

# BURMA BULLETIN

A month-in-review of events in Burma

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

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- **SPDC sentences 186 dissidents to harsh prison terms as long as 68 years. The crackdown targets NLD members, monks, student activists, relief workers, media persons, and lawyers.**
- **After imposing the sentences, the regime quickly transfers many of the prisoners to jails located away from Rangoon and, in some cases, to some of Burma's most remote regions.**
- **The SPDC's imposition of lengthy jail terms on pro-democracy activists meets with international condemnation; silence from ASEAN.**
- **An independent report states that in 2007 landmine casualties increased by 76% in Burma. The regime lays landmines on the Burma-Bangladesh border following tension over gas exploration in the Bay of Bengal.**
- **SPDC and Bangladesh warships face-off in Bay of Bengal. Tensions along border with Bangladesh cause an increase in forced labor incidents and landmine explosions.**
- **The CEDAW Committee condemns the SPDC culture of impunity in its treatment of rape perpetrators. It also says that the regime's new constitution further enshrines discrimination against women.**

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## KEY STORY

### SPDC jails 186 dissidents

In November, the regime embarked on its latest crackdown on pro-democracy activists and dissidents. The SPDC's kangaroo courts used draconian laws to sentence 186 dissidents\* to lengthy prison terms. Those subject to harsh sentences included 51 NLD members, 39 members of the 88 Generation Students group, and 22 Buddhist monks.

Most of the dissidents received prison sentences in connection with their activities during the "Saffron Revolution." The regime also imprisoned activists involved in relief operations in the Irrawaddy delta following cyclone Nargis.

SPDC courts operating inside Rangoon's Insein prison went into overdrive to ensure the sentencing of as many activists as possible in a series of close-door trials. Many defendants were denied legal representation during hearings.<sup>2</sup> On 7 November, the junta imprisoned two lawyers who were representing various activists under trial for contempt of court.<sup>3</sup>

\* According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), in November the SPDC imprisoned 215 dissidents

<sup>2</sup> UN Press Release (18 Nov 08) UN experts strongly condemn the severe convictions and unfair trials in Myanmar; Irrawaddy (05 Nov 08) Lawyers for activists harassed, arrested; Irrawaddy (10 Nov 08) Young Burmese Blogger Sentenced to more than 20 Years in Jail

<sup>3</sup> AFP (08 Nov 08) Myanmar pro-democracy lawyers jailed for four months; Mizzima News (07 Nov 08) Defense counsels of political activists sentenced to four months imprisonment; Mizzima News (10 Nov 08) Defense counsels behind bars

Among those who received prison sentences were: [For a complete list, please See Annex 1 - Page 8]

- Monk leader **U Gambira**, sentenced to a total of **68 years** on 18 and 21 November.<sup>4</sup>
- 88 Generations Students leaders **Min Ko Naing** and **Ko Ko Gyi**, sentenced to **65 years** on 11 November.<sup>5</sup>
- Comedian **Zarganar**, sentenced to a total of **59 years** on 21 and 27 November.<sup>6</sup>
- Monk **U Kalatha**, sentenced to a total of **39 years** on 18 November.<sup>7</sup>
- Relief activist **Tin Maung Aye**, sentenced to **29 years** on 21 November.<sup>8</sup>
- Relief activists **Zaw Thet Htwe** and **Thant Zin Aung**, sentenced to a total of **19 and 18 years** respectively on 21 and 27 November.<sup>9</sup>
- NLD youth member **Pye Phyo Hlaing**, sentenced to **24 years** on 11 November.<sup>10</sup>
- Blogger and NLD member **Nay Phone Latt**, sentenced to **20 years and six months** on 10 November.<sup>11</sup>
- Labor activist and NLD member **Su Su Nway**, sentenced to **12 years and six months** on 11 November.<sup>12</sup>
- Activist and protester **Htin Kyaw**, sentenced to **12 years and six months** on 17 November.
- Hip-hop singer and Generation Wave member **Zeyar Thaw**, sentenced to **6 years** on 20 November.<sup>13</sup>
- Poet **Saw Wei**, sentenced to **two years** on 10 November.<sup>14</sup>
- Journalist **Ein Khine Oo**, sentenced to **two years** on 14 November.<sup>15</sup>

After imposing the sentences, the SPDC quickly transferred many of the prisoners to jails located away from Rangoon and, in some cases, to some of Burma's most remote regions.

- Min Ko Naing and Ko Ko Gyi to Kengtung prison in Shan State.<sup>16</sup>
- U Eindaka, abbot of Rangoon's Maggin monastery, to Lashio prison in Shan State.<sup>17</sup>
- 88 Generation Student Pyone Cho to Kawthaung prison in Tenasserim Division.<sup>18</sup>
- Su Su Nway and 88 Generation Student Myo Aung Naing to Kale prison in Sagaing Division.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> AP (18 Nov 08) Myanmar courts imprison ethnic minority activists; Irrawaddy (18 Nov 08) Prominent Monk, Others Receive Lengthy Prison Sentences; VOA (18 Nov 08) Burma Sentences 5 More Activists

<sup>5</sup> Reuters (15 Nov 08) Myanmar jails democracy activists; AFP (15 Nov 08) Myanmar opposition leaders get long jail terms: relatives; DVB (15 Nov 08) 88 generation leaders also receive 65 years' jail terms; Irrawaddy (16 Nov 08) Dissident Leaders Transferred to Remote Prisons; Mizzima News (15 Nov 08) Min Ko Naing & eight '88 generation students' sentenced to 65 years

<sup>6</sup> AP (27 Nov 08) Myanmar gives comedian critical of govt 14 years; Irrawaddy (27 Nov 08) Zarganar and Journalist Associates Receive Additional Sentences; DVB (28 Nov 08) Zarganar's jail term extended to 59 years; Mizzima News (28 Nov 08) Total prison term for Zarganar climbs to 59 years

