

BURMA BULLETIN

A month-in-review of events in Burma

ALTERNATIVE A S E A N N E T W O R K O N B U R M A
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- **DOWN BUT NOT OUT: A murderous and far-ranging crackdown by SPDC forces against the largest nationwide protests since 1988 has dispersed, but not completely shut down resistance. Scores may have been killed by soldiers using machine guns and batons, and at least a thousand people detained. Monasteries have been raided and continue to be locked down.**
- **Amid splits in the military between officers who refused to kill monks, and hardliners desperate to regain control of the situation, the people still find ways to resist. Clusters of spontaneous protests continue to play “cat-and-mouse” with security forces.**
- **The violent crackdown has sparked the strongest statements on Burma yet from the international community, with ASEAN expressing “revulsion”, and ASEAN MPs calling for Burma to be expelled. In unprecedented numbers, thousands of supporters all over the world have rallied in solidarity with the democracy movement. China has become a target of anger for its direct support of the junta.**
- **Burma’s “saffron revolution”, named after monks’ robes, saw tens of thousands of Buddhist monks lead massive anti-junta demonstrations across most of Burma’s States and Divisions.**
- **On 22 September, hundreds of monks walked past a roadblock to pay respects to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at her home, a strong assertion of unity between the monks and the pro-democracy movement.**
- **The dramatic developments have revived calls for the UN Security Council to increase pressure on the military regime. UN Special Advisor Ibrahim Gambari was dispatched to Burma. At press time he was only allowed to meet with SPDC officials and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, but still had not been able to meet SPDC’s leaders Senior General Than Shwe and General Maung Aye. If Gambari returns to New York empty-handed, the UNSC must be prepared to engage in concrete measures against the regime.**

IN THIS ISSUE

KEY STORY

- 1 Saffron revolution
- 5 Bloggers vs junta
- 6 The crackdown
- 8 Death toll

INSIDE BURMA

- 9 Emergency aid supply blocked
- 10 SPDC Army weak
- 10 Ethnic groups support protests

DISPLACEMENT

- 10 Refugees expected in Thailand
- 11 Migrant workers in Thailand
- 11 Rohingya relocation continues

INTERNATIONAL

- 11 UNSC ready to act
- 12 China’s shift
- 12 ASEAN expresses revulsion
- 12 More sanctions

ECONOMY

- 14 Prices
- 15 Food shortages
- 15 Dam project suspended
- 15 Sell-off of resources continues

15 CHRONOLOGY

16 REPORTS

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KEY STORY

The “saffron revolution”

Between 18 and 28 September, tens of thousands of monks led massive anti-junta demonstrations across most of Burma’s States and Divisions. In the largest show of peaceful protests against the military regime since 1988, thousands of Burmese civilians from all walks of life joined the rallies. In a

dramatic event, on 22 September a crowd of 2,000 monks and civilians walked past a roadblock and rallied outside the lakeside house where Daw Aung San Suu Kyi remains detained.¹ The rally served as a strong assertion of unity between the monks and the pro-democracy movement.

The monks' involvement added momentum and brought greater legitimacy and support to the ongoing demonstrations triggered by the junta's decision to increase fuel prices on 15 August. [See *August 2007 Burma Bulletin* and the briefer *Fuel price hikes inflame Burmese people*]

The new wave of nationwide protests was triggered by the junta's failure to meet the demands of the All Burma Monks Alliance by the deadline of 17 September.² The All Burma Monks Alliance demanded that the SPDC released all detained demonstrators and political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and immediately entered into dialogue with democratic forces. In addition to the economic hardship exacerbated by the 15 August fuel price hike, monks were enraged by the regime's violent crackdown on their peaceful protests.³ [See briefer *Face off in Burma: Monks vs SPDC*]

Summary of the anti-junta demonstrations held in September

03 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 1,000 people demonstrated in Labutta, Irrawaddy Division.⁴ • A group of 14 writers and poets led by Nyunt Lwin, Tin Latt Ko, and Zin Kyaw Pai, demonstrated in Kyaukse, Mandalay Division, the hometown of SPDC leader Senior General Than Shwe.⁵ • A group of 10 NLD members led by elected MP Hlaing Aye demonstrated in front of the local SPDC office in Pakokku Township, Magwe Division.⁶
04 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 1,000 people led by 15 NLD members marched in Taunggoat, Arakan State, demanding the release of two men arrested on 31 August for demonstrating against the rise in fuel prices.⁷ • A group of about 25 NLD members demonstrated against high commodity prices and increase in taxes in Haka, the capital of Chin State.⁸
05 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 NLD members demonstrated in Bogale, Irrawaddy Division.⁹ • SPDC Army soldiers fired warning shots to break up a demonstration of about 500 monks in Pakokku, Magwe Division. Some of the monks were severely beaten and three were arrested.¹⁰ The following day, angered by the SPDC's violent reaction, monks from Pakokku's largest monastery held about 20 junta officials hostage to secure the release of their three detained colleagues.¹¹ Both the SPDC officials and the monks were released on the afternoon of 6 September.¹²
07 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local NLD members led a one-hour demonstration in Gwa Township, Arakan State.¹³
17 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 30 monks staged a protest in Chauk Township, Magwe Division, marching through the town and chanting <i>metta</i> [chants to ward off evil].¹⁴ • More than 700 monks held a demonstration against the military junta in Kyaukpadaung, Mandalay Division. The monks marched through the streets chanting prayers.¹⁵
18 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 100 monks demonstrated in Chauk Township, Magwe Division.¹⁶ • More than 250 monks marched through the streets of Kyaukpadaung, Mandalay Division.¹⁷

¹ AP (24 Sep 07) Myanmar celebrities support monks in wave of anti-government protests; New York Times (23 Sep 07) Challenge to Myanmar's junta gains momentum

² The All Burma Monks Alliance comprises various Buddhist monastic associations from across the country, including the All Burma Young Monks Union, the Federation of All Burma Monks Union, the Young Monks Union (Rangoon), the Monk Duta, and all monks unions in different States and Divisions.

³ Burma Update 168 (09 Sep 07) Announcement of All Burma Monks Alliance

⁴ IHT (03 Sep 07) Myanmar protest hits junta leader's hometown as calls for UN action intensify; DVB (03 Sep 07) More than 1000 march in Laputta

⁵ IHT (03 Sep 07) Myanmar protest hits junta leader's hometown as calls for UN action intensify; DVB (03 Sep 07) Poets lead protest in military head's home town

⁶ DVB (04 Sep 07) NLD protestors cheered in Pakokku

⁷ Reuters (04 Sep 07) Myanmar protest march attracts 1,000 people; DVB (04 Sep 07) Thousands protest arrests in Taunggoat

⁸ DVB (04 Sep 07) NLD members march in Hakha

⁹ AP (05 Sep 07) Myanmar Breaks Up Monk Protest; DVB (05 Sep 07) NLD leader arrested after Bogalay protest

¹⁰ AP (06 Sep 07) Myanmar monks briefly hold hostages; AFP (06 Sep 07) Myanmar monks end standoff, release local officials; Reuters (06 Sep 07) Myanmar monks seize govt officials, burn cars;

¹¹ Reuters (06 Sep 07) Myanmar monks seize govt officials, burn cars; AP (06 Sep 07) Protesting Myanmar monks free hostages; AFP (06 Sep 07) Myanmar monks end standoff, release local officials

¹² Mizzima News (06 Sep 07) Junta, monks exchange detainees in Pakhokku

¹³ Narinjara News (08 Sep 07) Peaceful Protests in Arakan's Southernmost Township

¹⁴ DVB (17 Sep 07) Chauk monks stage small protest

¹⁵ AFP (18 Sep 07) Buddhist monks march in Myanmar amid threats of tougher action; BBC (17 Sep 07) Burma monks stage fresh protests; DVB (17 Sep 07) Kyaukpadaung monks march against the military

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 100 monks and marched through the streets of Allen Township, Magwe Division chanting <i>metta</i>.¹⁸ • More than 600 monks rallied in Pakokku, Magwe Division.¹⁹ • About 2,000 monks demonstrated in the streets of Pegu, Pegu Division.²⁰ • More than 300 monks marched through Rangoon.²¹ • About 1,000 monks rallied in Akyab, Arakan State.²² At least three monks were arrested.²³
19 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 500 monks peacefully occupied the Sule pagoda. About 200 others demonstrated in other suburbs of Rangoon.²⁴ • More than 1,000 monks from various monasteries marched to the Maha Myat Muni pagoda in Mandalay.²⁵ • About 500 monks held an anti-junta protest in Prome, Pegu Division.²⁶ • Around 200 monks marched through the streets of Kalay, Sagaing Division.²⁷ • More than 1,000 monks staged a sit-in outside a police station in Akyab, Arakan State.²⁸ • Over 50 monks demonstrated in the street of Ponnagyun, Arakan State.²⁹
20 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 400 monks marched for an hour to protest against the junta in Monywa, Sagaing Division.³⁰ • More than 1,300 monks joined by thousands of ordinary Burmese marched through the street of Rangoon and concluded the protests at the Shwedagon pagoda.³¹ About 200 other monks from the Nikal Ngar Yat monastery in Rangoon also held an anti-junta protest, chanting <i>metta</i> and refusing to accept any donations.³² • About 20 people marched in support of the monks' protests by marching for about an hour in the streets of Rathidaung, Arakan State.³³
21 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 3,000 people, including about 1,500 monks, marched along the flooded streets of Rangoon.³⁴ More than 200 monks held a prayer vigil at the Maelamu Pagoda in North Rangoon.³⁵ • Over 1,000 monks held a one-hour rally in Shwebo, Sagaing Division.³⁶ • About 200 monks led a two-hour peaceful demonstration through the streets of Daik U, Pegu Division.³⁷

