

BURMA BULLETIN

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

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

Issue 33

September 2009

- **Political prisoners reach a record-high of 2,211. At the same time, the regime arrests 32 activists and five Buddhist monks, sentencing three dissidents to prison terms. The SPDC also detains and tortures Burma-born US citizen Nyi Nyi Aung.**
- **In an attempt to deflect international criticism ahead of the UN General Assembly, the SPDC releases 7,114 prisoners, but only 128 of them are political prisoners.**
- **In the lead up to the second anniversary of the Saffron Revolution, the regime increases harassment and monitoring of monks across Burma. Two hundred and thirty-seven monks and 35 nuns remain detained.**
- **US unveils its new Burma policy which calls for high-level engagement with the SPDC while leaving existing sanctions in place.**
- **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sends a letter to SPDC Chairman Sr Gen Than Shwe regarding the lifting of international sanctions.**
- **The regime offensive against the Kokang in Northern Shan State ends. Tension increases between the SPDC and other ceasefire groups that have rejected the junta's Border Guard Force ultimatum.**
- **China urges the SPDC to protect Chinese nationals in the Kokang region and prepares for more refugees as conditions worsen.**
- **Rights groups claim that gas and oil projects in Burma have increased instability in the country and enriched the SPDC with billions of dollars stashed in Singapore banks.**
- **Food security still plagues Chin State while SPDC aggression against ethnic nationalities causes food shortages in Karen State and in the Kokang region.**

IN THIS ISSUE

KEY STORY

- 1 Mass release of prisoners
- 2 Arrests and imprisonment
- 3 Crackdown on monks

INSIDE BURMA

- 4 Daw Suu reaches out to SPDC
- 5 New parties galore
- 5 Kokang offensive ends
- 5 Conflict between SPDC and Wa
- 6 BGF talks go nowhere
- 6 SPDC Army desertions
- 7 Bombs
- 7 Food insecurity continues

HUMAN RIGHTS

- 7 Detention conditions

DISPLACEMENT

- 7 Refugees remain in China

INTERNATIONAL

- 8 US unveils new Burma policy
- 8 SPDC moans about sanctions
- 8 UNSG: Free ALL dissidents
- 9 Thailand crackdown

ECONOMY

- 9 Gas deals increase instability
- 10 Daewoo/CNPC/GAIL deal
- 10 New 5,000 kyat note
- 10 Jetstar propping up SPDC?

10 OTHER BURMA NEWS

12 REPORTS

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

KEY STORY

Mass release of prisoners

"This is the junta trying to make bad things appear good. It's like putting make-up on a dead person's face." - NLD Central Executive Committee member Win Tin.¹

In an attempt to deflect international criticism ahead of the opening of the annual session of the UN General Assembly,² on 17 September, the SPDC announced the release of 7,114 prisoners from jails across Burma "for their good conduct and discipline."³

¹ DVB (21 Sep 09) More than 100 political prisoners released

However, most of those released were common criminals. The SPDC released only 128 political prisoners.⁴ Forty-four NLD members, including three elected MPs, five members of the 88 Generation Students group, four monks, and one lawyer were among those released.⁵ Three journalists, Ecovision reporter Ein Khine Oo, Weekly Eleven reporter Kyaw Kyaw Thant, Myanmar Nation editor Thet Zin, and poet Monywa Aung Shin were also freed.⁶

Most recent mass releases of prisoners			
Date	Total Prisoners	Political prisoners	%
18 Nov 2004	3,937	28	0.7%
29 Nov 2004	5,311	12	0.2%
13 Dec 2004	5,070	21	0.4%
3 Jan 2005	5,588	26	0.5%
6 Jul 2005	334	253	75.7%
3 Jan 2007	2,831	50	1.7%
23 Sep 2008	9,002	10	0.1%
20 Feb 2009	6,313	24	0.4%
17 Sep 2009	7,114	128	1.8%
Total	45,500	552	1.2%

On 6 September, SPDC authorities also released three Pakokku residents from Thayet prison in Magwe Division. The three had been imprisoned for allegedly speaking to foreign media prior to the Saffron Revolution.⁷

Arrests and imprisonment

On 4 September, the Thailand-based Assistant Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) said that the number of political prisoners in Burma had reached a record-high of 2,211.⁸ Concurrent with the release of political prisoners, the SPDC intensified its crackdown on pro-democracy activists. In September, the regime arrested 32 activists and five Buddhist monks. The SPDC also sentenced three dissidents to prison terms.