<sup>7</sup> VOA (18 Nov 08) Burma Sentences 5 More Activists; Irrawaddy (18 Nov 08) Prominent Monk, Others Receive Lengthy Prison Sentences; Mizzima News (19 Nov 08) U Gambira put away for 12 ½ years; Mizzima News (21 Nov 08) U Gambira to serve total of 68 years in prison

<sup>8</sup> Mizzima News (21 Nov 08) Comedian Zarganar handed 45-year prison term; DVB (24 Nov 08) Zarganar and U Gambira jailed for over 40 years; Irrawaddy (21 Nov 08) Zarganar, Ashin Gambira Get Long Prison Terms

<sup>9</sup> Mizzima News (21 Nov 08) Comedian Zarganar handed 45-year prison term; Irrawaddy (21 Nov 08) Zarganar, Ashin Gambira Get Long Prison Terms; DVB (24 Nov 08) Zarganar and U Gambira jailed for over 40 years; Irrawaddy (27 Nov 08) Zarganar and Journalist Associates Receive Additional Sentences; Mizzima News (28 Nov 08) Total prison term for Zarganar climbs to 59 years

<sup>10</sup> Mizzima News (11 Nov 08) Lengthy prison terms for nine pro-democracy activists; DVB (12 Nov 08) 88 generation student activists given lengthy jail terms

<sup>11</sup> Mizzima News (10 Nov 08) Court sentenced blogger for over 20 years, poet for two years; Irrawaddy (10 Nov 08) Young Burmese Blogger Sentenced to more than 20 Years in Jail; DVB (11 Nov 08) Saw Wai gets two years for writing coded poem

<sup>12</sup> AP (12 Nov 08) Myanmar courts hand harsh sentences to activists; Reuters (21 Nov 08) Myanmar junta jails hip hop star for 6 years; Irrawaddy (11 Nov 08) 40 Burmese dissidents given prison terms of up to 65 years; Irrawaddy (11 Nov 08) 88 Generation Activists Given 65 Years; DVB (12 Nov 08) 88 generation student activists given lengthy jail terms

<sup>13</sup> NYT (21 Nov 08) Myanmar junta jails comedian for 45 years; Mizzima News (20 Nov 08) Hip-hop singer Zeyar Thaw given 6 years; DVB (21 Nov 08) Generation Wave activists jailed; Irrawaddy (21 Nov 08) Zarganar, Ashin Gambira Get Long Prison Terms

<sup>14</sup> Mizzima News (10 Nov 08) Court sentenced blogger for over 20 years, poet for two years; Irrawaddy (10 Nov 08) Young Burmese Blogger Sentenced to more than 20 Years in Jail; DVB (11 Nov 08) Saw Wai gets two years for writing coded poem

<sup>15</sup> DPA (14 Nov 08) Myanmar journalist gets two years for covering cyclone protest; AFP (15 Nov 08) Myanmar opposition leaders get long jail terms: relatives; AP (17 Nov 08) Myanmar sentences journalist to 2 years in prison; Irrawaddy (16 Nov 08) Dissident Leaders Transferred to Remote Prisons; Mizzima News (14 Nov 08) Reporter covering Nargis victims sentenced to two years

<sup>16</sup> Reuters (17 Nov 08) Myanmar disperses dissidents throughout its gulag; Irrawaddy (16 Nov 08) Dissident Leaders Transferred to Remote Prisons; DVB (17 Nov 08) 88 generation leaders transferred to remote prisons

<sup>17</sup> DVB (28 Nov 08) Detained activists transferred after sentencing

<sup>18</sup> Irrawaddy (16 Nov 08) Dissident Leaders Transferred to Remote Prisons; DVB (17 Nov 08) 88 generation leaders transferred to remote prisons

- Saw Wai and musician Win Maw to Mandalay Prison.<sup>20</sup>
- NLD member Tun Tun Naing to Meikhtila prison in Mandalay Division.<sup>21</sup>
- Monk U Thattama to Myingyan prison in Mandalay Division.<sup>22</sup>
- Nay Phone Latt and 88 Generation Student Nyan Lin to Pa-an prison in Karen State.<sup>23</sup>
- 88 Generation Student Mya Aye to Loikaw prison in Karenni State.<sup>24</sup>
- 88 Generation Student Htay Kywe and monks U Sandar Thiri and U Kovida to Buthidaung prison in Arakan State.<sup>25</sup>
- NLD youth member Thein Swe and ABFSU member Sithu Maung to Akyab prison in Arakan State.<sup>26</sup>
- 88 Generation Student Hla Myo Naung to Myitkyina prison in Kachin State.<sup>27</sup>
- 88 Generation Student Aung Thu and activist Bo Bo Win Hlaing to Putao prison in Kachin State.<sup>28</sup>

The SPDC's imposition of lengthy prison terms on democracy activists and junta critics met with international condemnation. Conspicuously silent, no ASEAN member country condemned the junta for imposing excessively long jail terms for people engaged in political dissent and humanitarian activities.