¹⁶ DVB (18 Sep 07) Monks mark start of boycott with metta chants; Mizzima News (18 Sep 07) Overturning of rice bowls" headlines largest protests to date, as monks lead the way

¹⁷ DVB (18 Sep 07) Monks march in Kyaukpadaung, Aung Lan and Pakkoku; Mizzima News (18 Sep 07) Overturning of rice bowls" headlines largest protests to date, as monks lead the way

¹⁸ AFP (18 Sep 07) Hundreds of monks protest around Myanmar; DVB (18 Sep 07) Monks march in Kyaukpadaung, Aung Lan and Pakkoku; Telegraph (19 Sep 07) Burmese monks defy junta with Buddhist prayers; Mizzima News (18 Sep 07) Overturning of rice bowls" headlines largest protests to date, as monks lead the way

¹⁹ AFP (18 Sep 07) Hundreds of monks protest around Myanmar; DVB (18 Sep 07) Monks march in Kyaukpadaung, Aung Lan and Pakkoku; Telegraph (19 Sep 07) Burmese monks defy junta with Buddhist prayers; Mizzima News (18 Sep 07) Overturning of rice bowls" headlines largest protests to date, as monks lead the way

²⁰ AFP (18 Sep 07) Hundreds of monks protest around Myanmar; Reuters (18 Sep 07) Tear gas used against Myanmar protest, monks hit; AP (18 Sep 07) Monks march in Myanmar amid tight security at temples; AP (18 Sep 07) Monks protest in Myanmar amid tight security; DVB (18 Sep 07) Two thousand monks march in Bago; Telegraph (19 Sep 07) Burmese monks defy junta with Buddhist prayers; Mizzima News (18 Sep 07) Overturning of rice bowls" headlines largest protests to date, as monks lead the way

²¹ AFP (18 Sep 07) Hundreds of monks protest around Myanmar; AP (18 Sep 07) Monks march in Myanmar amid tight security at temples; Reuters (18 Sep 07) Tear gas used against Myanmar protest, monks hit; AP (18 Sep 07) Monks protest in Myanmar amid tight security; Telegraph (19 Sep 07) Burmese monks defy junta with Buddhist prayers; Mizzima News (18 Sep 07) Overturning of rice bowls" headlines largest protests to date, as monks lead the way

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²³ Reuters (18 Sep 07) Tear gas used against Myanmar protest, monks hit; Telegraph (19 Sep 07) Burmese monks defy junta with Buddhist prayers

²⁴ AP (19 Sep 07) Buddhist monks occupy Myanmar pagoda as part of protests; AFP (19 Sep 07) Myanmar monks defy junta with third day of protests; DVB (19 Sep 07) Thousands turn out to support Rangoon protests

²⁵ AP (19 Sep 07) Buddhist monks occupy Myanmar pagoda as part of protests; AFP (19 Sep 07) Myanmar monks defy junta with third day of protests; DVB (19 Sep 07) Thousands turn out to support Rangoon protests

²⁶ AFP (19 Sep 07) Myanmar monks defy junta with third day of protests; DVB (19 Sep 07) Thousands turn out to support Rangoon protests

²⁷ Khonumthung News (19 Sep 07) Hundreds of monks protest in Kalay, Burma; DVB (19 Sep 07) Thousands turn out to support Rangoon protests

²⁸ AFP (19 Sep 07) Myanmar monks defy junta with third day of protests

²⁹ Narinjara News (20 Sep 07) Demonstrations spread to another Aakan town

³⁰ DVB (20 Sep 07) Monywa monks defy official warnings over protests;

³¹ AFP (20 Sep 07) Buddhist group vows Myanmar protests will continue; AP (21 Sep 07) Myanmar Protests Enter 4th Day; DVB (20 Sep 07) Rangoon monks call for UN action

³² DVB (20 Sep 07) Monks sponsored by junta leader's wife join protests

³³ Narinjara News (21 Sep 07) Small demonstration in Rathidaung, Arakan

³⁴ AFP (22 Sep 07) Protest monks call for prayer vigils in Myanmar; AP (22 Sep 07) 10,000 protest against Myanmar gov't

³⁵ AFP (21 Sep 07) Myanmar monks march again as pressure mounts on junta; AFP (22 Sep 07) Thousands march in Yangon as pressure mounts on Myanmar; IMNA (21 Sep 07) Determined monks continue protests in Burma

³⁶ Mizzima News (21 Sep 07) Monks in Shwebo join protests today

22 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,000 people, including 4,000 monks, marched through the street of Mandalay.³⁸ • About 200 monks demonstrated in Mrauk U, Arakan State.³⁹ • About 60 monks marched for about an hour through the streets of Kyauktaw, Arakan State.⁴⁰ • About 200 monks rallied in Sagaing, Sagaing Division.⁴¹ • More than 1,500 monks marched through the streets of Rangoon and held a prayer vigil at the Shwedagon pagoda.⁴² A crowd of 2,000 monks and civilians passed a roadblock and walked to the lakeside house where Daw Aung San Suu Kyi remains detained. Daw Suu greeted the demonstrators from her gate in her first public appearance in more than four years.⁴³
23 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 400 monks demonstrated against the military junta in Bhamo, Kachin State.⁴⁴ • About 300 monks held a one-hour prayer vigil in Magwe, Magwe Division.⁴⁵ • About 20,000 people led by 10,000 monks demonstrated against the SPDC in Rangoon. At least 100 nuns joined the demonstration. People in the crowd formed a human chain to protect the clerics.⁴⁶ Armed riot police prevented a crowd of about 400 monks and demonstrators from again approaching Daw Suu's home.⁴⁷ • About 300 monks marched through the streets of Myitkyina Township, Kachin State.⁴⁸
24 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 150 monks from several monasteries led a demonstration in Kyaukpyu, Arakan State.⁴⁹ • 300 monks marched through the streets of Mrauk U, Arakan State.⁵⁰ • About 20,000 monks led as many as 100,000 people in a 15-kilometer rally in Rangoon.⁵¹ • As many as 600 monks rallied in Mandalay.⁵² • Over 300 monks marched in Bhamo, Kachin State.⁵³ • About 200 young monks rallied for more than two hours in Myitkyina, Kachin State.⁵⁴ • More than 5,000 people including about 100 university students joined in a demonstration led by 1,500 monks from various monasteries in Moulmein, Mon State.⁵⁵ • Thousands of people including university students participated in an anti-junta demonstration led by about 600 monks in Kalay, Sagaing Division.⁵⁶ • Over 5,000 protesters led by about 300 monks and 30 nuns demonstrated in Minbya, Arakan State.⁵⁷ • About 2,000 people led by monks protested against the military regime in Rathidaung, Arakan State.⁵⁸ • Over 100,000 people including monks, nuns, and students held a three-hour anti-junta rally in Akyab, Arakan State.⁵⁹
25 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 700 monks led an anti-junta demonstration in Mandalay.⁶⁰ • Amid heavy security, 10,000 monks led more than 100,000 people including workers, activists, and students in an anti-junta rally in Rangoon.⁶¹ • About 40,000 monks and civilians took to the streets of Taunggoat, Arakan State.⁶² • Over 20,000 people, including monks, students, and ordinary citizens demonstrated against the SPDC in Kalay, Sagaing Division.⁶³

³⁷ Irrawaddy (21 Sep 07) Burma Protests: the Situation on September 21; Mizzima News (21 Sep 07) Monks in Shwebo join protests today

³⁸ New York Times (23 Sep 07) Challenge to Myanmar's junta gains momentum; Irrawaddy (22 Sep 07) Suu Kyi greets monks at her home; 10,000 monks demonstrate in Mandalay

³⁹ Narinjara News (23 Sep 07) Monks Protest in Mrauk U and Kyauktaw

⁴⁰ Narinjara News (23 Sep 07) Monks Protest in Mrauk U and Kyauktaw

⁴¹ Irrawaddy (22 Sep 07) Suu Kyi greets monks at her home; 10,000 monks demonstrate in Mandalay

