

# BURMA BULLETIN

A month-in-review of events in Burma

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

Issue 11

November 2007

- **SPDC snubs UN: Gambari is scolded; Petrie is told to leave; Pinheiro's visit is marked with more arrests; and the junta rejects UN initiatives for dialogue with NLD, political parties, and ethnic nationalities.**
- **Despite arrests, attacks and threats, pro-democracy activists and monks continue to defy the junta and carry out peaceful demonstrations and political activities.**
- **UN General Assembly's Third Committee approves a draft resolution that condemns the SPDC's crackdown on peaceful protesters.**
- **Monks and monasteries remain the target of SPDC repression. Amnesty International estimates that 700 people protesters are still detained.**
- **SPDC arrests at least 15 political activists in November.**
- **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi issues a statement that expresses willingness to engage in meaningful and time-bound dialogue with the SPDC.**
- **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's statement receives widespread support from Burma's ethnic groups. Major ceasefire groups resist SPDC's intimidation campaign to force them to condemn Daw Suu's statement.**
- **Disagreements among SPDC Army commanders over the handling of the demonstrations trigger another wave of reshuffles. Discontent grows among the Army's rank and file and civil servants.**
- **Canada and the EU impose new sanctions; India halts arms sales and transfers to the SPDC.**
- **SPDC divides and rules ASEAN at summit.**
- **Oil prices exacerbate Burma's troubled economy; rice harvest falls; and gems still a source of SPDC revenues.**

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## KEY STORY

### SPDC rejects UN initiatives for dialogue

In an attempt to deflect international pressure, the SPDC allowed visits by two high-ranking UN officials during November. UN Special Advisor on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, visited Burma from 3-8 November in an attempt to kick start dialogue between the SPDC and the NLD. UN Special Rapportuer

on Human Rights in Burma, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, was in Burma from 11-15 November to assess the current human rights situation. However, these visits produced little, if any, results.

Gambari's visit was marred and frustrated by the following events:

- On 2 November, the SPDC ordered the expulsion of UN humanitarian coordinator in Rangoon, Charles Petrie. In a 24 October statement, Petrie had criticized the junta for holding back Burma's development and for not addressing high levels of malnutrition and poverty. Petrie had also called on the junta to heed the voices of protesters.<sup>1</sup>
- On 6 November, SPDC Information Minister, Kyaw Hsan, told Gambari that his proposal for UN-led tripartite dialogue between Gambari, the junta, and Daw Aung San Kyi "will not be possible". Kyaw Hsan also lectured Gambari about the UN's ties with "big power bullies" and voiced the SPDC's dissatisfaction with the outcome of Gambari's previous visit, which was followed by sanctions from the US, Australia, and the EU as well as condemnation from the UN Security Council.<sup>2</sup>
- Gambari was never granted an audience with junta leader, Sr Gen Than Shwe.<sup>3</sup>
- The SPDC refused Gambari's request to meet with political prisoners.<sup>4</sup>

The SPDC continued to humiliate Gambari at the ASEAN Summit in Singapore. Despite an earlier agreement to allow Gambari to brief attendees of the ASEAN and East Asian Summits, on 19 November SPDC PM, Lt Gen Thein Sein voiced objections to the briefings.<sup>5</sup> As a result of the objections, ASEAN leaders cancelled the briefings.<sup>6</sup> Instead of making the briefings, Gambari held one-on-one meetings with various heads of state and foreign ministers to informally discuss the situation in Burma.<sup>7</sup>

## Daw Suu speaks

The only positive note of Gambari's fourth visit to Burma was his meetings with the NLD leadership and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. On the morning of 8 November Gambari met with NLD Chairman Aung Shwe, Secretary U Lwin, and Nyunt Wai in Naypyidaw. That afternoon Gambari met with Daw Suu for about an hour at Rangoon's Seinle Kantha state guest house.<sup>8</sup> In the evening, Gambari read a statement in Singapore on behalf of the detained pro-democracy leader. In her statement, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed her willingness to cooperate with the SPDC to start "**a meaningful and time-bound dialogue with the SPDC leadership [...] as early as possible.**" Daw Suu also indicated that any dialogue with the junta would require taking into consideration "**the interests and opinions of as broad a range of political organizations and forces as possible, in particular those of [the] ethnic nationality races.**"<sup>9</sup>

On 9 November, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met for two and a half hours with four members of her party at the Seinle Kantha state guest house in Rangoon, the first time she has been allowed to see them since May 2004. Attending the meeting were - Chairman Aung Shwe, Secretary U Lwin, Nyunt Wai, and spokesperson Nyan Win. Immediately before and after talks with her colleagues, she met with SPDC Labor Minister, Aung Kyi.<sup>10</sup> During the meeting with the NLD leaders, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

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<sup>1</sup> IHT (04 Nov 07) UN special envoy's Myanmar visit strained by expulsion order

<sup>2</sup> AP (07 Nov 07) Myanmar rejects talks with 'big power bullies'; Reuters (07 Nov 07) Myanmar junta trashes U.N.'s talks offer

<sup>3</sup> AP (07 Nov 07) UN envoy to see Myanmar's Suu Kyi

<sup>4</sup> Narinjara News (26 Nov 07) Burma's Home Minister Criticizes UN Envoy

<sup>5</sup> CNA (18 Nov 07) Nobody in Asia supports sanctions against Myanmar: PM Lee; AFP (19 Nov 07) Singapore Min: Myanmar Says Problems Are Internal Matters

<sup>6</sup> AP (19 Nov 07) ASEAN drops plan to ask Gambari to brief leaders

<sup>7</sup> Reuters (23 Nov 07) U.N.'s Myanmar envoy failed to meet China, India PM - paper

<sup>8</sup> Irrawaddy (08 Nov 07) Gambari Meets Suu Kyi

<sup>9</sup> AP (08 Nov 07) Text of Aung San Suu Kyi's statement released by U.N. envoy; AP (08 Nov 07) Suu Kyi says she is ready to cooperate with junta; Reuters (08 Nov 07) Myanmar's Suu Kyi says ready to cooperate with govt; Bloomberg (09 Nov 07) Gambari Says Suu Kyi, Myanmar Junta Set for 'Substantive' Talks; AP (09 Nov 07) Suu Kyi resigned to Myanmar house arrest; AP (10 Nov 07) Myanmar's Suu Kyi tells colleagues she is 'very optimistic' over prospects for talks; AFP (10 Nov 07) Myanmar's Suu Kyi says 'time for healing' after junta meeting; AFP (11 Nov 07) Suu Kyi meets party, junta

<sup>10</sup> AP (09 Nov 07) Myanmar lifts some restraints on Suu Kyi; AP (09 Nov 07) Suu Kyi resigned to Myanmar house arrest; AP (10 Nov 07) Myanmar's Suu Kyi tells colleagues she is 'very optimistic' over prospects for talks; AP (10 Nov 07) Suu Kyi is front-page

appeared “very optimistic” about the UN-promoted effort to start talks between the SPDC and pro-democracy forces, but indicated that the release of political prisoner was “essential” to the national reconciliation process.<sup>11</sup>

On 19 November, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with SPDC Labor Minister, Aung Kyi, for about an hour at the Seinle Kantha state guesthouse in Rangoon. Their meeting was the third since Aung Kyi was appointed by the SPDC as a liaison officer to handle contacts between the junta and the pro-democracy leader.<sup>12</sup>

### **SPDC muscles ethnic groups**

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s 8 November statement received widespread support from Burma’s ethnic groups.<sup>13</sup> Daw Suu’s statement angered the SPDC, who claimed that Gambari released the statement without prior consultation with the SPDC.<sup>14</sup> The SPDC began a process of strong-arming ceasefire groups to renounce Daw Suu’s statement.<sup>15</sup>