- **7 November:** The US State Department condemned the SPDC for taking legal action against several lawyers defending pro-democracy activists.<sup>29</sup>
- **12 November:**
  - The US strongly condemned the SPDC's decision to sentence dissidents to up to 65 years in jail and demanded their immediate release.<sup>30</sup>
  - The UK condemned the harsh prison sentences imposed on 39 pro-democracy activists.<sup>31</sup>
  - Canada's Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon said that Canada was deeply concerned over the sentencing of 14 members of the 88 Generation Students group to 65 years in prison.<sup>32</sup>
  - Germany condemned the SPDC's sentencing of 14 members of the 88 Generation Students group.<sup>33</sup>
- **13 November:** UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon expressed concern over long prison terms given to more than 30 democracy activists in Burma earlier this week.<sup>34</sup>
- **17 November:** The White House issued a statement that said that the international community and UN Security Council should not remain silent on the convictions of scores of pro-democracy activists.<sup>35</sup>
- **26 November:** Netherlands FM Maxime Verhagen voiced outrage over the SPDC's imposition of a 45 year prison term on comedian Zaganar.<sup>36</sup>

Perhaps the strangest reaction came from five UN Special Rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma Tomas Ojea Quintana. The five Rapporteurs incredulously

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<sup>19</sup> Irrawaddy (24 Nov 08) Eighteen more political prisoners transferred; DVB (25 Nov 08) Detained activists transferred to regional prisons

<sup>20</sup> Irrawaddy (16 Nov 08) Dissident Leaders Transferred to Remote Prisons

<sup>21</sup> Mizzima News (24 Nov 08) At least 15 activists transferred to remote prisons; DVB (25 Nov 08) Detained activists transferred to regional prisons

<sup>22</sup> Mizzima News (24 Nov 08) At least 15 activists transferred to remote prisons; DVB (25 Nov 08) Detained activists transferred to regional prisons

<sup>23</sup> DVB (18 Nov 08) New Generation activists jailed

<sup>24</sup> Irrawaddy (16 Nov 08) Dissident Leaders Transferred to Remote Prisons; DVB (17 Nov 08) 88 generation leaders transferred to remote prisons

<sup>25</sup> AFP (16 Nov 08) Myanmar activists moved to separate prisons: relatives; Irrawaddy (16 Nov 08) Dissident Leaders Transferred to Remote Prisons; DVB (17 Nov 08) 88 generation leaders transferred to remote prisons; Irrawaddy (26 Nov 08) Trials and prison transfers continue in Rangoon; DVB (28 Nov 08) Detained activists transferred after sentencing

<sup>26</sup> Irrawaddy (26 Nov 08) Trials and prison transfers continue in Rangoon; DVB (28 Nov 08) Detained activists transferred after sentencing

<sup>27</sup> Irrawaddy (16 Nov 08) Dissident Leaders Transferred to Remote Prisons; DVB (28 Nov 08) Detained activists transferred after sentencing; DVB (17 Nov 08) 88 generation leaders transferred to remote prisons;

<sup>28</sup> Irrawaddy (16 Nov 08) Dissident Leaders Transferred to Remote Prisons; DVB (28 Nov 08) Detained activists transferred after sentencing; DVB (17 Nov 08) 88 generation leaders transferred to remote prisons

<sup>29</sup> AFP (08 Nov 08) US condemns Myanmar for prosecuting defense lawyers

<sup>30</sup> Reuters (12 Nov 08) U.S. "strongly condemns" lengthy Myanmar sentences

<sup>31</sup> Irrawaddy (12 Nov 08) Britain, Canada leads protests against sentencing of dissidents

<sup>32</sup> Irrawaddy (12 Nov 08) Britain, Canada leads protests against sentencing of dissidents

<sup>33</sup> DPA (12 Nov 08) Germany condemns jailing of Myanmar activists

<sup>34</sup> AP (13 Nov 08) UN concerned about harsh prison terms in Myanmar

<sup>35</sup> Mizzima News (18 Nov 08) White House deplores recent sentencing of Burmese activists

<sup>36</sup> VOA (26 Nov 08) Netherlands' foreign minister condemns Burma prison sentences

believed that re-trying defendants in open hearings would ensure the fairness of the legal proceedings. In their 18 November statement, the five Rapporteurs failed to demand the release of the recently-jailed dissidents or an end to the use of kangaroo courts to imprison opponents of the regime.<sup>37</sup>

## INSIDE BURMA

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### Landmines casualties rising

On 21 November, the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL) released the Landmine Monitor Report 2008.<sup>38</sup> According to the report, in 2007:

- Burma was one of only two countries, the other being Russia, whose armed forces used anti-personnel mines.
- SPDC Army and armed opposition groups continued to use landmines in Karen, Karenni, Mon, and Shan States, as well as in Pegu and Tenasserim Divisions.
- At least 409 landmine-related casualties (up 76% from the previous year) were reported, resulting in 47 deaths (up from 20 in 2006), 38 of whom were civilians. The Taungoo area in Pegu Division accounted for nearly 60% of the casualties.
- The SPDC continued to force civilians to act as human mine sweepers.

In November, the regime laid landmines on the Burma-Bangladesh border following tension over gas exploration in the Bay of Bengal. [See below *SPDC and Bangladesh Navies face-off in Bay of Bengal*] On 7 November, Na Sa Ka personnel laid mines on the Burma-Bangladesh borders from pillar No. 37 to 41, located in Wayla Daung, Maungdaw Township, Arakan State.<sup>39</sup>

Landmine explosions along the border with Bangladesh were also reported. On 13 November, a landmine exploded in North Maungdaw, Arakan State.<sup>40</sup> On 14 November, a landmine exploded on the Burma-Bangladesh border, a few kilometers from the border gate in Kon Don, Bangladesh.<sup>41</sup> No casualties were reported in either incident.