⁴² AFP (23 Sep 07) Emboldened Myanmar monks challenge junta rule; AFP (22 Sep 07) Monks lead protest rally in Yangon; Irrawaddy (22 Sep 07) Suu Kyi greets monks at her home; 10,000 monks demonstrate in Mandalay

⁴³ AP (24 Sep 07) Myanmar celebrities support monks in wave of anti-government protests; New York Times (23 Sep 07) Challenge to Myanmar's junta gains momentum

⁴⁴ Kachin News Group (23 Sep 07) Monks in Kachin state storm out of confinement to protest

⁴⁵ AFP (23 Sep 07) Emboldened Myanmar monks challenge junta rule

⁴⁶ AP (23 Sep 07) 20,000 march against Myanmar government; New York Times (23 Sep 07) Challenge to Myanmar's junta gains momentum; AP (24 Sep 07) Myanmar police stop Suu Kyi march

⁴⁷ Irrawaddy (23 Sep 07) Police bar second visit by monks to Suu Kyi's home

⁴⁸ Kachin News Group (23 Sep 07) Monks in Kachin state storm out of confinement to protest

⁴⁹ Narinjara News (24 Sep 07) Monks started today's protest at 12:30 pm in Akyab (Sittwe) and Kyaukprou and Mrauk U in Arakan State

⁵⁰ Narinjara News (24 Sep 07) Monks started today's protest at 12:30 pm in Akyab (Sittwe) and Kyaukprou and Mrauk U in Arakan State

⁵¹ AP (24 Sep 07) Myanmar anti-government protesters claim 100,000 marching through Yangon

DVB (24 Sep 07) Protests swell as monks receive increasing support

⁵² AP (24 Sep 07) Myanmar anti-government protesters claim 100,000 marching through Yangon

⁵³ Kachin News Group (24 Sep 07) Monks demonstrate for second day in Kachin State

⁵⁴ Kachin News Group (24 Sep 07) Monks demonstrate for second day in Kachin State

⁵⁵ IMNA (24 Sep 07) Over 1500 monks protest in Moulmein

⁵⁶ Khonumthung News (24 Sep 07) University students and people join monks in Kalay

⁵⁷ Narinjara News (25 Sep 07) Monks Protest in Minbya and Rathidaung

⁵⁸ Narinjara News (25 Sep 07) Monks Protest in Minbya and Rathidaung

⁵⁹ Narinjara News (25 Sep 07) Over 100,000 people stage demonstration in Akyab

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 2,000 monks led a crowd of 5,000 in a protest against the military regime in Moulmein, Mon State. Many local university students joined the demonstration.⁶⁴ • Over 5,000 anti-junta protesters led by monks demonstrated in Akyab, Arakan State. About 1,000 Muslims joined the two and one-half hour protest.⁶⁵
26 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 10,000 people including 2,000 monks marched through the streets of Rangoon.⁶⁶ • Over 10,000 people led by monks marched through the streets of Mandalay despite tear gas and warning shots fired by the regime's security forces.⁶⁷ • About 50,000 people led by 2,000 monks peacefully demonstrated in Akyab, Arakan State.⁶⁸
27 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An estimated 70,000 anti-junta protesters demonstrated in Rangoon.⁶⁹ • About 200 monks held a two-hour demonstration shouting anti-junta slogans in Akyab, Arakan State.⁷⁰ • Over 10,000 people participated in an anti-junta demonstration in Taunggoat, Arakan State.⁷¹
28 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 10,000 people demonstrated in the streets of Rangoon.⁷² • Thousands of young people on motorbikes rode down a major thoroughfare protesting against the military regime in Mandalay.⁷³
29 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 1,000 monks led an estimated 30,000 people in a peaceful march in Kyaukpadaung, Mandalay Division, despite heavy presence of security forces and military troops.⁷⁴ • Scattered protesters numbering up to several hundred people defied heavy presence of security forces in Rangoon by playing "cat-and-mouse" with SPDC Army soldiers and riot police.⁷⁵

Bloggers beat censorship

Defying the regime's media censorship and its threats of arrest, Burmese activists posted pictures and videos of anti-junta demonstrations on websites and blogs. Many of these images were picked up by mainstream news outlets, ensuring that news, photos, and footage of the protests were widely circulated domestically and internationally.⁷⁶ Below are some examples of how the regime restricted freedom of information in Burma during the demonstrations:

- The state-run press avoided reporting on the nationwide anti-junta demonstrations, filling its state-run newspapers with reports of natural disasters and SPDC officials inspecting infrastructure project.
- The SPDC ordered Rangoon-based journals and periodicals to denounce the demonstrations led by Buddhist monks and to print articles accusing pro-democracy activists of orchestrating the protests.⁷⁷ However, several privately-owned publications decided to close rather than printing pro-regime propaganda.⁷⁸

⁶⁰ AP (24 Sep 07) Monks relaunch protests in Myanmar; Reuters (25 Sep 07) Myanmar monks march to Shwedagon despite warning

⁶¹ AFP (25 Sep 07) Monks lead new protest despite Myanmar junta's warnings; Reuters (25 Sep 07) Myanmar troops pour into Yangon after protests; Reuters (26 Sep 07) Myanmar curfew lifted; BBC News (26 Sep 07) First curfew ends in tense Burma; DVB (25 Sep 07) Defiant protests continue despite first signs of military response; IMNA (25 Sep 07) Despite warning the monks still protest in Burma

⁶² Reuters (25 Sep 07) Myanmar troops pour into Yangon after protests; Reuters (26 Sep 07) Myanmar curfew lifted

⁶³ Khonumthung News (25 Sep 07) Mass protest in Kalay into fourth day

⁶⁴ IMNA (25 Sep 07) Moulmein University students join protest

⁶⁵ Narinjara News (26 Sep 07) Despite junta's threats, protests continue in Akyab; Narinjara News (26 Sep 07) Akyab Muslim community joins monks protest

⁶⁶ DPA (26 Sep 07) Burma army starts killing; New York Times (26 Sep 07) Police clash with monks in Myanmar; DVB (26 Sep 07) Protests draw violent response from security forces

⁶⁷ Irrawaddy (26 Sep 07) Burmese troops fire on Rangoon protestors; unconfirmed reports say five monks, one woman dead

⁶⁸ Narinjara News (26 Sep 07) Despite junta's threats, protests continue in Akyab; Narinjara News (27 Sep 07) Army reinforces troops in Akyab with rural battalions

⁶⁹ Irrawaddy (27 Sep 07) Rangoon Under Siege; DVB (27 Sep 07) Government response in Rangoon intensifies

⁷⁰ Narinjara News (28 Sep 07) Protests in Arakan State Continue Despite Crackdown

⁷¹ Narinjara News (28 Sep 07) Protests in Arakan State Continue Despite Crackdown

⁷² AFP (28 Sep 07) Burma forces storm cities; FT (28 Sep 07) Fears of mounting death toll in Burma; AP (28 Sep 07) Myanmar breaks up rallies, cuts internet; DVB (28 Sep 07) Protests continue in Rangoon amid ongoing crackdowns

⁷³ AFP (28 Sep 07) Burma forces storm cities

⁷⁴ Irrawaddy (29 Sep 07) Monks sentenced to six years imprisonment; Rangoon, Mandalay locked down by troops

⁷⁵ Irrawaddy (29 Sep 07) Monks sentenced to six years imprisonment; Rangoon, Mandalay locked down by troops

⁷⁶ AFP (25 Sep 07) Yangon bloggers outsmart Myanmar censors

⁷⁷ Mizzima News (24 Sep 07) Junta orders Rangoon based journals to denounce ongoing protest; DVB (28 Sep 07) Burmese journals suspend publication due to government demands

⁷⁸ RSF (28 Sep 07) Burma - Internet disconnected, newspapers closed and foreign journalists under surveillance as junta tries to seal off Burma; DVB (28 Sep 07) Burmese journals suspend publication due to government demands

- From the start of the protests, the SPDC denied visas to enter Burma to all foreign journalists.⁷⁹ On 11 September, SPDC authorities cut off the mobile phones of several journalists working for foreign media, including one journalist and one photographer from AFP.⁸⁰ On 27 September, SPDC Army soldiers and police searched for foreign journalists in Rangoon hotels where internet and international phone lines were still open.⁸¹ Kenji Nagai, a 50-year-old Japanese photojournalist, was killed by a shot fired at close range by an SPDC Army soldier in streets of Rangoon.⁸² On 28 September, SPDC authorities arrested Min Zaw, the Burmese correspondent of a Japanese daily.⁸³
- SPDC authorities blocked numerous websites and blogs in an attempt to block the flow of information.⁸⁴ On 3 September, SPDC authorities blocked access to YouTube, which featured videos of the ongoing anti-junta demonstrations in Burma.⁸⁵ On 26 September, SPDC authorities closed Internet cafés in Rangoon.⁸⁶ On 28 September, the regime shut off the country's two internet service providers.⁸⁷
- On 7 September, SPDC authorities in Pakokku, Magwe Division, arrested four local residents for allegedly providing foreign media with information on the anti-junta protest staged by monks on 5 September.⁸⁸ On 23 September, SPDC authorities arrested a school teacher who was taking photographs of the monks' demonstration in Myitkyina, Kachin State.⁸⁹
- On 10 September, SPDC authorities disconnected the telephones of about 50 pro-democracy activists to prevent them from talking to Burmese and foreign journalists.⁹⁰ On 12 September, the junta cut the last telephone line at the NLD headquarters in Rangoon.⁹¹ On 26 September, SPDC authorities disconnected most of the country's mobile phone lines.⁹²

The crackdown

As the monks-led demonstrations grew larger, the regime stepped up security in Burma's main cities and prepared to quash the protests.