- The SPDC Culture Minister, Maj Gen Khin Aung Myint traveled to Shan and Kachin States to pressure ethnic armed ceasefire groups into issuing declarations against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s statement.<sup>16</sup>
- On 14 November, state-run media began printing statements against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attributed to pro-junta ethnic groups. However major ethnic ceasefire groups, notably the United Wa State Army, the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), and the New Mon State Party, refused to release any statement against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.<sup>17</sup>
- On 17 November, SPDC Security Branch personnel raided the homes of KIO officials and Kachin Independence Army bases. During the raids, the SPDC arrested KIO/KIA personnel. The SPDC also acted to curtail the KIO’s economic activities.<sup>18</sup>
- On 20 November, SPDC authorities in Rangoon arrested Chin political leader and chairman of the Zomi National Congress, Cin Sian Thang, Kachin leader, Hkun Htoo, and Arakan leaders Aye Thar Aung and Tin Ohn. SPDC authorities also arrested veteran politician Soe Win and senior NLD member, Myint Naing.<sup>19</sup> Aye Thar Aung and Soe Aung were released on the same day. Hkun Htoo was released on 21 November.<sup>20</sup> Cin Sian Thang was released on 26 November.<sup>21</sup>

## **INSIDE BURMA**

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### **Protests continue**

Despite the junta’s ongoing repression, the Burmese people continue to show their courage by peacefully opposing the military regime. New groups of activists, such as “Generation Wave”, “Rangoon Division Peoples’ Movement Coordinating Committee”, “Peoples Union”, and “Freedom

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news in Myanmar; AFP (10 Nov 07) Myanmar’s Suu Kyi says ‘time for healing’ after junta meeting; AP (10 Nov 07) Myanmar junta says it’s putting energy into reform as Suu Kyi gets rare front-page billing; AFP (11 Nov 07) Suu Kyi meets party, junta

<sup>11</sup> AP (09 Nov 07) Suu Kyi resigned to Myanmar house arrest; AP (10 Nov 07) Myanmar’s Suu Kyi tells colleagues she is ‘very optimistic’ over prospects for talks; AP (10 Nov 07) Suu Kyi is front-page news in Myanmar; AP (10 Nov 07) Myanmar junta says it’s putting energy into reform as Suu Kyi gets rare front-page billing

<sup>12</sup> AP (19 Nov 07) Myanmar’s Suu Kyi meets liaison minister; VOA (19 Nov 07) Burma’s Detained Opposition Leader Meets With Government Liaison; AFP (20 Nov 07) Suu Kyi meets with Myanmar official; DVB (20 Nov 07) Daw Suu has third meeting with liaison minister

<sup>13</sup> IMNA (12 Nov 07) Ethnic welcome Daw Su’s message

<sup>14</sup> Taipei Times (25 Nov 07) PM says recent unrest poses no threat

<sup>15</sup> Irrawaddy (15 Nov 07) Ethnic ceasefire groups told to sign statement against Suu Kyi

<sup>16</sup> Mizzima News (22 Nov 07) Junta release Kachin leader, others still detained; Irrawaddy (27 Nov 07) Ceasefire groups pressured to support National Convention

<sup>17</sup> Irrawaddy (22 Nov 07) UWSA and KIO Abstain from Condemning Suu Kyi

<sup>18</sup> Kachin News Group (18 Nov 07) Junta raids KIO officials’ homes in Myitkyina; Mizzima News (21 Nov 07) Junta bans vehicular movement to KIA HQ; Kachin News Group (22 Nov 07) Eight KIO servicemen detained by Burmese Army; Mizzima News (23 Nov 07) Burmese Army raids KIA’s regional command office, arrest two; Irrawaddy (26 Nov 07) Tension mounts between KIO and regime; Irrawaddy (28 Nov 07) Junta interrupts KIO tax levies on major highway

<sup>19</sup> Reuters (22 Nov 07) Myanmar opposition says arrests undermine talks; Irrawaddy (26 Nov 07) Prominent ethnic leader released; Mizzima News (22 Nov 07) Junta release Kachin leader, others still detained

<sup>20</sup> Mizzima News (22 Nov 07) Junta release Kachin leader, others still detained

<sup>21</sup> Irrawaddy (26 Nov 07) Prominent ethnic leader released

Fighters”, have sprung up in Rangoon following the September-October crackdown.<sup>22</sup> In addition, monks resumed anti-junta demonstrations and boycotts. [See below, *Monks*]

- **6 November:** Activists from the “Rangoon Division Peoples' Movement Coordinating Committee” burned copies of state-run newspapers in Rangoon’s Kyaukmyaung, Tarmwe, Sanchaung, and Hledan Townships. Activists from the “Freedom Fighters” group tied pieces of monk's robes and pasted anti-junta posters on trees in Rangoon. Posters reading “Than Shwe is lying” appeared on the fences of some houses.<sup>23</sup>
- **7 November:** Activists from the “Generation Wave” group distributed anti-junta pamphlets and posters in Rangoon’s Mayangone Township. Anti-junta slogans appeared on walls in other neighborhoods.<sup>24</sup>
- **8 November:** About 40 people shouting anti-junta slogans and holding pictures of junta Senior General Than Shwe’s head covered by panties held a brief demonstration in Rangoon’s Botahtaung Township. Bystanders clapped their hands in support of the protests.<sup>25</sup>
- **10 November:** University students with the All Kachin Students Union spray-painted the words “No Dam, Than Shwe Killer” on walls in various places in Myitkyina, Kachin State.<sup>26</sup>
- **25 November:** A group of about 25 women activists marched from Rangoon’s Sule pagoda to the Botataung pagoda. The women prayed for the monks and protesters who disappeared during the September demonstrations and for the release of detainees.<sup>27</sup>
- **27 November:** The “Generation Wave” group urged all Burmese people to show solidarity for the monks by tying pieces of monk’s robes to their own clothes.<sup>28</sup>

## Monks still targeted

On 14 November, SPDC Defense Minister, Maj Gen Aye Myint, said that “normalcy” returned to Burma.<sup>29</sup> The SPDC’s statement is contradicted by the ongoing arrest and harassment of monks throughout the month of November.

- **4 November:** SPDC authorities in Sagaing Township, Sagaing Division, arrested 27-year-old abbot U Gambira, the leader of the All-Burmese Monks Alliance, which spearheaded the August and September anti-junta protests.<sup>30</sup>
- **5 November:** SPDC authorities arrested U Khaymarwuntha, a 20-year-old monk from Zantila Kamahtan monastery in Rangoon’s South Dagon Township for his involvement in the anti-junta demonstrations.<sup>31</sup>
- **15 November:** About 150 USDA members, Township officials, and police officers raided Aung Dhamma Pala monastery in Rangoon. One monk was beaten and taken into custody.<sup>32</sup> One monk was arrested when police raided Tayzar Rama Kaman Htan monastery in Akyab, Arakan State.<sup>33</sup>
- **29 November:** SPDC authorities ordered the closure of Maggin Monastery in Rangoon’s Thingangyun Township. The monastery, which provides care for people with HIV/AIDS, had been raided four times since September. The newly-homeless monks took shelter in Kaba Aye pagoda and the patients were transferred to Waibargi infectious diseases hospital.<sup>34</sup>
- **30 November:** SPDC authorities stopped 300 monks in Mogok, Mandalay Division, when they attempted to march from their monastery to a pagoda.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Mizzima News (27 Nov 07) Activists group urge people to revive ‘Saffron Revolution’

<sup>23</sup> Mizzima News (07 Nov 07) Sporadic movements defying junta; Irrawaddy (07 Nov 07) State-run Press Targeted in New Rangoon Protest; Irrawaddy (08 Nov 07) Small ‘panty’ demonstration held in Rangoon; anti-junta pamphlets, posters distributed

<sup>24</sup> Mizzima News (07 Nov 07) Sporadic movements defying junta; Irrawaddy (08 Nov 07) Small ‘panty’ demonstration held in Rangoon; anti-junta pamphlets, posters distributed;

<sup>25</sup> Irrawaddy (08 Nov 07) Small ‘panty’ demonstration held in Rangoon; anti-junta pamphlets, posters distributed; DVB (09 Nov 07) Small-scale protest in Rangoon

<sup>26</sup> Mizzima News (12 Nov 07) “No Dam, Than Shwe Killer”, wall writing in Myitkyina

<sup>27</sup> Irrawaddy (26 Nov 07) Women activists stage demonstration in Rangoon

<sup>28</sup> Mizzima News (27 Nov 07) Activists group urge people to revive ‘Saffron Revolution’

<sup>29</sup> AFP (14 Nov 07) We are in control: Myanmar defence official

<sup>30</sup> Mizzima News (13 Nov 07) Junta arrests prominent Abbot U Gambira; DVB (13 Nov 07) Monk leader U Gambira arrested

<sup>31</sup> DVB (08 Nov 07) Monk arrested in South Dagon

<sup>32</sup> DVB (16 Nov 07) Monk held after monastery raid

<sup>33</sup> Monk Arrested in Police Raid

<sup>34</sup> AP (30 Nov 07) AIDS Monastery Ordered Shut in Myanmar

<sup>35</sup> Irrawaddy (30 Nov 07) Monastery closure makes mockery of Junta’s Buddhist claims

Despite the ongoing persecution, the monks continued to voice their opposition to the military regime and to call for dialogue with the pro-democracy forces.