## HUMAN RIGHTS

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### Arrests continue

On 5 November, SPDC authorities arrested Khin Maung Aye, editor of the weekly journal News Watch, and Tun Tun Thein, a reporter for the same publication.<sup>42</sup>

### Detention conditions

- On 22 November, SPDC authorities in Myitkyina prison, Kachin State, put 88 Generation Student Hla Myo Naung in solitary confinement.<sup>43</sup> Hla Myo Naung suffers from a serious eye condition.<sup>44</sup>
- New Generation Shan State member Tun Nyo has been denied medical treatment in Buthidaung prison, Arakan State. Tun Nyo suffers from hypertension.<sup>45</sup>
- On 13 November, it was reported that detained poet and NLD member Aung Than, 36, contracted HIV after Insein prison hospital staff forced him to receive an injection with an infected needle two years earlier.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> UN Press Release (18 Nov 08) UN experts strongly condemn the severe convictions and unfair trials in Myanmar; AP (18 Nov 08) Myanmar courts imprison ethnic minority activists; Reuters (18 Nov 08) U.N. rights experts condemn Myanmar activist trials

<sup>38</sup> ICBL (21 Nov 08) Landmine Monitor Report 2008: Toward a Mine-Free World; ICBL (21 Nov 08) Press Release: 1997 Mine Ban Treaty Suffers First Serious Violations

<sup>39</sup> Kaladan News (13 Nov 08) Burma lays landmines in Burma- Bangla border

<sup>40</sup> Kaladan News (17 Nov 08) Mine explodes in northern Maungdaw

<sup>41</sup> Narinjara News (17 Nov 08) Land mine explodes on border

<sup>42</sup> Irrawaddy (07 Nov 08) Two more join Burma's list of detained journalists

<sup>43</sup> DVB (28 Nov 08) Detained activists transferred after sentencing

<sup>44</sup> Irrawaddy (03 Nov 08) Authorities Harass Activists' Defense Lawyers

<sup>45</sup> SHAN (05 Nov 08) Imprisoned Shan politician needs treatment

<sup>46</sup> RSF (13 Nov 08) Jailed poet gets HIV virus from forcible injection in Insein prison

- The SPDC has transferred detainees serving prison terms ranging from six months to five years from the overcrowded Zilon prison in Myitkyina, Kachin State, to labor camps in Mandalay Division and Karen State.<sup>47</sup>

## Forced labor incidents increase in November

During November, reports of forced labor incidents increased.

- Since the beginning November, it was reported that the SPDC had been forcing villagers from Minbya Township, Arakan State, to perform labor on the Rangoon-Akyab highway.<sup>48</sup>
- Since the first week of November, SPDC troop movements to the Bangladesh border in Arakan State resulted in villagers of Maungdaw Township performing forced labor. It was reported that SPDC border security forces required 20 villagers from every village from North Maungdaw to dig trenches and build bunkers.<sup>49</sup>
- Since early November, it was reported that SPDC Army units active in areas of Mongkeung Township in Southern Shan State have ordered villagers to perform forced labor as porters and guides. Villagers were required to perform sentry duty as well.<sup>50</sup>
- Since the beginning of November, SPDC officials in Falam Township, Chin State, have ordered the villagers of Congheng, Zamual, and Var villages to cut and clear brush on the side of roads.<sup>51</sup>
- Since the second week of November, the SPDC Army has ordered Zee Chaung villagers in Kyauktaw Township, Arakan State, to perform forced labor for the construction of a hydroelectric dam. One hundred to 150 villagers were ordered to go to the Zee Chaung Dam construction site daily.<sup>52</sup>
- Since mid-November, SPDC authorities in Maungdaw, Arakan State, forced villagers to cultivate onion, garlic, and sunflowers.<sup>53</sup>

## CEDAW conclusions

On 7 November, the CEDAW Committee published its conclusions on Burma. The regime's latest report to the CEDAW was five years late. The committee was clearly frustrated by having to listen to the SPDC's whitewash and having to repeat questions that went unanswered. The committee expressed particular concern regarding:

- the SPDC's enshrining of discrimination against women its new constitution including their presumed exclusion from the 25% of parliamentary seats reserved for the military. The constitution also excludes women from certain kinds of jobs.
- the current lack of women in high government or political positions.
- the regime's use of sexual violence in its war on ethnic nationalities.
- the high prevalence of violence against women and girls, including rape. The Committee also expressed concern that violence was accompanied by a culture of silence and impunity.<sup>54</sup>

Rights groups welcomed the CEDAW Committee's report and called for concrete action from other UN bodies.<sup>55</sup> The Women's League of Burma (WLB) submitted its shadow report. They called on the international community to take action to promote democratization in Burma, as the only way to safeguard the rights of women.<sup>56</sup> On 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, the WLB declared their opposition to the 2010 election, and called on the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women to carry out an investigation into the state-sanctioned sexual violence against the women of Burma.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>47</sup> Kachin News Group (01 Nov 08) Junta sends prisoners in short-term sentences to Hard Labour camps

<sup>48</sup> Narinjara News (10 Nov 08) Min Bya villagers forced to repair road

<sup>49</sup> Kaladan News (15 Nov 08) Army uses forced labor for trenches and bunkers

<sup>50</sup> SHAN (14 Nov 08) Villagers used as porters in junta's campaign against rebels

<sup>51</sup> Khonumthung News (20 Nov 08) Chin people made to clean bushes to prevent fire

<sup>52</sup> Kaladan News (24 Nov 08) Forced labor for dam in Kyauktaw Township

<sup>53</sup> Kaladan News (25 Nov 08) Forced labor for growing winter crops in Maungdaw

<sup>54</sup> CEDAW 42<sup>nd</sup> Session (07 Nov 08) Concluding Observations [CEDAW/C/MMR/CO/3]

<sup>55</sup> USCB (18 Nov 08) Human rights activists laud United Nations' recognition of Burmese junta's systematic use of sexual violence against ethnic women, impunity

<sup>56</sup> Mizzima News (03 Nov 08) Burmese women's rights "intact": Junta's ambassador tells UN

<sup>57</sup> WLB (24 Nov 08) Statement on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

## DISPLACEMENT

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### Exodus from Arakan State

The number of people attempting the dangerous crossing from Burma into Bangladesh to board boats on to Thailand and Malaysia increased with the seasonal calming of seas. Most boat people were Rohingya.<sup>58</sup>