- The SPDC ordered a state of emergency authorizing regional and local authorities to control demonstrations, including an order to open fire on protesters if necessary.⁹³
- SPDC Army troops from five battalions stationed in rural areas were redeployed in Akyab, Arakan State, a site of continued anti-junta protests led by the monks.⁹⁴
- The regime stepped up security around monasteries, threatened monks, and severely restricted their freedom of movement.⁹⁵

⁷⁹ RSF (20 Sep 07) Burma - During one month of protests, military government steps up propaganda, censorship and violence against journalists; RSF (27 Sep 07) Burma - Japanese photographer killed, another foreign journalist injured

⁸⁰ AFP (16 Sep 07) Myanmar cuts phone service to activists, journalists

⁸¹ RSF (27 Sep 07) Burma - Soldiers raid hotels of foreign journalists and shut down newspapers; RSF (28 Sep 07) Burma - Internet disconnected, newspapers closed and foreign journalists under surveillance as junta tries to seal off Burma

⁸² RSF (27 Sep 07) Burma - Soldiers raid hotels of foreign journalists and shut down newspapers; AP (28 Sep 07) Myanmar breaks up rallies, cuts internet; AFP (28 Sep 07) Burma forces storm cities; Telegraph (27 Sep 07) True Burma death toll may never be known

⁸³ RSF (30 Sep 07) Burma - At least four journalists arrested in Rangoon, including Japanese daily's correspondent; AP (30 Sep 07) Junta detain reporter for Japanese newspaper; AP (30 Sep 07) Authorities detain reporter for Japanese newspaper in Myanmar

⁸⁴ Mizzima News (12 Sep 07) Foreign correspondents phones under censorship blade; Mizzima News (26 Sep 07) Junta blocks popular blogs

⁸⁵ Mizzima News (07 Sep 07) Burma blocks You Tube

⁸⁶ RSF (26 Sep 07) Burma - News blackout accompanies military crackdown on protests; RSF (28 Sep 07) Burma - Internet disconnected, newspapers closed and foreign journalists under surveillance as junta tries to seal off Burma

⁸⁷ RSF (28 Sep 07) Burma - Internet disconnected, newspapers closed and foreign journalists under surveillance as junta tries to seal off Burma; AFP (28 Sep 07) Burma forces storm cities; AP (29 Sep 07) Troops Take Back Control in Myanmar

⁸⁸ DVB (11 Sep 07) Pakokku residents arrested for foreign media contact

⁸⁹ NMG (23 Sep 07) School teacher arrested for photographing monks in Myitkyina

⁹⁰ Irrawaddy (10 Sep 07) Burmese government cuts off activists' mobile phones; RSF (20 Sep 07) Burma - During one month of protests, military government steps up propaganda, censorship and violence against journalists

⁹¹ RSF (20 Sep 07) Burma - During one month of protests, military government steps up propaganda, censorship and violence against journalists

⁹² RSF (26 Sep 07) Burma- News blackout accompanies military crackdown on protests

⁹³ Irrawaddy (19 Sep 07) Burmese Junta Orders State Emergency, Authorizes Use of Weapons, Says Source

⁹⁴ Narinjara News (18 Sep 07) More Troops in Akyab; Narinjara News (27 Sep 07) Army reinforces troops in Akyab with rural battalions

⁹⁵ Irrawaddy (12 Sep 07) Junta orders monk curfew at some monasteries; Kachin News Group (18 Sep 07) Monks in Myitkyina under virtual house arrest in monasteries; New York Times (25 Sep 07) Burmese junta warns monks of crackdown as protests widen; DVB (24 Sep 07) Burmese military issues threat to monks; AP (24 Sep 07) Myanmar Government Warns Monk Protesters

- SPDC Army soldiers and police were ordered to stockpile weapons, loudspeakers, barbed wire, bulletproof jackets, and other equipment.⁹⁶
- Hospitals in Rangoon were instructed to clear wards in preparation for an influx of patients.⁹⁷
- On 25 September, the SPDC imposed a curfew from 9 pm to 5 am in Rangoon and banned any gathering of more than five people.⁹⁸ It also declared the city and its environs a “restricted area”, a term normally reserved for military or conflict zones. Similar restrictions, to be in effect for 60 days, were imposed in Mandalay.⁹⁹

On 26 September the SPDC began a massive crackdown against demonstrators.

Troops of the SPDC Army’s Division No. 22 were redeployed to Rangoon from conflict areas in Eastern Burma. Division No. 22 played an active role in the 1988 repression of the pro-democracy demonstrations.¹⁰⁰ Soldiers from the Light Infantry Division 77 were also redeployed in Rangoon from their base in Pegu Division.¹⁰¹

SPDC Army troops and riot police clubbed and tear-gassed protesters, fired shots on protesting monks and demonstrators, and arrested hundreds of the monks who were at the heart of the demonstrations.¹⁰² Shops and government offices were shut down, and all civil servants were sent home. Schools were also ordered to close.¹⁰³ The crackdown continued for two more days as troops fired rifles and used tear gas to disperse demonstrators.¹⁰⁴ Soldiers and police chased and beat protesters and carted others away in trucks.¹⁰⁵

Between 26 and 27 September, the SPDC arrested over 600 monks throughout Burma as part of crackdown against the Buddhist clergy leading the protesters.¹⁰⁶ Monks were forcibly disrobed, severely beaten, kicked, and taken away by the SPDC security forces.¹⁰⁷ During a raid in monasteries in Myitkyina, Kachin State, SPDC security forces reportedly beat four monks to death.¹⁰⁸ In a further move to quash anti-junta demonstrations led by monks, SPDC authorities declared no-go zones around five key Buddhist monasteries in Rangoon.¹⁰⁹

As the SPDC crackdown was underway in Burma, anti-junta demonstrations were held outside Burmese embassies in Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Cambodia, Japan, UK, and Australia.¹¹⁰

Death toll

Official figures of victims of the SPDC’s brutal crackdown could not be verified.

⁹⁶ Irrawaddy (19 Sep 07) Burmese Junta Orders State Emergency, Authorizes Use of Weapons, Says Source

⁹⁷ Irrawaddy (21 Sep 07) Soldiers set up security in Rangoon; DPA (26 Sep 07) Burma army starts killing

⁹⁸ Irrawaddy (26 Sep 07) Burmese troops fire on Rangoon protestors; unconfirmed reports say five monks, one woman dead

⁹⁹ AP (25 Sep 07) Myanmar bans gatherings, imposes curfew; AFP (26 Sep 07) Myanmar imposes curfew, declares Yangon ‘restricted’ area; Bangkok Post (26 Sep 07) Burma showdown: Rifles vs robes; Irrawaddy (26 Sep 07) Burmese troops fire on Rangoon protestors; unconfirmed reports say five monks, one woman dead

¹⁰⁰ Reuters (25 Sep 07) Myanmar troops pour into Yangon after protests

¹⁰¹ Irrawaddy (21 Sep 07) Soldiers set up security in Rangoon; Irrawaddy (27 Sep 07) Crackdown troops from division 77, says researcher

¹⁰² New York Times (26 Sep 07) Police clash with monks in Myanmar; DPA (26 Sep 07) Burma army starts killing; Irrawaddy (26 Sep 07) Burmese troops fire on Rangoon protestors; unconfirmed reports say five monks, one woman dead; Reuters (26 Sep 07) Myanmar troops pen monks in monasteries

¹⁰³ DVB (26 Sep 07) Protests draw violent response from security forces

¹⁰⁴ AP (28 Sep 07) Myanmar breaks up rallies, cuts internet

¹⁰⁵ New York Times (28 Sep 07) With monks contained, Myanmar authorities attack civilians

¹⁰⁶ New York Times (28 Sep 07) With monks contained, Myanmar authorities attack civilians; IMNA (27 Sep 07) Hundreds of monks arrested last night; DVB (27 Sep 07) Military raids monasteries, bashes and arrests monks; Irrawaddy (26 Sep 07) Burmese troops fire on Rangoon protestors; unconfirmed reports say five monks, one woman dead; APPB (26 Sep 07) Urgent Press Release; AAPB (28 Sep 07) Monks and activists who were arrested between September 26 and 27, 2007