- **3 November:** About 50 monks staged a demonstration in Mogok Township, Mandalay Division.<sup>36</sup>
- **18 November:** The All-Burmese Monks' Alliance said that they would continue to boycott the military regime and urged the public to join them in protesting against the junta. The group also welcomed the 8 November statement from Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.<sup>37</sup>
- **26 November:** The All-Burmese Monks Alliance released a statement urging monks to boycott the annual monastic examinations to show solidarity with the monks targeted by the SPDC's crackdown. The statement also called on the state-sanctioned Sangha, which oversees the country's clergy, to carry out an investigation on the disappearance of monks during the crackdown. The group also called for dialogue involving all parties, mediated by the United Nations.<sup>38</sup>
- **26 November:** About 800 people, including NLD members, veteran politicians and political activists, attended full moon day celebrations at Maggin monastery in Thingangyun Township, despite the presence of soldiers from battalion 66, police, fire brigade, and USDA members.
- **In late November,** monks refused to perform a funeral blessing for a senior Swan Arr Shin member from Rangoon's Insein Township who had been actively involved in the September crackdown.<sup>39</sup>
- **30 November:** 300 monks in Mogok, Mandalay Division, were stopped by SPDC authorities when they attempted to march from their monastery to a pagoda.<sup>40</sup>

### **SPDC: more reshuffles and defections**

The SPDC's crackdown on monks and protesters had serious repercussions on the regime's internal stability. The disagreements among the SPDC Army commanders over the handling of the demonstrations triggered another wave of reshuffles.<sup>41</sup>

- 2 November: SPDC reassigned Southwest Commander Maj Gen Myint Aung as Adjutant-General to replace Lt Gen Thein Sein. Brig Gen Tin Ngwe was appointed as new Central Commander.<sup>42</sup>
- 7 November: SPDC appointed two of its army commanders as deputy ministers. Brig Gen Win Myint was promoted Deputy Minister of Electric Power No.2 and Brig Gen Tin Tun Aung Deputy Minister of Labor.<sup>43</sup>
- Effective 28 November, the SPDC promoted Brig Gen Myint Soe as Commander of the Northwest Military Command. Brig Gen Kyaw Swe was promoted as Commander of the Southwest Command.<sup>44</sup>

Discontent is simmering also among the Army's rank and file and civil servants.

- Cpt Win Htun Aung, an SPDC Army officer from the Mandalay-based Light Infantry Battalion 3, fled his battalion after an arrest warrant was issued against him for giving water to monks during the September protests in Mandalay.<sup>45</sup>
- Cpt Hla Win from Battalion 99 fled to the Thai-Burma border, protesting the violence used against the monks.<sup>46</sup>
- Two soldiers aged 18 and 19 who deserted the SPDC Army's Light Infantry Battalion 564 stationed in Buthidaung Township, Arakan State, fled to Bangladesh.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Irrawaddy (05 Nov 07) Arrests continue as Gambari holds talks

<sup>37</sup> DVB (19 Nov 07) Monks vow to continue junta boycott

<sup>38</sup> DVB (27 Nov 07) Monks demand inquiry into deaths and disappearances; Irrawaddy (27 Nov 07) Burmese monks urged to boycott state-run exams

<sup>39</sup> DVB (28 Nov 07) Monks refuse funeral blessing for militia leader

<sup>40</sup> Irrawaddy (30 Nov 07) Monastery closure makes mockery of Junta's Buddhist claims

<sup>41</sup> Mizzima News (08 Nov 07) Top military leader shelves two disobedient commanders

<sup>42</sup> Bernama (02 Nov 07) Myanmar Reshuffles Some Senior Military Posts

<sup>43</sup> Mizzima News (08 Nov 07) Top military leader shelves two disobedient commanders

<sup>44</sup> Mizzima News (30 Nov 07) Junta reshuffles commanders, showcases changes

<sup>45</sup> DVB (08 Nov 07) Army officer flees under threat of arrest; Mizzima News (08 Nov 07) Top military leader shelves two disobedient commanders

<sup>46</sup> Mizzima News (08 Nov 07) Top military leader shelves two disobedient commanders

<sup>47</sup> Narinjara News (28 Nov 07) Two young soldiers desert Burmese Army

- Several police officers who were ordered by SPDC Army troops from the Southeast Regional Command to open fire on protesting monks in Moulmein in September want to retire.<sup>48</sup>
- Civil servants also want to retire from their posts, as military officers have begun to occupy higher posts in their departments. In Mon State, about 400 military officers were transferred to education, forest, and customs the departments.<sup>49</sup>

### **Child soldiers - still**

On 23 November, UN Sec-Gen released its first report on the situation of children affected by armed conflict in Burma, to comply with UN Security Council Resolution 1612. Between 2005 and 2007 the report found that the SPDC continued to recruit children despite official prohibitions. UN Sec Gen Ban Ki-Moon called on the SPDC to discharge all child soldiers and allow UN officials to access conflict areas.<sup>50</sup>

### **Bird Flu in Shan State**

On 23 November, the SPDC confirmed bird flu at a farm in Naungngin Village, Kengtung Township, Shan State. According to SPDC authorities, 2,058 birds died and 1,500 were culled.<sup>51</sup> Farmers were ordered to cull their chickens or face fines and were not paid compensation.<sup>52</sup> According to a local journalist, the virus is more widespread than the junta is admitting, and since mid-October it has affected eight townships in Shan State.<sup>53</sup>

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

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### **UNGA condemns SPDC**

On 20 November, the UN General Assembly's Third Committee approved a draft resolution strongly condemning the SPDC's crackdown on peaceful protesters. The draft resolution expressed grave concern at the ongoing human rights violations and the continuous deterioration of the living conditions in Burma. It also criticized the SPDC's decision to bar the NLD and other political and ethnic groups from the constitution drafting process, and the slow pace of the democratic reform. The non-binding text was adopted by a vote of 88 in favor, 24 against with 66 abstentions. India, China, and Russia voted against the resolution. The text will be sent to the 192-member General Assembly.<sup>54</sup>

The draft resolution calls on the SPDC to:

- Desist from further arrests and violence against peaceful protesters.
- Lift all restraints on the peaceful political activity of all persons by [...] guaranteeing freedom of peaceful assembly and association and freedom of opinion and expression.
- Engage with UN Special Advisor Ibrahim Gambari to achieve effective progress towards the restoration of democracy and the protection of human rights.
- Immediately and unconditionally release all those arrested and all political prisoners.