- **1 September:** A court in Taunggoat Township, Arakan State, sentenced 27-year-old Zaw Naing to seven days in prison for demonstrating by hanging a portrait of General Aung San around his neck on 31 August.⁹
- **3 September:** SPDC authorities at Rangoon's International Airport arrested Burma-born US citizen Nyi Nyi Aung aka Kyaw Zaw Lwin. Nyi Nyi Aung is an All Burma Student Democratic Front (ABSDF) member who fled Burma after participating in the 1988 uprising.¹⁰ On 24 September, the state-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar said that the regime arrested Nyi Nyi Aung because he "planned to instigate unrest and launch terrorist attacks"¹¹ and claimed he was involved in a series of bomb blasts that hit Rangoon on 17 September.¹² [See below *Bombs hit Rangoon*]
- **4 September:** Rangoon's Insein Township court sentenced retired Air Force Captain Zaw Nyunt, 56, to two years in prison for demanding the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 28 May.¹³ [See *May 2008 Burma Bulletin*]

² Irrawaddy (19 Sep 09) More Political Prisoners Released: AAPP

³ NLM (18 Sep 09) 7,114 prisoners granted amnesty; AP (17 Sep 09) Myanmar announces amnesty for 7,114 prisoners; Reuters (17 Sep 09) Myanmar frees thousands; Xinhua (17 Sep 09) Myanmar gov't grants amnesty to over 7,000 prisoners; DVB (17 Sep 09) Burma releases 7000 prisoners; Mizzima News (17 Sep 09) Burma announces amnesty for 7114 prisoners; Mizzima News (17 Sep 09) Junta releases prisoners amidst condemnation by HRW

⁴ AAPP (22 Sep 09) At least 128 political prisoners released

⁵ AAPP (22 Sep 09) At least 128 political prisoners released

⁶ AP (18 Sep 09) Some Myanmar political prisoners receive amnesty; AFP (18 Sep 09) Myanmar frees journalists, activists; witnesses; RSF (18 Sep 09) 18 September 2009; CPJ (22 Sep 09) Two journalists released, 12 still languish in Burma's jails; Mizzima News (18 Sep 09) Two journalists among freed prisoners; Irrawaddy (19 Sep 09) More Political Prisoners Released: AAPP; Irrawaddy (19 Sep 09) 122 Political Prisoners Released: AAPP

⁷ DVB (10 Sep 09) Three prisoners from 2007 uprising released

⁸ Mizzima News (04 Sep 09) Political prisoners on the rise in Burma: AAPP; Mizzima News (04 Sep 09) Former air force officer sentenced to two years

⁹ Narinjara News (18 Sep 09) Exiled Media Misses Solo Protest in Taungup

¹⁰ AP (22 Sep 09) Burmese-American Held in Rangoon for 3 weeks; AFP (22 Sep 09) US diplomat visits American detained in Myanmar; spokesman; Mizzima News (09 Sep 09) US Embassy investigates arrest of American citizen in Burma; Irrawaddy (12 Sep 09) Whereabouts of US Citizen Still Unknown; Mizzima News (21 Sep 09) US embassy official meets detained citizen in Burma; Mizzima News (24 Sep 09) US embassy protests maltreatment of detained citizen

¹¹ DVB (24 Sep 09) US detainee in Burma allegedly beaten

¹² DVB (24 Sep 09) US citizen arrest a 'political smear campaign'; Xinhua (24 Sep 09) Some anti-gov't group members arrested for plotting sabotage in Myanmar