¹⁰⁷ Irrawaddy (29 Sep 07) Monks sentenced to six years imprisonment; Rangoon, Mandalay locked down by troops; Mizzima News (29 Sep 07) Monks stage hunger strike in Bamaw prison; AAPB (28 Sep 07) Monks and activists who were arrested between September 26 and 27, 2007

¹⁰⁸ Kachin News Group (27 Sep 07) Four monks killed in Tuesday night’s raid in Myitkyina

¹⁰⁹ AP (28 Sep 07) Myanmar junta declares no-go zones at Buddhist monasteries seen as flashpoints of protests

¹¹⁰ Reuters (28 Sep 07) Myanmar crowds taunt troops as crackdown draws outrage; AP (29 Sep 07) Troops Take Back Control in Myanmar

- SPDC said police and soldiers killed 10 people, including at least two monks and a Japanese journalist, between 26 and 27 September.¹¹¹
- The Australian Ambassador to Burma, Bob Davis, said that the actual death toll may be several times higher.¹¹²
- NLD said 30 bodies had been brought to a Rangoon hospital on 26 September.¹¹³
- Pro-democracy groups in exile put the number of victims as high as 200.¹¹⁴

Details of arrests during the month of September

02 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPDC authorities arrested Ray Thein aka Bo Aung, the 39-year-old son of a local NLD official, for staging a 45-minutes solo protest in Buthidaung Township, Arakan State.¹¹⁵ • SPDC authorities arrested Kyaw Thu Moe Myint, one of the organizers of an anti-junta demonstration in Kyaukse, Mandalay Division. He was released the following day.¹¹⁶
03 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seven protesters, including Irrawaddy Division NLD Secretary, Win Myint, and activists Aung Moe Win, Kyi Than, Htay, Pauksa, Pho Cho, Maung Kyaw, and Hla Soe were arrested in connection with an anti-junta demonstration in Labutta Township, Irrawaddy Division.¹¹⁷ • SPDC authorities arrested Human Rights Defenders and Promoters (HRDP) members Thet Oo and Zaw Tun.¹¹⁸
04 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPDC authorities arrested activist Mya Mya San for holding a prayer vigil for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at Rangoon's Shwedagon pagoda.¹¹⁹
05 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPDC authorities arrested Bogale NLD Chairman Aung Khin Bo after staging a protest against high fuel and commodity prices with other party members.¹²⁰ NLD officials Khin Lay and Mi Mi Sein were also arrested in connection with the demonstration.¹²¹ • SPDC Army soldiers beat and arrested three monks who participated in a large anti-junta protest in Pakokku, Magwe Division.¹²² They were released on 6 September.¹²³
07 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPDC authorities in Pakokku, Magwe Division, arrested four local residents, Thant Shin, Nay La, Sein Linn and Thar Aung, for allegedly providing foreign media with information on the 5 September anti-junta protest held by monks.¹²⁴
11 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPDC authorities arrested Soe Win, a villager from Taunggoat Township, Arakan State, for staging a solo demonstration calling for a roll back in fuel price hikes and demanding the expulsion of SPDC leader Senior General Than Shwe from the Buddhist religious society.¹²⁵ A few hours after the arrest, he was sentenced to four years in jail.¹²⁶
17 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police arrested Human Rights Defenders and Promoters (HRDP) member, Kyaw Soe, in Taunggyi, Shan State.¹²⁷
18 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPDC authorities arrested activist Naw Ohn Hla while on her way to Rangoon's Shwedagon Pagoda to pray for the release of all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.¹²⁸ She was released after three hours of detention at Kyaukkasan interrogation center.¹²⁹
25 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police arrested NLD secretary Ba Minn, party member Nyo Mya, and 88 Generation Students Michael Win Kyaw and Myint Tein in Kalay, Sagaing Division.¹³⁰ • SPDC authorities arrested elected MPs Myo Naing and Tin Aung, Meikhtila NLD Secretary Myint Myint Aye, and NLD members Paik Ko, Khin Maung Thaug, Myint Myint Aye, and Myint Myint

¹¹¹ New York Times (26 Sep 07) Police clash with monks in Myanmar; AP (29 Sep 07) Troops Take Back Control in Myanmar

¹¹² AP (28 Sep 07) Myanmar breaks up rallies, cuts internet; AFP (28 Sep 07) Burma forces storm cities

¹¹³ Telegraph (27 Sep 07) True Burma death toll may never be known

¹¹⁴ AP (29 Sep 07) Troops Take Back Control in Myanmar

¹¹⁵ Narinjara News (03 Sep 07) Solo protester arrested in northern Arakan; Mizzima News (10 Sep 07) Solo protester in Buditaung missing

¹¹⁶ AP (03 Sep 07) Myanmar ends charter meet, marking 1st step of junta's 'road map to democracy'

¹¹⁷ AP (03 Sep 07) Myanmar ends charter meet, marking 1st step of junta's 'road map to democracy'; DVB (05 Sep 07) Seven activists arrested since Laputta protest

¹¹⁸ Mizzima News (19 Sep 07) HRDP accuses SPDC of arbitrarily arrests HR activists

¹¹⁹ AFP (05 Sep 07) Defiant protesters stage new rally in Myanmar

¹²⁰ DVB (05 Sep 07) NLD leader arrested after Bogalay protest

¹²¹ DVB (07 Sep 07) Two more activists arrested in Bogalay

¹²² AP (05 Sep 07) Myanmar Breaks Up Monk Protest; Reuters (05 Sep 07) Myanmar troops fire warning shots at monk protest

¹²³ Mizzima News (06 Sep 07) Junta, monks exchange detainees in Pakhokku

¹²⁴ DVB (11 Sep 07) Pakokku residents arrested for foreign media contact

¹²⁵ DVB (11 Sep 07) Man in Taunggyi stages solo demonstration

¹²⁶ Reuters (12 Sep 07) Lone Myanmar protester jailed for four years; DVB (12 Sep 07) Solo protestor sentenced to four years in jail

¹²⁷ DVB (19 Sep 07) Human rights group member arrested

¹²⁸ Irrawaddy (18 Sep 07) Naw Ohn Hla arrested; Irrawaddy (18 Sep 07) Prominent Burmese woman activist arrested in Rangoon

¹²⁹ Mizzima News (20 Sep 07) Naw Ohn Hla's mysterious arrest and release

	<p>San.¹³¹</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPDC authorities arrested 70-year-old veteran politician Win Naing and popular film comedian Zaganar. Zaganar had openly expressed his support for anti-junta demonstrators on several occasions.¹³² • SPDC authorities arrested more than 200 monks in Myitkyina, Bhamo, and Mohnyin, Kachin State, in a midnight raid.¹³³
26 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPDC authorities in Rangoon arrested at least 400 monks during night raids at various monasteries in Rangoon. The monks were reportedly detained at Kyaikkasan interrogation center.¹³⁴ • 20 monks were arrested during a demonstration near Rangoon's Sule pagoda.¹³⁵
26-27 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPDC authorities and security forces arrested over 300 demonstrators.¹³⁶
27 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPDC authorities arrested at least 70 monks at the Ngwe Kyar Yan monastery in Rangoon.¹³⁷ • Police arrested three prominent politicians, including the chairman of the Zomi National Congress and elected MP, Pu Cin Sian Thang, the United Nationalities League for Democracy (UNLD) member, Thawng Kho Thang, and NLD member Hla Pye.¹³⁸ • Police arrested protesters Khin Maung Let and Tin Tun Aye in Taunggoat, Arakan State.¹³⁹
28 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 monks were arrested in Rangoon and Mandalay.¹⁴⁰ • Police arrested Mandalay NLD official Win Mya Mya.¹⁴¹ • SPDC authorities arrested Min Zaw, the Burmese correspondent of a Japanese daily.¹⁴² • SPDC authorities arrested NLD members Than Pi and Than Kyi, in Taunggoat, Arakan State.¹⁴³
29 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPDC authorities arrested eight monks from two monasteries in Maungdaw, Arakan State.¹⁴⁴

INSIDE BURMA

Emergency aid supply blocked: humanitarian concern

On 28 September, the UN's World Food Program (WFP) warned that new SPDC restrictions on the movement of food caused by crackdowns on protesters will interfere with the delivery of food to half a million starving people. SPDC authorities stalled all movement of food out of Mandalay Division, ending delivery of WFP operations in Northern Shan State and the central "dry zone". Increased restriction on movement in Akyab halted food deliveries to starving villagers in Northern Arakan State.¹⁴⁵ A UNICEF official warned that the current situation will only lead to further restrictions on UNICEF's ability to reach the country's most vulnerable children.¹⁴⁶