- **7 November:** One hundred and twenty boat people left for Malaysia from Moshkhali in Cox's Bazaar District, Bangladesh. However, on 10 November the boat stopped in Teknaf, Bangladesh, and passengers were driven off after being told that they were in Thailand.
- **9 November:** One hundred boat people left for Malaysia from Shapuri Dip, Bangladesh.
- **10 November:** Two boats, carrying 60 and 80 people respectively, left for Malaysia from Shapuri Dip.
- **11 November:** One hundred and fifty boat people left for Malaysia. It stopped in Shapuri Dip due to engine trouble. Passengers disappeared, fearing their arrest.<sup>59</sup>

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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### UNGA condemns SPDC - again

On 21 November, the UN General Assembly's Third Committee approved a draft resolution critical of the human rights situation inside Burma. The resolution expressed “grave concern” at the extension of the house arrest of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, “as well as the high and increasing number of political prisoners.”<sup>60</sup> The resolution also condemned the SPDC for its unwillingness to combat rights violations.<sup>61</sup> Not a single ASEAN country could muster the strength to vote in support of the resolution. Brunei, Laos, Malaysia, and Vietnam voted against the resolution while Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand abstained.<sup>62</sup>

### SPDC and Bangladesh Navies face-off in Bay of Bengal

The SPDC's unrelenting thirst for oil and gas revenues led to a tense stand off between SPDC and Bangladeshi warships in disputed territorial waters in the Bay of Bengal. The confrontation also led to increased border security by both Bangladesh and SPDC Army forces.<sup>63</sup> Several sessions of talks between Bangladesh and the SPDC officials failed to provide any progress in resolving the maritime boundary dispute. New talks are scheduled for January 2009.<sup>64</sup> After the SPDC withdrew its navy ships from the disputed waters, the situation along the border remained on edge with troop deployments still occurring.<sup>65</sup>

- **1 November:** The SPDC Navy used two of its ships to escort oil and exploration rigs owned by Daewoo Corporation into disputed waters in the Bay of Bengal. The Bangladesh Navy deployed three navy ships in response.<sup>66</sup>
- **2 November:** The Bangladesh Foreign Office summoned SPDC Ambassador Phae Thann Oo to deliver a strong protest against the reported intrusion of SPDC Navy vessels in disputed waters in the Bay of Bengal.<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Kaladan News (13 Nov 08) Five engine boats with boat-people leave for Malaysia

<sup>59</sup> Kaladan News (13 Nov 08) Five engine boats with boat-people leave for Malaysia

<sup>60</sup> AP (21 Nov 08) Key UN committee targets rights abusers

<sup>61</sup> Mizzima News (24 Nov 08) General Assembly approves Burma resolution, debate intensifies

<sup>62</sup> Mizzima News (24 Nov 08) General Assembly approves Burma resolution, debate intensifies

<sup>63</sup> Narinjara News (08 Nov 08) Burma Sends Ground Troops to Bangladesh Border; Narinjara News (09 Nov 08) Riot Police and Constables Sent to Western Border; Daily Times (09 Nov 08) Bangladesh, Myanmar to build up border forces over sea row

<sup>64</sup> Mizzima News (05 Nov 08) B'deshi delegation to talk with Burmese officials; Reuters (16 Nov 08) Bangladesh, Myanmar start talks to defuse sea row; Mizzima News (17 Nov 08) No headway in Burma-Bangla bilateral maritime parleys

<sup>65</sup> Kaladan News (19 Nov 08) Burmese junta continues troops build up along border; Kaladan News (22 Nov 08) Burma deploys artillery in Burma-Bangladesh border

<sup>66</sup> Daily Star (03 Nov 08) Myanmar brings warships to explore Bangladesh waters

- **4 November:** Bangladesh said that it had deployed another navy vessel to reinforce three other Bangladesh navy ships some 30 miles South of Saint Martin Island. Bangladesh said it will take “all possible measures” to protect its nation’s assets.<sup>68</sup> A SPDC Foreign Ministry official said that Burma will continue exploration of gas in the Bay of Bengal despite strong protest by Bangladesh.<sup>69</sup>
- **6 November:** A Bangladeshi naval official said that the SPDC withdrew two of its navy warships from the Bay of Bengal.<sup>70</sup>
- **7 November:** Bangladesh said it would remove warships deployed in the Bay of Bengal only when the SPDC provides assurances it would halt gas exploration work in a disputed maritime zone.<sup>71</sup>
- **10 November:** The Bangladesh Foreign Ministry announced that its stand-off with Burma over the presence of an oil exploration rig in disputed waters in the Bay of Bengal ended after two SPDC Navy ships left the disputed waters.<sup>72</sup>

## ECONOMY

### Sanctions

- **2 November:** British politicians called on Lloyd's Chair Lord Levene to reconsider his position as director of French energy giant Total. He was recently reappointed as a director for another three-year term.<sup>73</sup>
- **3 November:** It was reported that US oil giant Chevron had removed any reference to its operations in Burma from its corporate website. At the end of October, Chevron was accused by the environmental group Amazon Watch of paying journalists to write favorable editorial content without disclosing their financial relationship to the company.<sup>74</sup>
- **30 October:** Earthrights International (ERI) filed a complaint against Daewoo International, alleging their activities in developing a major gas field in Burma contravene Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) guidelines on corporate responsibility and investment. ERI also cited the Korea Gas Corporation in its complaint.<sup>75</sup>
- **7 November:** Burma Campaign UK added Colenco Power Engineering to its “dirty list”. The Swiss company was recently hired by the SPDC Ministry of Electric Power-1 to provide consulting services for more hydroelectric dam projects, including Tasang.<sup>76</sup>

### Business with China

New SPDC official trade figures indicate that trade between the China and Burma countries grew by 60% in the 2007-2008 fiscal year that ended in March. Total trade with China was US\$2.4 million, which is 24% of Burma’s total annual foreign trade.<sup>77</sup>