¹³ Mizzima News (04 Sep 09) Former air force officer sentenced to two years

- **11 September:** Police in Akyab, Arakan State, briefly detained and interrogated a dozen children for chanting political slogans as they play-acted a demonstration.¹⁴
- **12 September:** Special Branch police in Rangoon briefly detained and interrogated 80-year-old NLD member Win Tin at the Aung Tha Pyay detention camp, three days after the Washington Post published his editorial critical of the SPDC's 2010 elections.¹⁵
- **16 September:** SPDC authorities in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Division, arrested activists Myo Han, Wint Thu, Hla Myo Kyaw, Aung Myo Latt, Soe Yarzar Phyu aka Yargi, Kyi Soe, and one unidentified monk.¹⁶
- **17 September:** SPDC authorities arrested Aye Myint, Vice-Chairman of Magwe Division's NLD, for planning to help two farmers file a complaint to the ILO in Rangoon regarding the SPDC Forestry Department's confiscation of their land. On 24 September, an SPDC court sentenced Aye Myint to two years in prison.¹⁷
- **18 September:** SPDC authorities in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Division, arrested five activists, including Than Htike Aung.¹⁸
- **23 September:** Special Branch police in Mudon Township, Mon State, arrested local community leader Min Nwe Soe following his participation in various meetings on Mon political affairs in Thailand.¹⁹

As the regime accused Burma-born US citizen Nyi Nyi Aung of maintaining links to the exiled group All Arakan Students' and Youths' Congress (AASYC), his arrests triggered a crackdown on Rakhine activists in Arakan State and Rangoon.²⁰

- **1 September:** Special Branch police in Rangoon arrested six Rakhine university students: Tun Lin, Zaw Tun Oo, Kyaw Zaw Oo, Kyaw Win, Khin Maung Htay, and Kyaw San Hlaing.²¹
- **6 September:** Police in Akyab, Arakan State, arrested Rakhine student Htoo Htoo Chay.²²
- **13 September:** Special Branch police in Akyab, Arakan State, arrested Rakhine youths Htoo Htoo Chay, Khing Moe Zaw, Kalur Chay, and Maung Thu.²³
- **15 September:** Special Branch police arrested two Rakhine youths from Mrauk U, Arakan State.²⁴
- **19 September:** Special Branch police arrested Aung Moe Zaw and another unidentified student, from Ponnagyun, Arakan State.²⁵
- **21 September:** Special Branch police in Buthidaung Township, Arakan State, arrested 21-year-old Maung Naing Soe.²⁶

Crackdown on monks continues

On 22 September, Human Rights Watch released the report "The Resistance of Monks." The report said that 237 monks and 35 nuns were still detained across Burma's prison and that at least seven of the detained monks were in poor health as a result of their ongoing detention.²⁷

In the weeks leading up to the second anniversary of the Saffron Revolution, the regime increased harassment and monitoring of monks across Burma.

¹⁴ Narinjara News (12 Sep 09) Children Play-Protesting Arrested by Police

¹⁵ Reuters (12 Sep 09) Myanmar police detain veteran opposition leader; Reuters (12 Sep 09) Myanmar police release veteran opposition leader; DPA (13 Sep 09) Dissident questioned over pacemaker in Myanmar; AFP (12 Sep 09) Suu Kyi aide detained; VOA (12 Sep 09) Veteran Burmese Opposition Leader Detained for Questioning; Mizzima News (12 Sep 09) Win Tin released from brief detention; DVB (14 Sep 09) Win Tin released after being held by police; Irrawaddy (12 Sep 09) Win Tin Released after Questioning; Mizzima News (12 Sep 09) Veteran opposition leader Win Tin detained

¹⁶ Irrawaddy (17 Sep 09) Eight Democracy Activists Arrested; Irrawaddy (18 Sep 09) 250 Political Prisoners Expected to be Freed; Mizzima News (24 Sep 09) Arrested Nargis donors not allowed to meet families