SPDC Army: soldiers out, students in

¹³⁰ Khonumthung News (25 Sep 07) NLD, student leaders arrested in northwestern Burma

¹³¹ APPB (26 Sep 07) Urgent Press Release

¹³² AFP (26 Sep 07) Pro-democracy politician arrested in Myanmar; Reuters (26 Sep 07) Myanmar curfew lifted; BBC News (26 Sep 07) First curfew ends in tense Burma; New York Times (26 Sep 07) Police clash with monks in Myanmar; Irrawaddy (26 Sep 07) Burmese troops fire on Rangoon protesters; unconfirmed reports say five monks, one woman dead

¹³³ Irrawaddy (26 Sep 07) Burmese troops fire on Rangoon protesters; unconfirmed reports say five monks, one woman dead; APPB (26 Sep 07) Urgent Press Release

¹³⁴ New York Times (28 Sep 07) With monks contained, Myanmar authorities attack civilians; IMNA (27 Sep 07) Hundreds of monks arrested last night; DVB (27 Sep 07) Military raids monasteries, bashes and arrests monks

¹³⁵ AAPB (28 Sep 07) Monks and activists who were arrested between September 26 and 27, 2007

¹³⁶ AAPB (28 Sep 07) Monks and activists who were arrested between September 26 and 27, 2007

¹³⁷ New York Times (28 Sep 07) With monks contained, Myanmar authorities attack civilians

¹³⁸ Khonumthung News (27 Sep 07) Burmese police pick up two prominent Chin politicians

¹³⁹ Narinjara News (30 Sep 07) 12 People Arrested in Arakan in the Last Three Days

¹⁴⁰ AFP (28 Sep 07) Burma forces storm cities

¹⁴¹ Mizzima News (29 Sep 07) Daw Win Mya Mya arrested

¹⁴² RSF (30 Sep 07) Burma - At least four journalists arrested in Rangoon, including Japanese daily's correspondent; AP (30 Sep 07) Junta detain reporter for Japanese newspaper; AP (30 Sep 07) Authorities detain reporter for Japanese newspaper in Myanmar

¹⁴³ Narinjara News (30 Sep 07) 12 People Arrested in Arakan in the Last Three Days

¹⁴⁴ Narinjara News (30 Sep 07) 12 People Arrested in Arakan in the Last Three Days

¹⁴⁵ UN News Centre (28 Sep 07) Unrest in Myanmar could block food aid for 500,000 people, UN food agency warns

¹⁴⁶ UN News Centre (28 Sep 07) UN Human Rights Council to hold special session on Myanmar next week

The SPDC Army continues to be weakened by desertions. In September, it was reported that 69 soldiers from the regional military control headquarters in Akyab, Arakan State had deserted in August.¹⁴⁷ In a desperate attempt to offset the increasing number of desertions, the regime targeted students for recruitment in Kachin:

- Various SPDC Army Infantry Battalions demanded 360 students from various schools throughout Kachin State.¹⁴⁸
- On 3 September, three students from a local high school were forcibly recruited in Machangbaw Township, Kachin State, and sent for military training in Naypyidaw.¹⁴⁹
- During a festival in Palate Township, Mandalay Division, SPDC soldiers from LIB 14 abducted children for military service. Ten- to fifteen-year-olds were fed with alcohol, before being taken to barracks on the back of motorcycles.¹⁵⁰

Burma's ethnic groups support peaceful protests

Many of Burma's ethnic political leaders and several of Burma's armed resistance groups voiced support for the Buddhist monks' peaceful protests against the military junta.

- Col Yawdserk, Shan State Army - South (SSA-S) Commander, voiced his support for the monks and said that the demonstrations were the culmination of the regime's misrule.¹⁵¹
- On 24 September a New Mon State Party (NMSP) official said that the party supported the protesting monks.¹⁵²
- Cin Shing Htan, Chairman of the Zomi National Congress, said that the protesters speak for all the people of Burma.¹⁵³
- Arakan League for Democracy (ALD) Secretary, Aye Thar Aung, said that the party was ready to cooperate with the monks.¹⁵⁴
- Ethnic leaders that joined the demonstrations included representatives from the Arakan League for Democracy, the United National League for Democracy, and the Mon National Party.¹⁵⁵

DISPLACEMENT

Refugees expected in Thailand

On 26 September, Burmese activists in Thailand urged the Thai government and the international community to prepare for the possible influx of refugees.¹⁵⁶ The closure of 19 border crossings between Thailand and Burma's Karen State as a result of an agreement between Thai and SPDC officials will create significant difficulties for asylum seekers attempting to flee violence and crackdowns in Burma.¹⁵⁷

¹⁴⁷ Narinjara News (15 Sep 07) Burma Army faces increasing desertion

¹⁴⁸ Kachin News Group (17 Sep 07) Army recruitment of Kachin schoolboys makes many flee

¹⁴⁹ Kachin News Group (17 Sep 07) Army recruitment of Kachin schoolboys makes many flee

¹⁵⁰ DVB (14 Sep 07) Mandalay residents claim troops are abducting children

¹⁵¹ SHAN (21 Sep 07) Yawdserk salutes Burma's monks

¹⁵² DVB (24 Sep 07) Mon opposition backs monks' protest

¹⁵³ Irrawaddy (24 Sep 07) Ethnic join protests

¹⁵⁴ Irrawaddy (24 Sep 07) Ethnic join protests

¹⁵⁵ Irrawaddy (24 Sep 07) Ethnic join protests

¹⁵⁶ Nation (26 Sep 07) Thai govt warned of possible influx of Burmese

¹⁵⁷ Irrawaddy (26 Sep 07) Border NGOs ready for refugees from crackdown

Migrant workers in Thailand

Migrant workers in Thailand reported that it is becoming more difficult to find work without identity cards or worker registration permits. Some brokers are selling ID cards for 500 baht.¹⁵⁸

- **Early September:** 600 migrant workers were arrested in Samut Sakhorn. Most were not deported, but had to pay between 2,000 to 3,000 baht to local police for their release.¹⁵⁹
- **6 September:** Four people from Arakan State were transferred to Ranong police station for deportation. They had paid 3,000 baht to a tout to find them work and safe passage, but instead were sold as slaves to a fishing enterprise for 7,000 kyat each.¹⁶⁰
- **12 September:** Thai authorities relocated 47 Padaung to Huay Pu Keng. The move is one of many as part of a larger plan to bring all “long-neck” people to the one area for exploitation for tourism.¹⁶¹

Forced relocation of Rohingya continues

In September, the SPDC continued to relocate Rohingya villages in Arakan State to make room for model villages, building projects, and roads.

- **7 September:** Na Sa Ka officials began confiscating arable land from farmers in Na Sa Ka area No 3, for distribution to model villagers. Na Sa Ka have also been collecting Rohingya family lists, for relocation to Coco Island.¹⁶²
- **13 September:** SPDC authorities in Kyaukpyu Town ordered more than 60 people to relocate to three sheds one mile out of town, to make way for an expansion of the stadium.¹⁶³
- **24-26 September:** Kawarbil and Zin Paing Nyar villagers were relocated to Buthidaung Township because their lands are needed for local Na Sa Ka.¹⁶⁴

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The SPDC’s violent and brutal assault on Buddhist monks and peaceful civilian demonstrators drew widespread condemnation from the international community. Besides the junta’s usual detractors, the US, EU, and other western powers, ASEAN members were harshly critical of the SPDC as well. China even called for national reconciliation in Burma.

UN: Gambari snubbed – UNSC ready to act

The current unrest prompted the UN Security Council to convene an emergency session on the deteriorating political conditions in Burma.¹⁶⁵ During a closed-door meeting, the UN Special Advisor on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, updated the Security Council on the latest developments.¹⁶⁶ After the meeting, the Council expressed its support for the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s decision to dispatch Gambari to the region to explore a peaceful resolution to the crisis.¹⁶⁷

However, in a development that can be interpreted as a snub or a possible power struggle within the SPDC, Sr Gen Than Shwe and SPDC number 2 Sr Gen Maung Aye failed to attend the 29 September meeting with Gambari. The next day, Gambari, met with acting SPDC Prime Minister Thein Sein, Culture Minister Khin Aung Nyint, and Information Minister Kyaw Hsan.¹⁶⁸ Gambari then flew to Rangoon where he met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for over an hour at an SPDC guest house.¹⁶⁹ If

¹⁵⁸ Kaowao News (12 Sep 07) Migrant workers in Maharchai arrested

¹⁵⁹ Kaowao News (12 Sep 07) Migrant workers in Maharchai arrested

¹⁶⁰ IMNA (07 Sep 07) Sold Arakanese to be sent to border

¹⁶¹ Irrawaddy (14 Sep 07) Paduang 'Long-necks' Ordered to Relocate to Draw More Tourists

¹⁶² Kaladan News (16 Sep 07) Rohingya families maybe sent to Coco Island

¹⁶³ Kaladan News (15 Sep 07) Orders to relocate 12 Rohingya families in Kyaukpru

¹⁶⁴ Kaladan News (18 Sep 07) Two villages to be shifted from Maungdaw Township

¹⁶⁵ AFP (26 Sep 07) UN Security Council to meet on deadly Myanmar clashes

¹⁶⁶ UN News (26 Sep 07) Ban Ki-moon dispatches Myanmar envoy to region amid continuing tensions

¹⁶⁷ UN News (26 Sep 07) Ban Ki-moon dispatches Myanmar envoy to region amid continuing tensions

¹⁶⁸ Reuters (30 Sep 07) U.N. peace envoy meets detained leader

¹⁶⁹ AP (30 Sep 07) U.N. Envoy, Myanmar Democracy Chief Meet

Gambari returns to New York empty-handed, the UNSC must be prepared to engage in concrete measures against the regime.