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<sup>48</sup> IMNA (05 Nov 07) Police officer ordered to shoot monks, wants to retire; IMNA (13 Nov 07) Upset government officers want to retire

<sup>49</sup> IMNA (13 Nov 07) Upset government officers want to retire

<sup>50</sup> UNSC (16 Nov 07) Report of the Secretary General on children and armed conflict in Burma [S/2007/666]

<sup>51</sup> AP (24 Nov 07) Myanmar reports bird flu outbreak at chicken farm in northeast, DPA (30 Nov 07) Authorities discover bird-flu outbreak in Myanmar

<sup>52</sup> DVB (30 Nov 07) Small farmers hurt by bird flu measures; DVB (30 Nov 07) Small farmers hurt by bird flu measures

<sup>53</sup> Mizzima News (29 Nov 07) Authorities conceal bird flu detection in Shan State

<sup>54</sup> Reuters (20 Nov 07) U.N. panel raps nations for rights abuses; Reuters (20 Nov 07) UN rights panel rebukes Myanmar, Iran, North Korea; AFP (20 Nov 07) UN panel slams Myanmar crackdown on protests; Malaysia Sun (21 Nov 07) India votes against UN resolution on Myanmar

## Pinheiro returns

For the first time in four years, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, was allowed to visit Burma from 11 to 15 November.<sup>55</sup> The regime removed any military presence from the streets of Rangoon for the occasion.<sup>56</sup> However, Pinheiro's presence did not deter the SPDC from arresting numerous activists in the former capital. [See below, *Arrests*]

The SPDC organized and controlled Pinheiro's agenda. Two days of the mission were entirely devoted to meetings with SPDC officials.<sup>57</sup> Pinheiro was granted limited access to monasteries, places of detention, and other locations where human rights violations occurred.<sup>58</sup> Pinheiro's visits to Insein Prison took place in an atmosphere of allegations that the SPDC had transferred key political prisoners to other location to prevent Pinheiro from meeting with them.<sup>59</sup>

At the conclusion of his mission, Pinheiro urged the international community to keep pressure on the SPDC to ensure the release of political prisoners and urged the junta to end its ban on prison visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross.<sup>60</sup>

The findings of Pinheiro's mission will be presented on 11 December in a report submitted to the UN Human Rights Council. The report is expected to include details on the number of protesters killed during the crackdown. To date, the SPDC acknowledged that only 15 people were killed.<sup>61</sup>

- **11 November:** Visited Kya Khat Waing monastery in Pegu. Met with officials of Rangoon's Shwedagon pagoda.<sup>62</sup>
- **12 November:** Visited Insein Prison, Ngwe Kyar Yan monastery in South Okkalapa Township, and Nan Oo monastery, in Mingala Taungnyunt Township. Met with senior abbots of the Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee (the state body of the Buddhist clergy).<sup>63</sup> Visited Rangoon's former Government Technical Institute, the Htain Bin crematorium in Hlaing-Thar-Yar Township, and the No. 7 Police Battalion Control Command Headquarters in Kyauktan, Thanlyin.<sup>64</sup> Met with senior officials from the ministries of Home Affairs and Law Enforcement, the Rangoon Peace and Development Council, and the Rangoon General Hospital.<sup>65</sup>
- **13 November:** Met with Minister for Home Affairs, Maj Gen Maung Oo, USDA Secretary General, Zaw Min, Minister of Religious Affairs, Brig Gen Thura Myint Maung, Minister of National Planning and Economic Development, Soe Tha, and members of the SPDC Human Rights Committee in Naypyidaw.<sup>66</sup>
- **14 November:** Met with the UN Country Team, more than 24 ambassadors and diplomats, SPDC FM, Nyan Win, Minister for Labour, Aung Kyi, and Minister for Information, Brig Gen Kyaw Hsan in Naypyidaw. <sup>67</sup>Pinheiro voiced his frustration with the SPDC for ignoring his requests to meet political prisoners and opposition members during his visit.<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> AFP (21 Nov 07) UN rights expert urges 'less talk, more action' on Myanmar

<sup>56</sup> Mizzima News (13 Nov 07) Military presence swept under carpet before UN rights probe

<sup>57</sup> Xinhua (13 Nov 07) UN human rights envoy meets Myanmar ministers in new capital

<sup>58</sup> Bangkok Post (16 Nov 07) UN envoy: Burma admits killing 15; AP (28 Nov 07) UN investigator says number of political prisoners in Myanmar larger than government says

<sup>59</sup> Irrawaddy (12 Nov 07) UN Human Rights Rapporteur Visits Insein prison, monastery

<sup>60</sup> AFP (21 Nov 07) UN rights expert urges 'less talk, more action' on Myanmar

<sup>61</sup> AP (16 Nov 07) UN human rights investigator receives evidence of Myanmar death toll; Reuters (16 Nov 07) Myanmar junta raises crackdown toll to 15: U.N.; Nation (16 Nov 07) Burma should release thousands of prisoners: Pinheiro;

<sup>62</sup> Bangkok Post (12 Nov 07) Update: UN envoy visits Burma prisons, temples; Irrawaddy (12 Nov 07) UN Human Rights Rapporteur Visits Insein prison, monastery; Mizzima News (12 Nov 07) UN official starts investigation into brutal government crackdown

<sup>63</sup> Reuters (12 Nov 07) U.N. rights envoy visits Myanmar prison; Bangkok Post (12 Nov 07) Update: UN envoy visits Burma prisons, temples

<sup>64</sup> Reuters (12 Nov 07) U.N. rights envoy visits Myanmar prison; Bangkok Post (12 Nov 07) Update: UN envoy visits Burma prisons, temples; DVB (16 Nov 07) Pinheiro meets political prisoners as visit ends

<sup>65</sup> AP (12 Nov 07) UN human rights envoy inspects notorious prison at start of Myanmar visit

<sup>66</sup> UNIC Yangon (13 Nov 07) Paulo Sergio Pinheiro meets authorities in Nay Pyi Taw

<sup>67</sup> UNIC Yangon (14 Nov 07) UN Special Rapporteur continues his visit in Nay Pyi Taw

<sup>68</sup> Aljazeera (15 Nov 07) UN airs frustration with Myanmar

- **15 November:** In Rangoon’s Insein Prison, where he was able to talk with political prisoners, including labor activist Su Su Nway, 77-year-old journalist Win Tin, and 88 Generation Students Min Zeya and Than Tin.<sup>69</sup>

## Arrests

Amnesty International estimated that 700 people arrested during the recent anti-junta protests were still in detention as of 9 November.<sup>70</sup> According to the regime, only 91 people arrested in connection with the demonstrations remained detained. They junta accused them of being involved in “violent and terrorist acts” and said action would be taken against them.<sup>71</sup> Throughout November, the regime continued to arrest and imprison political activists.

- **2 November:** SPDC authorities in Rangoon arrested NLD members Aung Kyaw Moe and Tin Yu.<sup>72</sup>
- **4 November:** NLD member Zaw Zaw was arrested at a coffee shop in Rangoon’s Kyeemyindaing Township.<sup>73</sup>
- **7 November:** A court in Prome prison, Pegu Division, sentenced to two years in jail Thet Oo, Zaw Htun, and Myint Aye, three members of the Human Rights Defenders and Promoters (HRDP).<sup>74</sup>
- **9 November:** Bhamo Township NLD member, Ba Myint, and another NLD member in Kachin State were sentenced to two years in prison after being tried secretly and without access to a lawyer in prison courts in Bhamo and Myitkyina prisons respectively.<sup>75</sup>
- **12 November:** SPDC authorities arrested four women and an elderly man for campaigning against the dam project on the Irrawaddy River in Myitsone, Kachin State. They were freed from a police station in Myitkyina Township on 14 November.<sup>76</sup>
- **13 November:** SPDC authorities arrested NLD member Su Su Nway and NLD youth member Bo Bo Win Maung for putting up anti-junta posters in Rangoon’s Bahan Township.<sup>77</sup>
- **14 November:** SPDC authorities arrested three activists who were handing out anti-junta leaflets at Rangoon’s Thiri Mingalar market.<sup>78</sup>
- **19 November:** SPDC authorities re-arrested Ray Thein aka Bu Maung, the NLD Secretary in Buthidaung, Arakan State. Ray Thein was briefly detained in September for holding an anti-junta demonstration. [See *September 2007 Burma Bulletin*].<sup>79</sup>
- **26 November:** SPDC authorities arrested HRDP member Aung Zaw Oo at a teashop in Kyauktada Township, Rangoon Division.<sup>80</sup> SPDC authorities re-arrested Arakan State NLD chairman San Shwe Tun. He was released from Akyab prison on 5 November after serving a three-year jail term.<sup>81</sup>

## Releases

- **1 November:** SPDC authorities freed 46 more protesters arrested in August and September. Most of those released were NLD members.<sup>82</sup>

<sup>69</sup> AP (15 Nov 07) Pinheiro meet prominent Burmese political prisoners; AFP (15 Nov 07) UN envoy meets Myanmar prisoners; BBC (15 Nov 07) UN envoy visits Burma prisoners; Reuters (16 Nov 07) U.N. rights envoy fails to see top Myanmar dissident; AP (16 Nov 07) UN human rights investigator receives evidence of Myanmar death toll; AFP (16 Nov 07) Myanmar Frees 53 Prisoners After UN Envoy Visit: Lawyer; Nation (16 Nov 07) Burma should release thousands of prisoners: Pinheiro