¹⁷ DVB (25 Sep 09) Farmers' helper jailed for two years

¹⁸ Mizzima News (24 Sep 09) Arrested Nargis donors not allowed to meet families

¹⁹ Irrawaddy (29 Sep 09) Mon Politician Released after Warning

²⁰ Irrawaddy (24 Sep 09) Arrested Dissident Accused of Terrorist Intentions

²¹ Narinjara News (09 Sep 09) Six Arakanese Students Missing After Arrest

²² Narinjara News (10 Sep 09) Student Arrested in Sittwe

²³ Narinjara News (23 Sep 09) Arrests Continue in Arakan

²⁴ Narinjara News (23 Sep 09) Arrests Continue in Arakan

²⁵ Narinjara News (23 Sep 09) Arrests Continue in Arakan

²⁶ Narinjara News (23 Sep 09) Arrests Continue in Arakan

²⁷ DVB (22 Sep 09) Rights group highlights persecution of Burma monks

- **Early September:** The SPDC stepped up surveillance of monasteries in Rangoon, Pakokku in Magwe Division, Myingyan in Mandalay Division, and Akyab in Arakan State.²⁸
- **3 September:** Plain clothes policemen infiltrated major religious places with the start of the Buddhist lent period in Akyab, Arakan State.²⁹
- **3 September:** The Rangoon's Bahan Township court charged monk U Sanda Dika, 36, with attempted suicide by setting himself on fire.³⁰ Plain clothes policemen had arrested and forcibly disrobed U Sanda Dika on 11 August.³¹
- **9 September:** Police in Akyab, Arakan State, briefly detained and interrogated several monks who went to local pagodas to honor the 70th anniversary of the death of revered Rakhine monk U Ottama.³²
- **14-30 September:** The regime deployed about 60 SPDC Army soldiers at Rangoon's Sangha University during the annual examinations for monks.³³
- **17 September:** SPDC authorities in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Division, arrested four monks.³⁴

INSIDE BURMA

Daw Suu reaches out to the SPDC

Despite her ongoing detention, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi once again showed her flexibility and determination in dealing with the SPDC in an effort to find a solution to Burma's political crisis.

On 24 September, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told her lawyer Nyan Win that she welcomed US plans to engage in direct high-level talks with the SPDC. But Daw Suu said she also wanted the US to engage with pro-democracy forces.³⁵ On 25 September, Nyan Win said that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had drafted a letter addressed to SPDC Chairman Sr Gen Than Shwe to express her views on steps the junta should take to get economic sanctions on Burma lifted. In the letter, Daw Suu said that there must be understanding on which sanctions were having a negative impact on Burmese people and also asked Than Shwe permission to consult on the matter with the Rangoon-based diplomatic representatives of US, EU, and Australia.³⁶

On 3 September, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's lawyers lodged an appeal on her 11 August conviction that extended her house arrest by 18 months at the Rangoon Divisional Court.³⁷ On 18 September, the court heard arguments on Daw Suu's appeal and scheduled its decision for 2 October.³⁸ The court did not allow Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to attend the hearing.³⁹ On 2 October, the court rejected the appeal.⁴⁰

²⁸ Irrawaddy (05 Sep 09) Security Tight on Anniversary of Monk-led Uprising; Kaladan News (07 Sep 09) Security beefed up in major religious places in Akyab; Narinjara News (27 Sep 09) Burmese monks demonstrate in Dhaka on 2nd anniversary of Saffron Revolution; Narinjara News (09 Sep 09) Security Tightened in Sittwe for Ottama Day; Irrawaddy (17 Sep 09) Eight Democracy Activists Arrested

²⁹ Kaladan News (07 Sep 09) Security beefed up in major religious places in Akyab

³⁰ Mizzima News (04 Sep 09) Political prisoners on the rise in Burma: AAPP; Mizzima News (03 Sep 09) Monk accused of suicide produced in court