China calls for democratic reform

Faced with the international community’s condemnation of the violent crackdown, even China could not defend the SPDC. On 26 September, China’s Ambassador to the UN, Wang Guangya, said that China wished to see stability, mutual reconciliation, and progress towards democracy in Burma.¹⁷⁰ Premier Wen Jiabao confirmed China’s shift, and expressed hopes that stability, national reconciliation, and democracy will be achieved as soon as possible through peaceful means.¹⁷¹

ASEAN expresses “revulsion”

- On 24 September, the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus (AIPMC) called for the UN Security Council to pass a resolution on Burma and take steps to intervene in the crisis.¹⁷² On 28 September, the group called for the expulsion of Burma from ASEAN.¹⁷³
- On 26 September, the Philippines Senate adopted a resolution urging the UN Security Council, the EU and ASEAN to end Burma’s military junta’s repression on its people.¹⁷⁴ On 28 September, Philippines President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo called on the SPDC to act in its own best interests by restoring democracy without further delay.¹⁷⁵
- On 27 September, ASEAN Foreign Ministers expressed their revulsion to SPDC FM, Nyan Win, over reports that demonstrations in Burma were being suppressed by violence.¹⁷⁶

EU, US, Australia: more sanctions

- On 25 September, US President Bush announced that the US will tighten economic sanctions against the SPDC’s senior leaders. New sanctions will block the property holdings of SPDC leaders and individuals who provide financial backing for the regime. The US will also impose an expanded visa ban on individuals responsible for human rights violations in Burma, as well as their family members.¹⁷⁷
- On 27 September, EU diplomats agreed to consider imposing more economic sanctions on Burma’s military leaders.¹⁷⁸ French President Nicolas Sarkozy urged French businesses, including oil company Total, to freeze investments in the country and called for the swift adoption of UN sanctions.¹⁷⁹
- On 27 September, Australian PM John Howard said that Australia would tighten existing visa restrictions on regime officials and was also examining the adoption of some targeted financial sanctions on regime officials.¹⁸⁰

International outrage at the SPDC’s brutality against peaceful protesters

28 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British PM Gordon Brown condemned the use violence against the unarmed protesters.¹⁸¹ • 47-member UN Human Rights Council called an emergency session to examine the crisis unfolding in Burma.¹⁸²
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¹⁷⁰ AP (27 Sep 07) UNSC Concerned About Myanmar Crackdown

¹⁷¹ Bloomberg (30 Sep 07) China Backs End to Myanmar Violence; UN Envoy Arrives

¹⁷² AIPMC (24 Sep 07) Prevent bloodshed of the innocent and the revered in Burma

¹⁷³ AIPMC (28 Sep 07) ASEAN should expel Myanmar if violence continues

¹⁷⁴ Senate of the Philippines (26 Sep 07) Resolution No. 19 adopted September 26, 2007

¹⁷⁵ Inquirer.net. (28 Sep 07) Arroyo urges Myanmar to takes steps toward democracy

¹⁷⁶ AFP (28 Sep 07) ASEAN voices 'revulsion' over Myanmar crackdown

¹⁷⁷ White House Press Release (25 Sep 07) Fact Sheet: “Burma”: Calling for Human Dignity and Democracy

¹⁷⁸ Reuters (28 Sep 07) EU Summons Myanmar Envoy to Warn of More Sanctions

¹⁷⁹ AFP (27 Sep 07) Global outrage over Myanmar protest crackdown

¹⁸⁰ Australian (27 Sep 07) No trade sanctions on Burma: PM

¹⁸¹ AFP (28 Sep 07) British PM says Myanmar violence 'must cease'

¹⁸² VOA (28 Sep 07) UN Rights Council Calls Emergency Session On Burma

27 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand PM Helen Clark urged SPDC authorities to respect the rights of their citizens and stop using violence.¹⁸³ • Thailand's PM Surayud Chulanont said that the commission of violence to Buddhist monks and other demonstrators was unacceptable.¹⁸⁴
26 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Louise Arbour expressed concerns about the well-being and safety of the demonstrators. She also urged the SPDC authorities to allow the peaceful expression of dissent and to abide by international human rights law in their response to the current protests.¹⁸⁵ • US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urged the regime to stop the use of violence against peaceful people and initiate a dialogue on reconciliation.¹⁸⁶ • AIPMC President, Zaid Ibrahim said that the reaction of SPDC authorities towards the peaceful protesters is totally unacceptable. The AIPMC called on the regime to immediately cease the use of harmful means to disperse demonstrators.¹⁸⁷ • Japan warned it would continue to refrain from major aid projects in Burma.¹⁸⁸ • FMs from the G-8 called on the SPDC to enter into a dialogue with the religious groups and democratic forces. The group also called for an immediate end to the ongoing violence and warned the SPDC that they would be held "personally responsible" for their actions.¹⁸⁹ • Canada FM Maxime Bernier condemned the use of deadly force by the military and police against the monks and other protesters.¹⁹⁰ • Spain's Foreign Ministry urged maximum restraint from SPDC authorities and warned that any extended crackdown could have very serious consequences.¹⁹¹
24 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany's Foreign Ministry called for the release of detained demonstrators and the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.¹⁹² • Canada FM Maxime Bernier called upon the SPDC to engage in a genuine dialogue with members of the democratic opposition.¹⁹³
23 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Djoko Susilo, the Indonesian Legislators' Myanmar Caucus Chairman, called on President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to direct the UN General Assembly's attention to the mounting tension in Burma so as to press the military junta to restore democracy.¹⁹⁴
22 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UK Foreign Secretary, David Miliband, called for a robust international response to the situation in Burma.¹⁹⁵
20 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Ambassador to the UN, Zalmay Khalilzad, said that the crisis posed a threat to regional peace and stability.¹⁹⁶
13 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China's State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan said that Burma should actively promote national reconciliation.¹⁹⁷ • Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, the Special Rapporteur for human rights in Burma, said that the brutal arrests of more than 150 people since the beginning of the protests should not be tolerated by the international community.¹⁹⁸
11 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US State Department expressed concern about the well-being of more than 150 Burmese citizens jailed since the demonstrations began on 19 August.¹⁹⁹
08 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indonesian FM Hassan Wirajuda admitted that ASEAN's constructive engagement had not produced any tangible result.²⁰⁰
07 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China's Foreign Ministry said that China hoped to see reconciliation and improvement in the situation in Burma.²⁰¹
06 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU Commissioner Viviane Reding told the European Parliament that Burma's military regime is a threat to the region and to the people of Burma.²⁰²

¹⁸³ Reuters (27 Sep 07) PM condemns violence in Myanmar

¹⁸⁴ UN News Center (27 Sep 07) Myanmar's transition to democracy must be peaceful, Thai leader tells UN

¹⁸⁵ UN News (26 Sep 07) Ban Ki-moon dispatches Myanmar envoy to region amid continuing tensions

¹⁸⁶ AP (27 Sep 07) UNSC Concerned About Myanmar Crackdown

¹⁸⁷ AIPMC (26 Sep 07) Stop violence against peaceful protesters immediately

¹⁸⁸ AFP (26 Sep 07) Japan warns Myanmar on aid, appeals for calm

¹⁸⁹ Bangkok Post (27 Sep 07) UN voices concern, but no action on Burma

¹⁹⁰ National Post (Canada) (26 Sep 07) UN body split on response to Myanmar violence

¹⁹¹ AFP (26 Sep 07) World puts Myanmar on notice over protest crackdown

¹⁹² Deutch Welle (24 Sep 07) Berlin Expresses Sympathy for Protests in Myanmar

¹⁹³ AFP (25 Sep 07) Bush to announce new sanctions against Myanmar regime

¹⁹⁴ Jakarta Post (24 Sep 07) President asked to bring Myanmar issue to the front at UN assembly

¹⁹⁵ Britishembassy.gov.uk (22 Sep 07) : David Miliband comments on the situation in Burma