<sup>70</sup> AFP (13 Nov 07) UN rights envoy to meet Myanmar ministers; AFP (14 Nov 07) We are in control: Myanmar defence official

<sup>71</sup> AFP (07 Nov 07) Myanmar to ‘take action’ against 91 protesters

<sup>72</sup> Irrawaddy (05 Nov 07) Arrests continue as Gambari holds talks

<sup>73</sup> Irrawaddy (05 Nov 07) Arrests continue as Gambari holds talks

<sup>74</sup> DVB (08 Nov 07) Human rights activists jailed in Prome

<sup>75</sup> DVB (13 Nov 07) NLD charges continue despite moves towards dialogue

<sup>76</sup> Kachin News Group (16 Nov 07) Five anti-Irrawaddy dam detainees freed in Myitkyina

<sup>77</sup> DVB (14 Nov 07) Activist Su Su Nway and colleague arrested

<sup>78</sup> AP (14 Nov 07) Burma continues arrests of activists; AP (15 Nov 07) Pinheiro meet prominent Burmese political prisoners

<sup>79</sup> Narinjara News (24 Nov 07) One-Time Solo Protestor Rearrested in Arakan

<sup>80</sup> DVB (27 Nov 07) Activist arrested in Rangoon; Irrawaddy (28 Nov 07) Popular musician and friends arrested in Rangoon

<sup>81</sup> Narinjara News (27 Nov 07) Arakan State NLD Chairman Released, Conditionally; Narinjara News (30 Nov 07) Arakan State NLD Chairman rearrested

<sup>82</sup> AFP (02 Nov 07) Burma frees 46 more prisoners ahead of UN envoy’s visit

- **5 November:** SPDC authorities released Akyab Township NLD Secretary, Aung Ban Tha. He was arrested with Arakan State NLD Chairman, San Shwe Tun, in July 2005 for possessing foreign currency.<sup>83</sup>
- **15 November:** SPDC authorities released about 200 prisoners from Insein prison in Rangoon, Bassein prison in Irrawaddy Division, and Tharawaddy prison in Pegu Division. However only six political prisoners, including five NLD members, Thein Naing Oo, Phone Aung, Kyaw Kyaw, Yi Yi Win, and Tun Lin Kyaw, were among those released. They had been in prison for several years. They were forced to sign a pledge saying that they would not be involved in politics in the future.<sup>84</sup>
- **17 November:** 20 political prisoners were released from the Buthidaung Town jail in Arakan State. Those released had been sentenced to between 10 and 20 years in prison. All those freed were over the age of 60.<sup>85</sup>

## Freedom of information

- On 1 November, internet access throughout Burma was cut-off at about 8 am.<sup>86</sup> Internet service was restored on 3 November, although connection was reportedly very slow.<sup>87</sup>
- The SPDC's censorship board forced the 7 Days news journal to remove its front-page news story on the 15 November press conference by UN Special Rapporteur Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro.<sup>88</sup>
- Kyaw Thu Moe Myint, a poet from Kyauk Se, Mandalay Division, who was sentenced to prison earlier this year for distributing a collection of poems mentioning independence hero general Aung San, was told he would be tried again on the same charges.<sup>89</sup> [See *March 2007 Burma Bulletin*]
- SPDC authorities banned the VCDs by U Nyanithara and U Kawvida, two senior monks who criticized the junta's crackdown. The two VCDs criticized the military regime based on classic Buddhist stories.<sup>90</sup>
- On 27 November, popular musician Win Maw was arrested along with two friends in a Rangoon teashop.<sup>91</sup>
- In late November, police in Mrauk U Township, Arakan State, detained comedian La Raung for three days for playing a role in a comedy interpreted as slandering the junta.<sup>92</sup>

## DISPLACEMENT

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### New arrivals in Thailand

Dozens of pro-democracy activists and monks fleeing crackdowns in Burma have reached the relative safety of Mae Sot, Thailand.<sup>93</sup> According to the UNHCR in Thailand, 89 people from Burma have applied for refugee status since the crackdown.<sup>94</sup>

### Crackdown in Thailand

Meanwhile, Thailand is showing increasing hostility towards migrant workers from Burma.

- **5 November:** Thai governor of Samut Sakhorn Province called for tighter controls and the monitoring of all foreign workers in Thailand, and for the end of cultural performances.<sup>95</sup>

<sup>83</sup> Narinjara News (27 Nov 07) Arakan State NLD Chairman Released, Conditionally

<sup>84</sup> DVB (15 Nov 07) Prisoner releases coincide with Pinheiro visit; Reuters (16 Nov 07) Myanmar frees six political prisoners; AFP (16 Nov 07) Myanmar Frees 53 Prisoners After UN Envoy Visit: Lawyer; AP (16 Nov 07) UN human rights investigator receives evidence of Myanmar death toll; Mizzima News (16 Nov 07) Six political prisoners, 75 others freed after UN rights expert leaves Burma

<sup>85</sup> Kaladan News (21 Nov 07) 20-prisoners released from Buthidaung jail in Arakan

<sup>86</sup> Mizzima News (01 Nov 07) Internet once again out in Burma; AFP (03 Nov 07) Myanmar axes Internet, UN official ahead of Gambari visit; DVB via BBC Monitoring (04 Nov 07) Burmese internet cut-off said to prevent news flow about protests; Melbourne Herald Sun (02 Nov 07) Internet access in Burma severely limited, says official

<sup>87</sup> Mizzima News (05 Nov 07) Internet back in Burma at snails pace

<sup>88</sup> DVB (22 Nov 07) Pinheiro story banned by censors

<sup>89</sup> DVB (09 Nov 07) Poet to be retried for illegal publishing

<sup>90</sup> Irrawaddy (16 Nov 07) Dhamma VCDs by Two Well-known Monks Banned in Burma

<sup>91</sup> Irrawaddy (28 Nov 07) Popular musician and friends arrested in Rangoon

<sup>92</sup> Narinjara News (29 Nov 07) Comedian Arrested for "Shooting" Monk in Performance

<sup>93</sup> Irrawaddy (08 Nov 07) Monk from Karen state flees to Thai border, DVB (28 Nov 07) Poet flees to Thai-Burma border

<sup>94</sup> AP (05 Nov 07) Group fears for safety of pro-democracy activists fleeing Myanmar for Thailand

- **12 November:** Thai police arrest more than 100 undocumented migrant workers from Burma in a raid in Samut Sakhorn.<sup>96</sup>
- **18 November:** Police arrested a Thai corn plantation owner for the murder of five migrant workers from Burma.<sup>97</sup>
- **23-25 November:** More than 100 undocumented migrant workers, including Burmese, were arrested at a factory in Pathum Thani Province.<sup>98</sup>
- **25 November:** Seven migrant workers from Burma, including three children, were killed when their pick-up plunged into a canal. They were being pursued by Thai police in Petchaburi province.<sup>99</sup>

Additionally, Thailand's Deputy PM, Sonthi Boonyaratkalin, said tighter security measures would need to be put in place and that pregnant migrant workers would have to return to their home countries to give birth.<sup>100</sup>

## More cross into Bangladesh

The number of people making the dangerous crossing from Burma into Bangladesh and on to Malaysia by boat, has increased in the wake of the seasonal calming of seas and crackdowns.<sup>101</sup> On 13 November, Bangladesh Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury told SPDC Deputy Commerce Minister Aung Tun that the Rohingya issue should be accorded priority through tripartite participation of the UN, Burma, and Bangladesh.<sup>102</sup>