- **18 November:** China’s and the SPDC’s Chambers of Commerce signed an MoU on promotion of trade cooperation between the two parties in Rangoon.<sup>78</sup>
- **19 November:** China announced that would begin construction on the oil and gas pipeline from the Bay of Bengal to Kunming in the first half of 2009. [See map] Construction costs are estimated at US\$2.9 billion.<sup>79</sup>



<sup>67</sup> New Nation (03 Nov 08) Intrusion into sea oil block: Protest note handed over to Myanmar envoy  
<sup>68</sup> Guardian (UK) (04 Nov 08) Bangladesh and Burma send warships into Bay of Bengal  
<sup>69</sup> AP (04 Nov 08) Burma said it will continue gas exploration in Bay of Bengal despite maritime dispute  
<sup>70</sup> AFP (06 Nov 08) Myanmar pulls warships from disputed waters: Bangladesh  
<sup>71</sup> AFP (07 Nov 08) Bangladesh demands Burma assurance to end naval standoff  
<sup>72</sup> Hindu (10 Nov 08) Withdrawal of Myanmar's warships ends crisis in "Bay"  
<sup>73</sup> Observer (02 Nov 08) Lloyd's chief urged to cut Burma links with Total  
<sup>74</sup> Business Wire (03 Nov 08) Amazon Defense Coalition: Chevron whitewashes its website of Burma  
<sup>75</sup> Irrawaddy (04 Nov 08) Daewoo Named in Human Rights Complaint  
<sup>76</sup> Irrawaddy (07 Nov 08) Swiss Firm Hired by Regime to Help Hydroelectric Projects  
<sup>77</sup> DPA (03 Nov 08) Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade up 60 per cent last fiscal year  
<sup>78</sup> Xinhua (18 Nov 08) Chinese, Myanmar chambers of commerce agree to promote trade co-op  
<sup>79</sup> Reuters (20 Nov 08) China to Myanmar pipelines

## APPENDIX 1 – LIST OF PRISON SENTENCES

Date	No of people	Group	Length (years)	Names
4 Nov	1	Myanmar Muslim Organization (MMO) Chairman	13	Than Tuna ka Salim
4 Nov	9	MMO members	10	Nir Ahmed, Abdu Razak, Obaid, Mohammed Yakub, Salay, Shamshu, Akbal, Safar, Ba Maung
4 Nov	1	MMO member	8	Dil Mohamed
4 Nov	3	MMO members	3	Dr. Hla Myint, Noor Khodir, Dr. Zaw Nyint
6 Nov	1	Abbot of Maggin monastery	16.5	U Indaka
6 Nov	1	Monk	8	U Eindriya
7 Nov	2	Lawyers	4 mths	Aung Thein, Khin Maung Shein
7 Nov	1	Monk from Garna Puli monastery	19	U Thattama
7 Nov	1	Protester	19	Htun Htun Naing
10 Nov	1	Blogger and NLD member	20.5	Nay Phone Latt
10 Nov	1	Activist	2	Thin July Kyaw
10 Nov	1	Poet	2	Saw Wei
11 Nov	23	88 Generations Students	65	Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi, Pyone Cho, Mya Aye, Htay Kywe, Hla Myo Naung, Aung Thu, Nyan Lin, Aung Naing aka Myo Aung Naing, Panneik Tun, Jimmy aka Kyaw Minn Yu, Min Zeya, Ant Bwe Kyaw, Zeya aka Kalama, Thet Zaw, Aye Than aka Thant Tin, Zaw Zaw Min, Nilar Thein, Mar Mar Oo, Sandar Min, Mie Mie aka Thin Thin Aye, Thet Thet Aung, Kyaw Kyaw Htwe
11 Nov	1	NLD member	24	Pye Phyo Hlaing
11 Nov	4	NLD members	10	Nyan Lin Htut, Pye Phyo Aung, Aung Myo Paing, Phyo Maung Maung Soe
11 Nov	1	NLD member	22	Nay Lin Aung
11 Nov	1	NLD member	8	Thiha Aung Aung
11/20 Nov	1	NLD member	10 + 5	Thein Zaw
11/20 Nov	1	NLD member	8 + 10	Thiha Thet Tin
11 Nov	1	NLD member	12.5	Su Su Nway
11 Nov	1	NLD youth member	8	Bo Bo Win Hlaing
11 Nov	2	NLD members	10	Maung Kan, Aung Kyaw Soe
11 Nov	5	Monks from Rangoon's Ngwe Kyar Yan monastery	6.5	U Nanda, U Wilar Thekka, U Agga Dhama, U Eithiriya, U Zarnayya
11 Nov	1	Musician	6	Win Maw
11 Nov	1	HIV/AIDS activist	6	Than Naing
11 Nov	2	Protesters	4.5	Aung Kyaw Oo, Sai Min Thein
11 Nov	1	Protester	2	Nay Aung
13 Nov	8	NLD members	7.5	Tin Yu, Aung Min Naing aka Mee Thway, Win Myint, Myo Kyaw Zin, Yan Naing Tun, Than Naing, Soe Min Min aka Soe Nge, Hla Hla Maw
13/14 Nov	2	NLD members	7.5 + 9.5	Thant Zin Myo, San Win,
13/14 Nov	1	NLD member	7.5 + 7.5	Kyaw Soe Win
13 Nov	1	Monk	8	U Sanda Dika
13 Nov	1	Monk	8	Unknown
13 Nov	2	Monks from Ngwe Kya	Unkno	U Sandimar, U Sanda

