherty

⁶⁶ VOA (24 Jun 10) Report Warns of Increase in Amphetamine Production in Burma

⁶⁷ Xinhua (25 Jun 10) Border drug surge dents police control endeavor

⁶⁸ UNODC World Drug Report (24 Jun 10)

⁶⁹ AFP (24 Jun 10) Myanmar sees 'dramatic' surge in drug seizures: UN

⁷⁰ AFP (04 Jun 10) Burma, N Korea 'worst rights violators'; Christian Science Monitor (04 Jun 10) Burma tops 'worst of the worst' list of human rights violators

⁷¹ Institute for Economics and Peace (08 Jun 10) Discussion Paper - Peace Wealth and human Potential

⁷² VOA (22 Jun 10) Foreign Policy Magazine Ranks Zimbabwe's Mugabe Second-Worst Dictator; Irrawaddy (23 Jun 10) Than Shwe the Third 'Worst of the Worst'

⁷³ Mizzima News (02 Jun 10) NLD member given five years' jail

⁷⁴ Irrawaddy (24 Jun 10) Burma Rejects Labor Union Application; Mizzima News (24 Jun 10) Starting trade union unlawful, police say

Association Act and the Printers and Publishers Act if they continued their organizing activities or the publication of any materials.⁷⁵

ILO tells the SPDC to end forced labor

On 5 June, the International Labor Conference held yet another special sitting by a committee of experts on the forced labor situation in Burma.⁷⁶ As with the ILO's Commission of Inquiry that issued its original findings on forced labor in Burma in 1998, the committee found that there were well-documented cases that SPDC military and civil authorities continued to exact forced labor from local villagers in 2009 in all but one of the country's States and Divisions. The committee concluded that the SPDC:⁷⁷

- Has failed to amend or repeal legislation that is contrary to the Forced Labor Convention;
- Has taken no concrete actions to end the practice of forced labor;
- Has failed to punish civil and military authorities responsible for exacting forced labor;
- Has not provided sufficient support and cooperation to the ILO Liaison Officer to make the forced labor complaint mechanism a meaningful process.

DISPLACEMENT

Burma again on US Trafficking blacklist

On 14 June, the US State Department released its 10th annual Trafficking in Persons Report. The report named Burma as one of 13 "Tier Three" countries that have not complied with the minimum standards of the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA).⁷⁸ According to the report, Burma was a source country for men, women, and children trafficked to third countries into forced or bonded labor or commercial sexual exploitation.⁷⁹ The report also cited internal trafficking in Burma in connection with the recruitment of child soldiers, forced portering for the SPDC Army, and forced labor on infrastructure projects.⁸⁰

Bangladesh to seek help with Rohingya issue

On 1 June, Bangladesh Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzaque said that Bangladesh would raise the Rohingya issue with the international community if the crisis is not resolved through bilateral negotiations with the SPDC.⁸¹ He said that Bangladesh is struggling to provide humanitarian support to some 300,000 - 400,000 Rohingya refugees.⁸² Since January, Bangladesh has pushed more than 2,000 Rohingya back to Burma.⁸³ Meanwhile, Rohingya refugees living outside the official camps have not been provided any emergency relief following the mid-June floods that have affected the Burma-Bangladesh border areas. [See above *Floods hit Northern Arakan State*]

UNHCR, US concerned about Burmese refugees

On 15 June, the UNHCR released its 2009 Global Trends report which listed Burma as the fifth largest source of refugees in the world and the second largest source of asylum seekers. The UNHCR officially recognized 496,542 Burmese refugees and IDPs as "people of concern". However, the report

⁷⁵ DVB (24 Jun 10) Labour union work 'punishable'; Irrawaddy (24 Jun 10) Burma Rejects Labor Union Application; Mizzima News (24 Jun 10) Starting trade union unlawful, police say

⁷⁶ AFP (07 Jun 10) ILO targets Myanmar's military over forced labour

⁷⁷ ILC, 99th Session, June 2010 - Special sitting to examine developments concerning the question of the observance by the Government of Myanmar of the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)