- **2 November:** Bangladesh Rifles arrested three young novices in Teknaf when they crossed the border.<sup>103</sup>
- **13 November:** SPDC border security forces arrested fourteen Bangladeshi fishermen and seized their two fishing boats on the Naff River near Saint Martin's Island. Bangladesh demands for their immediate release are ignored.<sup>104</sup>
- **19 November:** Five Thet from Maungdaw Township were arrested by the Bangladesh Rifles. Tribal villagers had not been targeted by Bangladesh border security in the past. Earlier in November, SPDC border security forces had arrested fourteen Bangladeshi fishermen and seized two fishing boats on the Naff River near Saint Martin's Island.<sup>105</sup>
- **22 November:** Police from Cox's Bazar arrested seven boat people from Burma, including two touts, and seized their cargo boat. They were preparing to go to Malaysia from Bhakkali River mouth.<sup>106</sup>
- **23 November:** Bangladesh police raided the house of a trafficker and arrested four Burmese nationals.<sup>107</sup>
- **23 November:** Three ferry boats sank, reportedly carrying 260 people, mostly Rohingya from Arakan State attempting to travel to Malaysia. About 60 people were rescued. On 27 November, Bangladesh authorities found 11 bodies of migrant workers, mostly from Burma, near the site of the sinking.<sup>108</sup>
- **25 November:** An overcrowded fishing boat carrying more than 100 Bangladesh villagers and Burmese refugees sank near Saint Martin's island. Six bodies were recovered and 50 people reached shore or were rescued. Police arrested two suspected people-smugglers.<sup>109</sup>

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<sup>95</sup> Irrawaddy (06 Nov 07) Thai Governor Calls for Controls over Migrant Workers

<sup>96</sup> Kaowao News (14 Nov 07) Migrant Worker Rights Dissolving

<sup>97</sup> AP (19 Nov 07) Thai Boss Arrested in Employee Slayings

<sup>98</sup> IMNA (25 Nov 07) Employer refuses to pay, gets workers arrested in Thailand

<sup>99</sup> AFP/Daily Times (26 Nov 07) 7 Myanmar migrants killed

<sup>100</sup> Irrawaddy (26 Nov 07) Pregnant migrant workers fear repatriation from Thailand

<sup>101</sup> Kaladan News (25 Nov 07) Seven boat-people arrested in Cox's Bazaar

<sup>102</sup> Mizzima News (14 Nov 07) Bangla foreign advisor for tripartite initiative to resolve Rohingya issue

<sup>103</sup> Narinjara News (05 Nov 07) Monks coming back Arrested in Bangladesh

<sup>104</sup> Narinjara News (24 Nov 07) Arrests Continue on Western Border

<sup>105</sup> Narinjara News (24 Nov 07) Arrests Continue on Western Border

<sup>106</sup> Kaladan News (25 Nov 07) Seven boat-people arrested in Cox's Bazaar

<sup>107</sup> Kaladan News (25 Nov 07) Seven boat-people arrested in Cox's Bazaar

<sup>108</sup> Narinjara News (27 Nov 07) 11 Bodies Found After Trafficking Ferry Sinks

<sup>109</sup> IHT (27 Nov 07) Bangladesh police detain 2 suspected people-traffickers, sinking boat death toll reaches 6

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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### UNSC briefing

On 13 November, Gambari briefed UN Security Council members on the results of his visit to Burma.<sup>110</sup> After the briefing, the US claimed that China blocked the issuance of a UNSC statement that was supported by all other members.<sup>111</sup>

### EU envoy appointed

On 6 November, Javier Solana, the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, appointed Piero Fassino as the EU's Special Envoy to Burma. Fassino's mission will be to coordinate the EU's efforts to bring about positive change in Burma with those of UN Special Advisor on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari.<sup>112</sup>

### India: No more arms to the SPDC?

Officials in India's Ministry of External Affairs reported that India has put all sale and transfer of arms to the SPDC on hold. The officials said that India believes contact with the junta is in its strategic interest, but also wants to send out a message that it's not quite business as usual any longer.<sup>113</sup>

Meanwhile, on 19 November, SPDC Army troops launched a crackdown against Indian separatists, raiding several camps belonging to the anti-India armed groups United Liberation Front of Asom in northern Sagaing Division.<sup>114</sup>

### ASEAN Charter signed but ratification in question

On 20 November, ASEAN leaders adopted a charter to integrate the region as a legal organization but failed to include a mechanism for enforcing human rights. The charter only calls for a new agency to review human rights among its members. The charter still needs to be ratified by member countries before it becomes final.<sup>115</sup> Prior to the official signing, Philippines President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo warned that the Philippines are unlikely to ratify the charter unless the SPDC restores democracy and frees Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.<sup>116</sup>

On 16 November, the US Senate unanimously adopted a resolution urging the ASEAN summit to suspend Burma from the group because of its bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protests.<sup>117</sup> On 18 November, ASEAN rejected the call.<sup>118</sup>

### China: Envoy briefed

On 16 November, China's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Wang Yi ended his three-day visit to Burma. During his visit, Wang Yi met with SPDC Chairman, Sr Gen Than Shwe - something that UN Special Advisor on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari failed to do.<sup>119</sup> The SPDC told the Chinese envoy that they would take positive and pragmatic measures to accelerate the "roadmap".<sup>120</sup>

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<sup>110</sup> Reuters (13 Nov 07) UN envoy positive on Burma trip, West doubtful

<sup>111</sup> Irrawaddy (16 Nov 07) China Blocks UNSC Presidential Statement on Burma

<sup>112</sup> DVB (08 Nov 07) EU appoints special envoy for Burma

<sup>113</sup> Hindustan Times (26 Nov 07) India stops arms sales to junta

<sup>114</sup> AFP (19 Nov 07) Myanmar army hits Indian rebels: officials

<sup>115</sup> AP (20 Nov 07) ASEAN adopts landmark charter, with watered-down human rights body to appease Myanmar

<sup>116</sup> AP (19 Nov 07) Manila says ASEAN Charter likely a nonstarter unless Myanmar restores democracy

<sup>117</sup> AFP (16 Nov 07) US Senate asks ASEAN leaders to suspend Myanmar

<sup>118</sup> AP (18 Nov 07) ASEAN rejects US call to suspend Myanmar

<sup>119</sup> Xinhua (16 Nov 07) Chinese gov't special envoy ends Myanmar visit

<sup>120</sup> Times of India (16 Nov 07) Myanmar vows to push forward political reforms

## Japan-SPDC relations still sour

On 21 November, Japan's FM, Masahiko Komura, expressed dissatisfaction to SPDC FM Nyan Win over the junta's failure to fully account for the fatal shooting of a Japanese journalist Kenji Nagai in September. Komura warned his counterpart that Tokyo may further cut aid to Burma depending on how it handled the matter.<sup>121</sup>

## ECONOMY

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### More sanctions

Rangoon-based diplomats reported that the junta is rattled by financial sanctions imposed by the US, the EU, and Australia.<sup>122</sup> Calls have continued for strengthened sanctions, and for industry and consumer boycotts.<sup>123</sup>

- On 14 November, Canada's FM, Maxime Bernier, announced sweeping sanctions against Burma. The sanctions include a ban on all imports and exports to and from Burma except for humanitarian goods.<sup>124</sup> The sanctions also ban new Canadian investment, the trade and transfer of technical data to Burma, and freeze the assets of Burmese nationals in Canada connected to SPDC leaders.<sup>125</sup>
- On 16 November, US First Lady Laura Bush called for a global boycott of gems from Burma.<sup>126</sup>
- On 19 November, the EU adopted sanctions against 1,207 companies in Burma and expanded visa bans and asset freezes on the country's military rulers. The move implements sanctions agreed in principle by EU FMs in October. [See *October 2007 Burma Bulletin*]<sup>127</sup>
- Human Rights Watch called for UN sanctions on Burma's energy sector and for the international community to halt financial transactions with companies owned and controlled by the regime and end new investment in Burma's oil and gas fields.<sup>128</sup>
- US Senators Joseph Biden and Mitch McConnell have drafted legislation, the "Burma Democracy Promotion Act", which aims to widen existing banking and travel sanctions.<sup>129</sup>
- A group of European MP's vowed to oppose any free trade deals between the EU and ASEAN unless Burma makes democratic reforms.<sup>130</sup>

In early November, US Assistant Secretary of State, Kristen Silverberg, called on Singapore and its south-east Asian neighbors to crack down on SPDC funds stashed in their banks. Singapore has rejected suggestions that junta leaders may be using it as a "financial haven". Irrespective of government policy, analysts report Singaporean banks are quietly re-evaluating or cutting their ties with the SPDC and their cronies, nervous of tarnishing their clean image and tarnishing that competitive edge.<sup>132</sup>