³¹ Mizzima News (04 Sep 09) Political prisoners on the rise in Burma: AAPP

³² Narinjara News (10 Sep 09) Ottama Day Celebrated in Sittwe

³³ Irrawaddy (15 Sep 09) Monks under the Eye of the Junta

³⁴ Irrawaddy (18 Sep 09) 250 Political Prisoners Expected to be Freed

³⁵ BBC (24 Sep 09) Suu Kyi 'welcomes US engagement'; AP (25 Sep 09) Myanmar's Suu Kyi said to welcome new US approach; Reuters (25 Sep 09) Myanmar's Suu Kyi gives backing to U.S. engagement; AFP (24 Sep 09) Myanmar's Suu Kyi welcomes US plan to engage junta; DVB (25 Sep 09) Suu Kyi welcomes US policy change

³⁶ AP (26 Sep 09) Myanmar: Dissident Offers to Work With Junta; AFP (27 Sep 09) Myanmar's Suu Kyi party calls for her freedom; AFP (26 Sep 09) Aung San Suu Kyi writes to Myanmar's junta on sanctions; CNN (25 Sep 09) Suu Kyi changes stance on Myanmar sanctions; DPA (25 Sep 09) Myanmar opposition leader ready to talk sanctions with junta; VOA (25 Sep 09) Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi reaches out to military leaders; Irrawaddy (26 Sep 09) Suu Kyi Offers to Help Lift Sanctions; DPA (28 Sep 09) Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi pushes sanctions talks; Irrawaddy (28 Sep 09) Suu Kyi Sends Letter on Sanctions to Than Shwe; Mizzima News (28 Sep 09) Aung San Suu Kyi's offer to Than Shwe on sanctions; DVB (28 Sep 09) Suu Kyi calls for cooperation with junta

³⁷ AP (03 Sep 09) Aung San Suu Kyi to Appeal Conviction; BBC (03 Sep 09) Suu Kyi launches detention appeal; AFP (03 Sep 09) Myanmar's Suu Kyi appeals against conviction; DPA (03 Sep 09) Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi files appeal; Mizzima News (03 Sep 09) Suu Kyi's lawyers submit appeal over her detention; Irrawaddy (03 Sep 09) Suu Kyi's Lawyer Lodges Appeal against Her Conviction; DVB (03 Sep 09) Lawyers submit Suu Kyi appeal

³⁸ AP (18 Sep 09) Myanmar's Suu Kyi appeals conviction; Reuters (18 Sep 09) Lawyers in Myanmar appeal against Suu Kyi sentence; Mizzima News (18 Sep 09) Court to give decision on Suu Kyi appeal on Oct 2; Irrawaddy (18 Sep 09) Rangoon Court Postpones Suu Kyi Appeal Hearing

³⁹ RFI (18 Sep 09) Suu Kyi ruling next month, thousands freed in amnesty

New parties galore

As the regime began selecting proxy candidates for the planned 2010 elections from GONGOs and military personnel,⁴¹ new parties formed and announced their participation in the polls.

- **Democratic Party (DP):** Headed by veteran politician and former political prisoner Thu Wai, 77. The party's executive Secretaries are former PM U Nu's daughter Than Than Nu, former PM Ba Swe's daughter Nay Yee Ba Swe, and Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein, the daughter of a former deputy PM.⁴²
- **National Politics Alliance League (NPAL)** aka "**Third Force**": An alliance of 10 small organizations that include seven elected MPs expelled by the NLD in 1999.⁴³
- **Union Democratic Alliance (UDA):** Headed by 86-year-old veteran Shan politician Shwe Ohn.⁴⁴
- **Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP):** Formed by five former high ranking KIO officers and headed by the former KIO Vice Chairman Tu Ja.⁴⁵

Kokang offensive ends - problems remain

On 1 September, hostilities between the SPDC Army and the Myanmar National Democracy Alliance Army (MNDAA) in the Kokang Self-Administered Zone of Northern Shan State came to end but the region remains unstable. In addition, relations between the SPDC and China became strained over the treatment of Chinese nationals living in the region and by the thousands refugees that have fled into Yunnan Province. [See *Refugees remain in China, more expected*] In addition, SPDC Army soldiers who occupied the Kokang main town of Laogai looted stores owned by ethnic-Chinese businessmen and assaulted Chinese-born immigrants.⁴⁶