⁷⁸ US State Department (14 Jun 10) Trafficking in Persons Report 2010

⁷⁹ US State Department (14 Jun 10) Trafficking in Persons Report 2010

⁸⁰ US State Department (14 Jun 10) Trafficking in Persons Report 2010

⁸¹ Daily Star (02 Jun 10) Rohingya issue to be raised in int'l forum if talks fail; Xinhua (01 Jun 10) Dhaka threatens to take Myanmar refugee issue to international forum; DVB (02 Jun 10) Rohingya debate 'to go international'

⁸² Kaladan News (02 Jun 10) Rohingya issue to be raised in int'l forum if talks fail: Razzaque

⁸³ Narinjara News (11 Jun 10) Bangladesh Conducts Census of Illegal Burmese Citizens in Bangladesh

acknowledged that the actual number of refugees and IDPs is likely far higher.⁸⁴ UNHCR also reported that there were 48,600 asylum seekers from Burma worldwide in 2009.⁸⁵

On 10 June, US Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration Eric Schwartz expressed doubts that the upcoming elections in Burma would have any positive effect on the refugee situation along the country's borders. "[E]lections will not alter the need of Burmese who fear persecution to have access to a protection outside of Burma," he said.⁸⁶

Thailand steps up crackdown on migrants

On 2 June, Thai PM Abhisit Vejjajiva issued an order that authorized the arrest and prosecution of migrant workers who have not registered under the nationality verification process.⁸⁷ Between 17 and 21 June, Thai authorities arrested more than 1,400 migrant workers throughout the country, including more than 600 Burmese.⁸⁸

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Visits to Naypyidaw

Chinese PM Wen Jiabao and other Chinese officials dominated the SPDC's agenda in June as the two countries inked numerous MoUs on trade and investment [See below *SPDC inks new deals with China*] and celebrated 60 years of diplomatic ties.⁸⁹ In addition, the SPDC received official visits from Iran and Laos.

- **3 June:** SPDC Chairman Sr Gen Than Shwe met with Chinese PM Wen Jiabao to sign major deals and discuss border stability issues.⁹⁰
- **8 June:** SPDC Chief of Staff Gen Thura Shwe Mann met with a visiting Chinese military delegation led by Gen Fan Changlong, Commander of the Jinan Military Region.⁹¹
- **16 June:** SPDC FM Nyan Win met with an Iranian delegation led by Iranian Deputy FM Mohammad Ali Fathollahi in Naypyidaw.⁹² The Iranian Deputy FM also met with SPDC Minister for Energy Lun Thi to discuss cooperation in the oil and gas sector.⁹³
- **21 June:** SPDC Chairman Sr Gen Than Shwe and top SPDC officials met with Laotian PM Bouasone Bouphavanh to discuss military and bilateral cooperation.⁹⁴

US concerned by N. Korea-SPDC ties

The latest revelations concerning the SPDC's nascent nuclear weapons program coupled with speculation that the SPDC received more weapons from North Korea caused continued concern by US officials and lawmakers on the potential regional impact.

- **3 June:** US Senator Jim Webb canceled his planned visit to Burma, saying it would be "unwise and counterproductive" for him to go there while new allegations were surfacing about possible nuclear cooperation between the SPDC and North Korea.⁹⁵
- **4 June:** US Defense Secretary Robert Gates' press secretary Geoff Morrell voiced concern over the SPDC's "growing military ties" with Pyongyang.⁹⁶

⁸⁴UNHCR (15 Jun 10) 2009 Global Trends; DVB (21 Jun 10) Burmese 'second highest' asylum seekers

⁸⁵ UNHCR (15 Jun 10) 2009 Global Trends

⁸⁶ AFP (10 Jun 10) US fears for Myanmar refugees ahead of polls; AP (10 Jun 10) Top US refugee official sets visit to Myanmar border, Laos

⁸⁷ DVB (16 Jun 10) Thai PM sets up migrant 'arrest centre'; Irrawaddy (16 Jun 10) Thai PM Green Lights Crackdown on Illegal Migrants

⁸⁸ Mizzima News (22 Jun 10) Migrant workers in fear amid Thai crackdown

⁸⁹ Xinhua (08 Jun 10) Myanmar top leader stresses development of Sino-Myanmar friendly ties