2006/07	China	281.2
	Britain	240.7
	Singapore	160.8
	Sth Korea	37
	Russia	33
	Oil and gas	471.5
	Power	281.2
	Fisheries	12
Total (inc others)		752.7

### Tay Za in trouble

Junta crony Tay Za condemned US sanctions that forced him to suspend Air Bagan to Singapore on 4 November. He said that the junta owned no shares in the airline and it was not connected to drug

<sup>121</sup> AP (20 Nov 07) Japan warns Myanmar of aid cut over slain reporter

<sup>122</sup> Financial Times (12 Nov 07) Singapore feels the heat of drive against Burma - John Burton and Amy Kazmin

<sup>123</sup> Irrawaddy (03 Nov 07) Weekly business roundup - William Boot, VOA (23 Nov 07) European Lawmakers Vow to Oppose Trade Deals Over Burma

<sup>124</sup> Globe and Mail (14 Nov 07) Ottawa imposes new sanctions on Myanmar

<sup>125</sup> AFP (15 Nov 07) Ottawa announces Myanmar sanctions

<sup>126</sup> AFP (18 Nov 07) Thousands attend Myanmar gems sale despite outcry: report

<sup>127</sup> Reuters (19 Nov 07) EU implements sanctions on Myanmar junta, firms

<sup>128</sup> Mizzima News (20 Nov 07) Human Rights Watch demanding strict sanctions on gas and oil

<sup>129</sup> Irrawaddy (03 Nov 07) Weekly business roundup - William Boot

<sup>130</sup> VOA (23 Nov 07) European Lawmakers Vow to Oppose Trade Deals Over Burma

<sup>131</sup> SPDC statistics released November. <http://www.csostatat.gov.mm/S24MA0201.asp>, AP (26 Nov 07) Foreign investment in Myanmar dominated by oil and gas, power sectors, EIU (Aug 06) Country Report: Burma

<sup>132</sup> Financial Times (12 Nov 07) Singapore feels the heat of drive against Burma - John Burton and Amy Kazmin

trafficking, arms sales or money laundering.<sup>133</sup> According to business sources, Tay Za's business dealings were in trouble even before the sanctions were imposed. They report that he is US\$30 million in debt and that Air Bagan is losing US\$1 million a month.<sup>134</sup>

## Gem business

From 14 to 26 November the Myanmar Gems Enterprise held its "mid-year" (it had been postponed several times) gems show in Rangoon.<sup>135</sup> According to officials, 3,618 lots of jade, gems and pearls - US\$150 million worth - were sold, of the US\$300 million-worth up for sale.<sup>136</sup> Gem traders in Bangkok estimate the generals earn at least US\$60 million annually from gems, but some say that with black market trade taken into account, revenue could be ten times that figure.<sup>137</sup>

## Energy crisis continues

Businesses and ordinary people continue to feel the impact of the slashing of fuel subsidies and fluctuating prices. Shops have been closing early, particularly in the warehouse and wholesale market area of Bayint Naung and Saw Bwar Gyi Gone.<sup>138</sup> The erratic supply of electricity has further worsened. So-called "VIP areas" previously exempt from shortages, such as Rangoon's Bahan Township and the industrial township of Hlaing Tharyar, are now suffering daily 6-hour blackouts.<sup>139</sup>

Analysts believe that the surge in fuel prices may force the SPDC to find a new revenue sources to keep from going bankrupt. Oil was \$72 a barrel in August when the SPDC was forced to slash fuel subsidies. Since then, crude prices have since climbed 35 percent to near \$100 a barrel.<sup>140</sup>

## Rice harvest down

Rice prices usually drop during the October-November harvest.<sup>141</sup> However, late heavy rains in October will cause reduced yields. Farmers in Mon State estimate that the harvest will be down 20% from 2006.<sup>142</sup> Despite this, Township Peace and Development Councils are preparing for their regular forced confiscation of the new harvest. In Mudon, they have announced this will be 25kg of paddy per acre.<sup>143</sup> On 26 November, SPDC army authorities summoned paddy dealers from each township in Arakan State to Western Command Headquarters and informed them that they would be forcibly procuring over 4,000 tons of paddy for troops.<sup>144</sup>

## NOVEMBER CHRONOLOGY

1	Internet access throughout Burma is cut-off. It is restored after two days.
1	ICRC asks permission from SPDC to resume prison visits.
1	88 Generation Students group calls on ASEAN to suspend Burma from the 10-nation bloc.
2	SPDC authorities in Rangoon arrest NLD members Aung Kyaw Moe and Tin Yu.
2	SPDC reassigns Southwest Commander Maj Gen Myint Aung as Adjutant-General to replace Lt General Thein Sein. Brig Gen Tin Ngwe is appointed as new Central Commander.
3	About 50 monks stage a demonstration in Mogok Township, Mandalay Division.
4	SPDC authorities in Sagaing Township, Mandalay Division, arrest 27-year-old abbot U Gambira, the leader of the All-Burmese Monks Alliance.
4	SPDC authorities in Taunggoat Township, Arakan State, summon several recently released NLD

<sup>133</sup> IHT (06 Nov 07) Myanmar tycoon blacklisted by US attacks sanctions

<sup>134</sup> Irrawaddy (12 Nov 07) Tay Za: Burma's Fading Business Tycoon?

<sup>135</sup> AFP (18 Nov 07) Thousands attend Myanmar gems sale despite outcry: report

<sup>136</sup> AFP (27 Nov 07) Myanmar sells \$150 mln of gems at auction: official; AP (17 Nov 07) Gem Dealers Push Ban On Myanmar Rubies

<sup>137</sup> AP (17 Nov 07) Gem Dealers Push Ban On Myanmar Rubies

<sup>138</sup> Irrawaddy (05 Nov 07) Dollar rate fluctuates in Rangoon as sanctions hit - Wai Moe

<sup>139</sup> Mizzima News (23 Nov 07) Rangoon reels under prolonged power cuts

<sup>140</sup> Reuters (11 Nov 07) \$100 oil to put Myanmar junta over a barrel again

<sup>141</sup> Reuters (11 Nov 07) \$100 oil to put Myanmar junta over a barrel again

<sup>142</sup> IMNA (06 Nov 07) Prospect of low paddy yield because of rains worries farmers

<sup>143</sup> IMNA (06 Nov 07) Prospect of low paddy yield because of rains worries farmers

<sup>144</sup> Narinjara News (28 Nov 07) Burmese Army to Buy 329,000 Tins of Paddy for Army Rations