		Yan monastery	wn	
13 Nov	1	Former political prisoner	2	Thein Aye
13 Nov	1	All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) member	9.5	Honey Oo
13 Nov	1	88 Generation Student	11	Min Han
13 Nov	2	88 Generations Students	2	Myo Yan Naung Thein, Min Min Soe
13 Nov	1	NLD member	4.5	Myo Khin
13 Nov	1	NLD member	4	Kyin Hlaing
14 Nov	5	NLD members	5 to 16	Kyaw Zin Win, Kyaw Kyaw Lin, Kyi Kyi Wa, Nay Tha Myo Win, Aung Zaw Oo
14 Nov	3	NLD members	7.5 to 9	Than Zaw Myint, Hlaing Min, Daw Nge
14 Nov	1	Activist	2.5	Tin Myint
14 Nov	3	Activists	4	Shwe Maung, Wunna Maung, Zaw Min Lay
14 Nov	2	Activists	2	Tin Win and Nyi Nyi Min
14 Nov	1	Monk	11	U Khaymar Wantha
14 Nov	1	Protester	7	Kyaw Kyaw Thant
14 Nov	1	Activist	2	Win Myint
14 Nov	1	Journalist	2	Ein Khine Oo
17 Nov	1	Protester	12.5	Htin Kyaw
17 Nov	2	NLD members	6.5	Kyi Phyu, Thein Swe
17 Nov	1	Human Right Defender and Promoters member	6.5	Myo Thant
17 Nov	1	ABFSU member	10	Ye Myat Hein
17 Nov	1	ABFSU member	6.5	Ye Min Oo
17 Nov	1	ABFSU member	6.5	Zin Linn Aung
17 Nov	1	ABFSU member	11.5	Sithu Maung
17 Nov	1	Monk from Thiri Mingalar monastery	8.5	U Sandar Wara
18/21 Nov	1	Monk	12 + 56	U Gambira
18/21 Nov	1	Monk	35 + 4	U Kalatha
18 Nov	2	Ethnic activists	33	Tin Htoo Aung, Kam Lat Hkoat aka Kyaw Soe
18 Nov	1	Ethnic activist	8	Kat Hkant Kwal aka Khwar Pee
19 Nov	1	ABFSU member	6.5	Dee Nyein Lin
19 Nov	1	Student activist	5	Kyaw Swa Htay
19 Nov	1	Student activist	4	Kyaw Hsan
20 Nov	1	Hip hop singer and Generation Wave member	6	Zeyar Thaw aka Kyaw Kyaw
20 Nov	5	Generation Wave members	5	Unknown
20 Nov	14	NLD members	2.5	Unknown
21/27 Nov	1	Comedian and relief activist	45 + 14	Zarganar
21/27 Nov	1	Relief activists	15 + 4	Zaw Thet Htwe
21/27 Nov	1	Relief activists	15 + 3	Thant Zin Aung
21 Nov	1	Relief activist	29	Tin Maung Aye
21 Nov	5	Monks from Rangoon's Tharthana Theippan monastery	Unkno wn	Pyinya Thiha, Pyinya Dipa, Narapatint, Okantha Marla, Zarnayya
21 Nov	4	Activists	4	Htun Htun Naing, Than Htay, Ngwe Soe, Kyaw San Lay
21 Nov	1	Activist	4.5	Khin Htun
21 Nov	1	Activist	Unkno wn	Soe Shwe

21 Nov	1	Abbot of Thu Mingala monastery	4	Unknown
24 Nov	3	Generation Wave members	8	Tin Myo Htut aka Kyaw Kyaw Oo, Saw Maung
25 Nov	3	Activists	13	Teza Soe, Tun Min Aung, Tin Min Sein
28 Nov	2	Myanmar Nation journalist and office manager	7	Thet Zin, Sein Win Maung
28 Nov	13	88 Generation Students	6	Thein Than Htun, Thaw Zin Htun, Zaw Htet Ko Ko, Pyi Than, Saw Myo Min Hlaing, Aung Theik Soe, Chit Ko Lin, San San Tin, Lay Lay Mon, Noble Aye, Nwe Hnin Yi, Tharapi Theint Theint Htun, Aye Thida
Unkno wn	3	Leaders of the Karenni Students and Youth and Kayan Nationalities Generation Youth	37	Be Du, Kaw Rio, Dee De

## OTHER BURMA NEWS IN NOVEMBER

1	SPDC publishes English version of the new constitution.
2	DKBA attacks on KNLA Battalion 201 in Kawkareik Township displace 500 Karen villages.
2	SPDC Army officer in Meikhtila Township, Mandalay Division, kills a local high school student.
3	NLD holds Central Executive Committee meeting in Rangoon.
3	SPDC extends another invitation to UN Special Advisor on Burma Ibrahim Gambari to visit Burma either in the last week of November or in early December.
3	UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon says that Burma continues to be a priority issue for him.
4	ILO appeals to the SPDC to release a child from Pegu forcibly recruited to the SPDC Army in Wuntho Township, Sagaing Division.
5	South Korea's Eneritech and Burma's Agritech and FMI sign an agreement for biofuel export.
5	Karen National Liberation Army forces capture a Democratic Karen Buddhist Army outpost near Pa-an in Karen State.
6	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's personal physician Dr Tin Myo Win visits her.
6	Bangladesh border security deport 12 Burmese, including five children, attempting to travel to Bangladesh for medical treatment
6	SPDC official says that cyclone Nargis rice export ban is lifted.
6	North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Yong-il arrives in Burma on a five-day official visit.
8	SPDC Chairman Sr Gen Than Shwe congratulates US President-elect Barack Obama.
9	Unknown assailant rapes a primary-school-aged girl in Myithina, Kachin State.
9	SPDC Army moves 15 military trucks transporting weapons and soldiers from Taunggyi to Kengtung, Shan State.
10	Four Democratic Karen Buddhist Army soldiers defect to the Karen National Liberation Army.
10	EU FMs say that the SPDC's planned elections for 2010 will be illegitimate unless the ruling military junta unconditionally releases all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
11	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Dr Cynthia Maung are awarded the 20th "Catalonia International Prize."
11	Three-month old girl dies of diarrhea after waiting five hours to receive treatment at the health clinic in Naya Para refugee camp, Bangladesh.
11	State-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar reports that the SPDC and North Korea signed an agreement to eliminate visas for diplomats and government officials.
12	Twenty people are hospitalized following clashes between SPDC Army soldiers and local residents in Minbya, Arakan State.
13	SPDC Army forcibly recruits a 14-year-old boy in Mrauk U Township, Arakan State.
13	US Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control freezes the assets of 26 individuals and 17 companies tied to drug trafficking in Burma.
13	ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus says that it is extremely concerned over the SPDC's imposition of lengthy terms on democracy activists.
13	US Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kay Bailey Hutchison—condemn the SPDC's harsh and unjust sentencing of 61 democracy activists.
13	The European Parliamentary Caucus on Burma condemns the SPDC sentencing of pro-democracy activists.