⁹⁰ Bangkok Post (03 Jun 10) Chinese and Burma leaders sign deals, discuss border

⁹¹ Xinhua (08 Jun 10) Myanmar leader meets Chinese PLA delegation

⁹² Irrawaddy (17 Jun 10) Burmese Foreign Minister Receives Iranian Delegation

⁹³ Irrawaddy (18 Jun 10) Burma to Boost Ties with Iran

⁹⁴ Irrawaddy (23 Jun 10) Than Shwe, Laotian PM Discuss Military Ties

⁹⁵ Irrawaddy (03 Jun 10) Senator Webb Cancels Burma Visit

- **10 June:** Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asia and Pacific Affairs Scot Marciel said that the SPDC was destabilizing Southeast Asia through its pursuit of weapons.⁹⁷

EU initiatives

- **3 June:** The EU said that Albania, Armenia, Bosnia, Croatia, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, and Norway declared their support the EU's objectives' of trade and visa bans on the SPDC and pledged to ensure that their national policies conform to the EU's policies vis-à-vis the SPDC.⁹⁸
- **8 June:** Slovakia announced its support for the establishment of a UN-mandated Commission of Inquiry to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the SPDC.⁹⁹
- **15 June:** SPDC FM Nyan Win denied a request by German ambassador to Burma Julius Georg Luy for a meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as part of a planned high-level EU visit to the country. After the denial, the EU scrapped its planned visit.¹⁰⁰

ECONOMY

Privatized petrol stations open

On 10 June, some 250 newly privatized petrol stations opened throughout Burma. The main owners of the new gas stations are the SPDC Army-controlled Union of Myanmar Economic Holding, the junta-sponsored USDA, and companies run by regime cronies such as Tay Za's Htoo Trading and Stephen Law's Asia World.¹⁰¹

SPDC inks new deals with China

On 3 June, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao witnessed the signing of 15 bilateral agreements on trade, finance, energy, science and technology during his two-day visit to Burma.¹⁰² Major Agreements included:

- China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) and Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise signed an MoU confirming CNPC as the controlling shareholder of the pipeline that will transport oil and gas from the Arakan Coast to China's Yunnan Province.¹⁰³
- China's State-owned Guodian Corporation signed an agreement to build coal-fueled and hydropower plants in Burma.¹⁰⁴
- Leading weapons manufacturer China North Industries signed an agreement to develop the Monywa copper mine in Sagaing Division.¹⁰⁵ The deal was likely linked to the sales of SH-1 155mm howitzers by China North Industries to the SPDC. [See above *New Arms Procurements*]
- China agreed to continue supporting the SPDC with financial assistance.¹⁰⁶
- China and the SPDC signed an MoU to maintain stability along the Sino-Burma border.¹⁰⁷

⁹⁶ AFP (04 Jun 10) US concerned over Myanmar's military ties with N.Korea

⁹⁷ AFP (11 Jun 10) Nukes would destabilise region

⁹⁸ DPA (03 Jun 10) EU neighbours sign up to Myanmar sanctions

⁹⁹ Irrawaddy (10 Jun 10) UN Envoy Discusses Burma Issues in Singapore

¹⁰⁰ Mizzima News (28 Jun 10) EU cancels visit after request to meet Suu Kyi denied

¹⁰¹ Irrawaddy (10 June 10) Private Gas Stations Open in Burma

¹⁰² AFP (03 Jun10) China and Burma sign 15 trade deals; Reuters (03 Jun 10) China signs agreement with Myanmar on border stability; Irrawaddy (04 Jun 10) Chinese Premier Departs with Agreements; BBC (03 Jun 10) China Premier Wen Jiabao boosts ties in Burma visit

¹⁰³ Irrawaddy (04 Jun 10) Chinese Premier Departs with Agreements

¹⁰⁴ Irrawaddy (05 Jun 10) China Electricity Giant to Build Coal-Fueled Plants in Burma