¹⁹⁶ AFP (21 Sep 07) US, Britain urge Myanmar to accept early visit by UN envoy

¹⁹⁷ Xinhua (13 Sep 07) China voices support for Myanmar's democracy process

¹⁹⁸ AFP (14 Sep 07) Myanmar under fire from UN rights chief over jailed protesters

¹⁹⁹ AP (12 Sep 07) US urges Myanmar to provide access to political prisoners

²⁰⁰ AFP (08 Sep 07) US, Indonesia urge China and India to press Myanmar

²⁰¹ Reuters (07 Sep 07) China says wants reconciliation in Myanmar

05 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UN Special Advisor on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari said that the recent incidents cannot be seen in any other way than a setback for Burma.²⁰³
02 Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK PM Gordon Brown backed calls for the UN Security Council to examine the situation in Burma as soon as possible.²⁰⁴

ECONOMY

Prices

The price of basic commodities continued to rise because of the increased fuel prices and uncertainty over the political situation. In Arakan State, food prices doubled. Domestic airfares for Burmese citizens rose 30%, and tickets for some flights to Naypyidaw doubled.²⁰⁶

Amid anxiety about political instability, there was a rush of depositors withdrawing their savings from banks in Mandalay in the first half of September. Yoma and Kanbawza banks were especially affected. People also sought financial security by buying gold. The price of gold rose from 490,000 to 503,000 kyat per tical.²⁰⁷

Price Increases (kyat) ²⁰⁵		
kerosene (gallon)	4,800	5,800
Rice (kilo)	300-350	500
Soybean oil	1,200	2,000
Beef (kilo)	2,500	3,500
Fish (kilo)	2,000	3,000
Dozen eggs	600	1,200
Potato (kilo)	450	500
Daily Wage: Laborer	1000-1,500	2,000
Flight: Rangoon-Mandalay	50,000	65,000
Bus: Maungdaw-Buthidaung	700	2,000

Food shortages

The increased cost of basic commodities has caused massive hardship for ordinary people. Faced with rising domestic rice prices, people in Western Arakan State have to smuggle rice from Bangladesh in order to stave off hunger.²⁰⁸ “Now [my three children] are getting used to eating just a meal a day,” said construction worker Myint Myint.²⁰⁹

Dam project suspended

On 2 September, unknown assailants killed a Thai technician while he surveyed a dam site. On 4 September, the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) suspended the project and evacuated the site of its 47 staff.²¹⁰ Thai Energy Minister Piyasvasti Amaranand urged energy authorities to expedite power plant development in Laos if the plan in Burma was uncertain.²¹¹

SPDC keeps selling off Burma’s resources

While the political and economic crises mounted, the SPDC continued negotiations for the sale of the country’s natural resources.

- **4 September:** India Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries, Santosh Mohan Dev, said that gas from Burma will be transported to Cachar, Assam, through Mizoram.²¹²
- **14 September:** SPDC energy ministry sources reported that Thailand and the SPDC were negotiating for the construction of a gas pipeline to Thailand from Mottama M-9. The development project is expected to require US\$1 billion investment.²¹³

²⁰² Reuters (06 Sep 07) EU calls rights violations in Myanmar a scandal

²⁰³ UN News Service (05 Sep 07) Recent steps by Government of Myanmar are ‘setback’ to democracy – UN envoy

²⁰⁴ Reuters (02 Sep 07) Brown calls on Myanmar to free protesters

²⁰⁵ DPA (03 Sep 07) Burma’s domestic airfares up 30%, Mizzima News (16 Sep 07) Depositors in panic run to banks for withdrawals, Kaladan News (13 Sep 07) Prices of essential commodities double in northern Arakan

²⁰⁶ AFP (24 Sep 07) Anger, frustration in Myanmar over daily hardships

²⁰⁷ Mizzima News (16 Sep 07) Depositors in panic run to banks for withdrawals

²⁰⁸ Mizzima News (12 Sep 07) Burmese Smuggle Rice from Bangladesh

²⁰⁹ AP (29 Sep 07) Myanmar’s Economic Decline Fuels Unrest - AYE AYE WIN

²¹⁰ AFP (05 Sep 07) Thai firm says attack won’t stop Myanmar dam

²¹¹ Bangkok Post (04 Sep 07) Thai dam project in Burma suspended

²¹² PTI (04 Sep 07) Assam to get gas from Myanmar

²¹³ Xinhua (14 Sep 07) Myanmar-Thailand negotiating joint venture gas pipeline

- **24 September:** India's Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC) signed an agreement with the SPDC for exploration in AD-2, AD-3, and AD-9 offshore Arakan blocks.²¹⁴

Amid talk of new sanctions, South Korea's Daewoo, France's Total, India's ONGC, and Thailand's PTTEP came under increasing pressure to end their energy investment projects in Burma.²¹⁵

SEPTEMBER CHRONOLOGY

Note: this Chronology does not include events associated with the September protests and crackdowns noted in tables earlier in this bulletin.

1	Domestic airfares for Burmese citizens rise 30%.
1	The Mon Restoration Party leader Pan Nyunt says that the party has returned to armed struggle.
2	A Thai technician is killed while surveying a Salween river dam site for EGAT.
3	A group of university students in Myitkyina, Kachin State puts up posters demanding a roll back of fuel prices and rejecting the outcome of the National Convention.
4	Governor of the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) Kraisi Karnasuta suspends its work on a new hydropower dam on Salween River.
4	Indian Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries Santosh Mohan Dev says that gas will be transported to Cachar, Assam, through Mizoram.
5	SPDC authorities free protester Ye Thein Naing.
5	SPDC authorities release Sithu and Than Lwin, the two protesters arrested over the 31 August demonstration in Taunggoat, Arakan State.
6	Four people from Arakan State who were sold to a Thai fishing company are transferred to Ranong police station to be deported.
7	Six labor activists are given jail sentences up to 28 years by a court inside Rangoon's Insein prison for organizing a seminar at a US Embassy centre in May.
11	Six people die when a bus carrying 42 migrant workers from Burma crashes into a ravine in northern Malaysia.
11	Min Min aka Han Min Soe and Maung Soe Thein, are sentenced to two years in prison.
11	SPDC Deputy FM Kyaw Thu starts a four-day visit to North Korea.
12	Forty-seven Padaung are relocated to Huay Py Keng by order of Thai authorities
13	Kyaukpyu Town Chairman order twelve Rohingya families living in Paik Seik quarter to relocate to three sheds one mile out of town.
14	Village headmen order about 20 villagers from New Waekali village in Thanphuzayart Township, Mon State, to patrol the Kanbawk-Myaingkalay gas pipeline.
15	Four-member Bangladesh team return from Burma after signing an agreement with the SPDC to conduct a study to develop power plants in Burma.
15	Buddhist monks in Myitkyina Township, Kachin State are ordered to stay in their rooms by Maj Gen Ohn Myint.
17	Kyat Khat Wine and Tharthana Mern Daing, home to 1,800 monks, are barred from receiving food offerings by local SPDC authorities.
21	SPDC authorities release Min Min aka Han Min Soe and Maung Soe Thein. They were arrested on 28 August for distributing water to monks during a peaceful protest in Akyab, Arakan State.
24	ONGC Videsh Ltd and the SPDC sign a production sharing contract for stakes in three Arakan offshore blocks.
25	SPDC authorities raid Bawmaw monasteries, arresting 108, forcibly disrobing them and sending them to prison.
25	Four Buddhist monks are killed and 200 are taken into detention in raids by SPDC forces of five monasteries in Myitkyina, Kachin State.
26	French President Nicolas Sarkozy calls on French businesses to freeze investment in Burma, and for a swift adoption of UN sanctions on Burma.
27	SPDC forces raid Pauk Myaing Monastery, Mandalay, beating monks and arresting 40.
28	World Food Program says that the SPDC has further restricted the movement of food to Shan and Arakan States.

²¹⁴ Reuters (19 Sep 07) ONGC in deal for new Myanmar blocks

²¹⁵ AFP (27 Sep 07) France not demanding Total pullout from Myanmar: minister, Reuters (28 Sep 07) Daewoo says no plan to change Myanmar investment, AP (29 Sep 07) Firms seek access to Burma oil fields despite bloody crackdown - Thomas Hogue

REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN SEPTEMBER 2007

“Corruption Perceptions Index”, Transparency International

http://www.transparency.org/news_room/latest_news/press_releases/2007/2007_09_26_cpi_2007_en

Burma scores equal last with Somalia in Transparency International’s annual ranking of corruption.

“2007 Report on International Religious Freedom”, US State Department

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2007/>

The US State Department’s annual report on religious freedoms, which includes a Burma chapter, documents instances of religious repression and persecution in 2007.

“High-Resolution Satellite Imagery and the Conflict in Eastern Burma,” Association for the Advancement of Science

http://www.aaas.org/news/releases/2007/media/0928burma_report.pdf

The research uses Google satellite imagery to document removal and burning of villages, as well as expansion of military bases, in Eastern Burma.