14	Writer Hnin Pan Ein arrives at the Thai-Burma border fleeing threat of imprisonment.
14	Police detain and torture a volunteer police officer in Rangoon's Thanlyin Township.
15	SPDC authorities in Three Pagodas Pass order a cap on the price of rice of 1,350 baht per 35 kilo bag.
15	SPDC police seize contraband contraceptives in a raid on a private clinic in Than Pain Chaung Ward in Kyaykpru, Arakan State. SPDC police arrest the Rohingya shop owner on charges of human trafficking.
16	Deputy Sec-Gen of Thailand's Narcotics Control Board Pitaya Jinawat says that opium cultivation in Thailand, Laos, and Burma has increased over the past three years.
17	SPDC police arrest three people in Tachilek, Shan State, on charges of smuggling amphetamine pills and confiscates 50,000 pills.
17	Three armed opposition group's fighters and one villager are killed in a clash with SPDC Army troops near Manaung village in Southern Ye Township, Mon State.
17	SPDC quarterly meeting begins in Naypyidaw.
18	Forces from Arakan Liberation Army attack SPDC Army outpost located at Dochaungwa in Paletwa Township, Chin State. Two SPDC soldiers are reportedly killed and three wounded.
18	Chinese Communist Party delegation arrives in Rangoon on 18 November for a three-day good-will visit to Burma.
19	In a letter sent to SPDC Chairman Sr Gen Than Shwe, dozens of NLD youth members request a meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
19	SPDC appoints national police chief Brig Gen Khin Yi to the post of Deputy Home Minister.
20	NLD issues a statement that urges the SPDC to review the harsh prison sentences handed out to political activists.
20	Club of Madrid grants Honorary Membership to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
21	FEC price falls to 1,190 kyat.
21	Mon armed resistance group known as the "Chan Dein group" kidnaps 102 villagers in southern Ye Township, Mon State, and demands ransom for their release.
22	Veteran politicians issue a statement expressing concern over the lengthy prison terms imposed on pro-democracy activists.
22	NLD calls for the immediate release of thousands of political prisoners and demands SPDC authorities allow all political parties dissolved in 1990 to re-register to contest the 2010 polls.
22	NLD member Min Thein stages a protest in front of the NLD headquarters in Rangoon to demand the release of 88 Generation Students leader Min Ko Naing and other political prisoners.
22	Around 400 people, including NLD supporters, veteran politicians, ethnic nationalities organizations, and CRPP members, attend a ceremony at the NLD headquarters in Rangoon to mark Burma's National Day.
23	India concludes foreign office consultations with the SPDC agreeing to strengthen bilateral trade and cooperation.
23	Police of Bawli Bazaar in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, arrest a 25-year-old man for having an affair with a local girl.
24	MSF warns that 25,000 people living with HIV/AIDS will die in Burma in 12 months if they do not receive essential treatment.
25	Soldiers from an armed Mon ethnic resistance group assault 15 civilians in southern Ye Township, Mon State. The group reportedly kills three and injures 12.
26	Meeting of the Tripartite Core Group in Rangoon discusses post-Nargis relief and recovery efforts.
26	Generation Wave issues a statement warning that the sentencing of activists will generate more instability.
27	Thai Supreme Court turns down petition of Shan migrant worker for compensation for a workplace injury that left her permanently paralyzed.
28	Italian diplomat Attilio Massimo Iannucci meets with senior NLD officials in Rangoon and urges them to participate in the 2010 elections.
28	SPD Chairman Sr Gen Than Shwe says the junta's roadmap to democracy is leading towards a "new nation."
29	Senior SPDC and Chinese military officials agree to strengthen the relations of the two countries and armed forces.

## REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN NOVEMBER

"Village Agency: Rural rights and resistance in militarized Karen State", Karen Human Rights Group (KHRG)

<http://www.khrg.org/khrg2008/khrg0803.pdf>

"A preventable fate: the failure of ART scale-up in Myanmar", Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF)

<http://www.msf.org/source/countries/asia/myanmar/2008/PreventableFate/PreventableFateReport.pdf>

**“Landmine Monitor Report 2008 – Myanmar/Burma”**, International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)  
<http://www.icbl.org/lm/2008/countries/myanmar.php>

**“Third Periodic Report of State Parties”**, Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination  
Against Women (CEDAW) - 42<sup>nd</sup> Session  
<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws42.htm>

**“In the Shadow of the Junta: CEDAW shadow report”**, Women’s League of Burma (WLB)  
<http://www.womenofburma.org/Report/IntheShadow-Junta-CEDAW2008.pdf>

**“Forgotten Future: Children affected by armed conflict in Burma”**, Human Rights Education Institute of  
Burma (HREIB)  
<http://www.emergencyburma.org/images/CHILDREN%20AND%20ARMED%20img.pdf>