¹⁰⁵ WSJ (23 Jun 10) Chinese Weapons Maker Signs Myanmar Deal

Irrawaddy (24 Jun 10) Chinese Weapons Maker to Mine Monywa Copper

¹⁰⁶ Hindu (03 Jun 10) China signs Myanmar pipeline deal to boost oil supply

¹⁰⁷ AFP (03 Jun10) China and Burma sign 15 trade deals

OTHER BURMA NEWS IN JUNE

2	New Zealand's Parliament votes unanimously for a resolution that calls on the SPDC to reinstate the political and democratic rights of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
4	A Village Chairman in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, rapes a local Rohingya woman.
6	ASEAN Sec-Gen Surin Pitsuwan says that the SPDC has given no clear signs that it would welcome help from ASEAN with its elections.
7	Rangoon's City Development Committee offers US\$7 million in loans to farmers in Rangoon Division for the cultivation of paddy in 2010.
8	Burma begins sending natural gas from the Yadana natural gas field to Rangoon through a newly-laid pipeline in a bid to ease power shortages.
9	UN Chief of Staff Vijay Nambiar arrives in Singapore for talks with the country's authorities about the situation in Burma.
9	US Senator Jim Webb says that he expects Burma to hold elections on 10 October.
9	Washington says that it will appoint a special envoy for Burma, but has not yet selected a candidate.
10	SPDC Army officers from LIB 236 recruit two underage youths in Maungdaw, Arakan State.
10	KNLA troops kill 12 SPDC Army soldiers and wound 22 in attacks in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State, and at Three Pagodas Pass in Karen State.
11	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi tells her lawyer Nyan Win that the Burmese people have the right not to vote in the upcoming elections.
11	The SPDC reports that Burma attracted US\$237 million in foreign investment in the first two months of 2010.
12	NLD senior leaders travel to Mandalay and Magwe Divisions and Karen State to meet grassroots members and explain the organization's policies.
12	The SPDC Energy Ministry orders the newly privatized gas stations to limit sales to no more than 12 gallons of fuel per car per day.
13	Bangladeshi FM Dipu Moni says that Bangladesh is open to "an amicable settlement" of its maritime boundary disputes with India and Burma.
14	South Korea announces that it will jointly explore two more gas blocks in Burma with the SPDC.
14	KNLA troops ambush and seriously wound three SPDC soldiers from Army LIB 284 in Kyainnseikkyi Township, Karen State
15	UNDP chief Helen Clark says that conditions in Burma make it difficult for the country to meet any of the eight development goals by the 2015 global target.
16	SPDC Air Defense chief Lt Gen Myint Hlaing issues an order that makes commanders punishable for defections among their units.
19	Six women Noble Peace Prize laureates issue a joint statement urging the UN Security Council to take action against the SPDC, specifically calling for the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry into crimes against humanity and war crimes in Burma.
21	Pakistan People's Party awards Daw Aung San Suu Kyi the Benazir Bhutto Shaheed Award.
22	Na Sa Ka personnel from Aung Min Gala camp in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, force 12 local villagers to work at the Na Sa Ka camp.
22	US State Department says that the US believes elections planned for this year in Burma will not be free or fair and will lack international legitimacy.
22	US Senator John Kerry's assistant Robin Lerner meets with senior NLD members to discuss the party's stance on upcoming national elections.
25	Three-hundred state-owned and private-run companies kick off a 13-day gem emporium in Rangoon.
28	G8 Summit issues a statement that urges the SPDC to take the steps necessary to allow for free and fair elections and to release all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
28	A mock trial in Japan recommends putting the SPDC on trial at International Criminal Court for its crime against women in Burma.
29	A report by the Rangoon City Development Committee says that during the first five months of 2010 a total of six people died of dengue fever in Rangoon out of 910 people infected with the disease.
30	SPDC reports that bilateral trade with India reached US\$1.19 billion in the 2009-2010 fiscal year, a 26.1% increase from the previous fiscal year.
30	SPDC aviation authorities announce that the international departure tax at Rangoon International Airport for Burmese citizens will increase to 3,000 kyat (US\$3) from 500 kyat (US\$0.50) on 1 July.
30	US Senate Finance Committee votes 22-1 to renew sanctions on imports from Burma

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