	members and threaten them with arrests if they carry out any anti-junta protests.
4	NLD member Zaw Zaw is arrested in Rangoon.
4	Air Bagan suspends flights to Singapore
5	SPDC authorities release Akyab Township NLD Secretary, Aung Ban Tha and Arakan State NLD chairman San Shwe Tun.
6	“Rangoon Division Peoples' Movement Coordinating Committee” burn copies of state-run newspapers in Rangoon. “Freedom Fighters” group ties pieces of monk's robes and pasted anti-junta posters on trees in Rangoon.
6	SPDC claims that nearly 3,000 have been released in connection with protests, leaving 91 in custody.
7	“Generation Wave” group distribute anti-junta pamphlets and posters in Rangoon.
7	Brigade General Win Myint is promoted Deputy Minister of Electric Power No.2 and Brigade General Tin Tun Aung Deputy Minister of Labor.
7	A court in Prome prison, Pegu Division, sentences HRDP members Thet Oo, Zaw Htun, and Myint Aye to two years in jail.
8	About 40 people shouting anti-junta slogans and holding pictures of Than Shwe’s head covered by panties hold a brief demonstration in Rangoon.
8	UN Special Advisor on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, meets with NLD Chairman Aung Shwe, Secretary U Lwin, and Nyunt Wai in Naypyidaw. He then meets for about an hour with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Rangoon.
8	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi releases statement on national reconciliation.
8	Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, urges the SPDC to speed up democratic reform.
8	Vietnam urges SPDC to cooperate with the UN Special Advisor on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari.
9	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets for two and a half hours with four NLD senior leaders in Rangoon.
9	Bhamo Township NLD member, Ba Myint, and another NLD member in Kachin State are sentenced to two years in jail.
9	SPDC PM Thein Sein begins a two-day official visit to Vietnam.
9	Amnesty International estimates that 700 people arrested during the recent anti-junta protests are still in detention.
10	All Kachin Students Union spray-paint the words “No Dam, Than Shwe Killer” on walls Myitkyina, Kachin State.
10	United Nationalities Alliance, an umbrella group of 12 ethnic political groups in Burma, issues a statement welcoming Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s willingness to cooperate with the junta in constructive dialogue.
12	Two 17-year-old child soldiers flee from battalion No 564 of Buthidaung Township after three years of enforced service.
12	Thai police arrest more than 100 undocumented migrant workers from Burma in a raid in Samut Sakhorn.
12	Ethnic groups including the Shan, Mon, Zomi, Rakhine, Chin, Karen, Kachin, Karenni, Karen, Mara, and Shan-Kokan issue the joint statement supporting statement by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
12	Junta-organized mass rally against the US is held in Hnam Kham, Northern Shan State.
12	SPDC authorities arrest four women and an elderly man for campaigning against the dam project on the Irrawaddy River in Myitsone, Kachin State. They are freed from a police station in Myitkyina Township on 14 November.
13	SPDC authorities arrest NLD member Su Su Nway and NLD youth member Bo Bo Win Maung.
13	Bangladesh Foreign Advisor tells the SPDC Deputy Commerce Minister that the Rohingya issue should be resolved through tripartite dialogue with the UN.
13	Thailand’s PTT Exploration and Production says it will invest at least US\$1 billion over the next five years to develop offshore gas field M-9.
13	SPDC order NMSP to provide list of names of all NMSP soldiers.
13	UN Special Advisor on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, briefs the UN Security Council on his most recent visit to Burma.
13	SPDC authorities arrest NLD member Su Su Nway and NLD youth member Bo Bo Win Maung.
14	SPDC authorities arrest three activists who were handing out anti-junta leaflets at Rangoon’s Thiri Mingalar market.
14	Photographs of protesting monks and anti-US rallies are posted on an official regime website. Captions accuse monks of being impostors and “destructive elements”.
14	Canada announces new sanctions against Burma.
14	International Labor Organization criticizes the SPDC over its forced labor practices.
15	SPDC authorities release five NLD members, Thein Naing Oo, Phone Aung, Kyaw Kyaw, Yi Yi Win, and Tun Lin Kyaw.
15	Former director of Daewoo International and 13 other executives are sentenced in Seoul for providing weapons technology and equipment to the SPDC.

15	Police arrest a monk during a raid on Tayzar Rama Kaman Htan monastery in Akyab, Arakan State.
16	NMSP issues statement supporting Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's call for political dialogue with the junta.
16	China's Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Wang Yi, ends his three-day visit to Burma.
16	UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, urges the SPDC to end its ban on prison visits by the International Committee of the Red Cross.
17	Bangladesh police in Teknaf arrest two men, one a Burmese national, and confiscate about 1,200 amphetamine tablets.
17	SPDC Army raids the homes of Kachin Independence Organization's officials in Myitkyina, Kachin State.
17	11-year-old girl from Ray Aung San Bwe village tract, Nasaka area No.1, Maungdaw Township, is raped and killed by Nasaka.
18	Laboratory tests confirm bird flu in Kengtung Township, Shan State. 2,058 birds die and 533 are culled.
18	Over 1,000 soldiers from several battalions under the Military Operation Command 15 based in Buthidaung, Arakan State, leave for the Eastern Burma's frontlines.
19	SPDC authorities re-arrest Ray Thein aka Bu Maung, NLD Secretary in Buthidaung, Arakan State.
19	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with SPDC Labor Minister, Aung Kyi, for about an hour in Rangoon.
19	Taiwan Foundation for Democracy awards its 2007 Asia Democracy and Human Rights Award to Dr Cynthia Maung.
19	SPDC Army troops launch a crackdown against Indian separatists, raiding several camps belonging to the anti-India armed groups United Liberation Front of Asom in northern Sagaing Division.
19	Philippines warn that it is unlikely to ratify the ASEAN Charter unless the SPDC restores democracy and frees Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
19	EU adopts sanctions against 1,207 companies in Burma and expands visa bans and asset freezes on SPDC officials.
19	Twenty villagers are forced to grow sesame near the Mudon- Thanphyuzayart bridge.
19	SPDC authorities re-arrest Ray Thein aka Bu Maung, the NLD Secretary in Buthidaung, Arakan State.
20	Thai energy firm MDX Group says it is considering reducing its stake in the Tasang dam project.
20	UN General Assembly's Third Committee approves a draft resolution strongly condemning the SPDC's crackdown on peaceful protesters.
20	ASEAN leaders adopt charter to integrate the region as a legal organization bound by one set of rules.
20	SPDC authorities in Rangoon arrest Chin political leader and chairman of the Zomi National Congress, Cin Sian Thang, Kachin leader, Hkun Htoo, and Arakan leaders Aye Thar Aung and Tin Ohn. SPDC authorities also arrest veteran politician Soe Win and senior NLD member, Myint Naing.
20	20 political prisoners are released from the Buthidaung Town jail in Arakan State.
21	Japan's FM, Masahiko Komura, expresses dissatisfaction with the SPDC's failure to fully account for the shooting of a Japanese journalist in September.
21	Kachin leader Hkun Htoo is released.
21	88 Generation Students group's leaders jailed in Rangoon's notorious Insein Prison are allowed visits by family members.
22	SPDC Army detains eight Kachin Independent Organization personnel.
22	Five women activists in hiding in Burma call on the UN to undertake a thorough study of human rights abuses perpetrated against women at the hands of the SPDC.
22	ASEAN and EU issue a joint declaration calling for the SPDC to continue its engagement with the international community and domestic opposition.
23	Bangladesh police raid the house of a trafficker and arrest four Burmese.
24	SPDC drug agents arrest a man in Arakan State in possession of 750 amphetamine tablets. The SPDC drug agents also seize 300 grams of heroin and 300 cheroots filled with marijuana. The seized goods have a reported street value of 4 million kyat.
25	A group of about 25 women activists march from Rangoon's Sule pagoda to the Botataung pagoda.
25	Seven migrant workers from Burma, including three children are killed when their pick-up plunges into a canal when they flee police.
25	An overcrowded fishing boat carrying more than 100 Bangladesh villagers and Burmese refugees sinks off the coast of Bangladesh
25	A villager from Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, dies as a result of torture inflicted by Nasaka.
26	The All-Burmese Monks Alliance releases a statement urging monks to boycott the annual monastic examinations to show solidarity with the monks targeted by the SPDC's crackdown.
26	SPDC authorities re-arrest Arakan State NLD chairman San Shwe Tun.
26	13-day Gems Emporium ends in Rangoon, having sold 3,618 lots (US\$150 million-worth).
26	SPDC Western Area Command summons paddy dealers from Arakan State townships to issue permits and inform them of paddy procurements for troops.
26	SPDC Army troops and Karen Nation Union soldiers clash in Kyainnseikyi Township, Karen State. One

	SPDC Army soldier is killed and two are injured.
26	Indian Ministry of External Affairs officials report that Delhi has put all arms sales and transfers to the SPDC on hold.
26	SPDC authorities arrest HRDP member Aung Zaw Oo at a teashop in Kyauktada Township, Rangoon Division.
26	Chin political leader and chairman of the Zomi National Congress, Cin Sian Thang, is released.
27	Singapore's Tin Industries Pty Ltd says that it will establish a US\$10 million smelter in Burma in 2008.
27	Dalai Lama says he supports the recent pro-democracy demonstrations in Burma and condemns the crackdown on the Buddhist monks who led them.
27	Popular musician Win Maw is arrested along with two friends in a Rangoon teashop.
28	SPDC promotes Brig Gen Myint Soe as Commander of the Northwest Military Command commander. Brig Gen Kyaw Swe, is promoted as Commander of the Southwest Command.
29	US condemns SPDC's ongoing arrests of democracy activists and harassment of Buddhist monks.
29	SPDC orders the closure of Maggin monastery in Rangoon.
30	UN Special Advisor on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, condemns SPDC closure of Maggin monastery as an act that runs counter to the spirit of national reconciliation.
30	Cambodian PM Hun Sen urges SPDC to continue talks with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
30	UN Special Envoy on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, says that the SPDC must release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

## **REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN NOVEMBER 2007**

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