On 21 September, Beijing urged the SPDC to safeguard the safety and legal rights of Chinese citizens in Burma.⁴⁷ In response, on 25 September, the SPDC ordered the 10,000 Chinese nationals living in the Kokang region to go back to China.⁴⁸

SPDC Army officials offered amnesty to the defeated MNDAA troops while launching a manhunt for four MNDAA leaders.⁴⁹ MNDAA leader Peng Jiasheng fled from Kokang to hide in Wa territory.⁵⁰ To complete the purpose of the offensive against the MNDAA, the SPDC installed a new provisional government in Kokang.⁵¹ On 8 September, Phe Sauk Chen, leader of the new government said that its armed forces will join the SPDC's Border Guard Force (BGF).⁵²

Conflict between SPDC and the Wa brewing

The SPDC Army's attack on the MNDAA made other ceasefire groups wary of SPDC intentions as the October deadline for the ceasefire groups to respond to the SPDC's Border Guard Force ultimatum

⁴⁰ AP (02 Oct 09) Myanmar court rejects Suu Kyi's appeal vs. arrest; BBC (02 Oct 09) Suu Kyi detention appeal rejected

⁴¹ Irrawaddy (14 Sep 09) Retired Military Personnel to Form Political Party; Irrawaddy (16 Sep 09) Junta Announces Selection of Proxy Candidates

⁴² AP (14 Sep 09) Myanmar politicians' kin set to join new party; AFP (16 Sep 09) Daughters of ex-Myanmar PMs 'to join new party'; DPA (14 Sep 09) Daughter of first Myanmar prime minister forms political party; Irrawaddy (15 Sep 09) Three Daughters Form Democratic Party; Mizzima News (15 Sep 09) New political party floated

⁴³ Mizzima News (01 Sep 09) Ten-party alliance drafts electoral policy

⁴⁴ Mizzima News (23 Sep 09) Shwe Ohn invites political parties to unite for strong opposition

⁴⁵ Mizzima News (07 Sep 09) Kachin rejects 'Border Guard Force' proposal; Xinhua (17 Sep 09) Myanmar official media call on peace groups to honor commitments of discarding arms; KNG (05 Sep 09) KIO dismisses six high ranking officers; DVB (08 Sep 09) Kachin officials resign with eye to elections; KNG (11 Sep 09) Junta insists KIA be transformed to BGF

⁴⁶ Irrawaddy (01 Sep 09) Laogai is a Silent Capital; SHAN (03 Sep 09) Junta's next move still a question mark; Irrawaddy (03 Sep 09) Kokang Conflict Highlights Tatmadaw Xenophobia

⁴⁷ Xinhua (26 Sep 09) Myanmar urged to safeguard lawful rights of Chinese citizens; DVB (28 Sep 09) China warns Burma on eviction

⁴⁸ DVB (25 Sep 09) Burma orders 10,000 Chinese to leave; Kachin News Group (25 Sep 09) Chinese citizens from eastern Burma asked to return;

⁴⁹ Irrawaddy (01 Sep 09) Amnesty Offer to Kokang Troops—Leaders Face Manhunt

⁵⁰ IPS (03 Sep 09) Junta Targets Ethnic Rebels to Forge Unity Ahead of Polls

⁵¹ Reuters (02 Sep 09) Myanmar rebels head home 'in disarray'; SHAN (03 Sep 09) Junta's next move still a question mark

⁵² Xinhua (11 Sep 09) Kokang group ready to participate in 2010 Myanmar vote

drew near.⁵³ The SPDC increased its presence in Kachin and Shan States, and ceasefire groups have begun preparing for hostilities with the SPDC as speculation grows over which group will be attacked next.⁵⁴

There is speculation that the regime's next target will be the United Wa State Army (UWSA).⁵⁵ Since 31 August, the SPDC Army has transported weapons and soldiers to Wa territory.⁵⁶ In anticipation of an attack by the SPDC, Wa leaders have ordered their people to be on alert and UWSA troops have been building strategic outposts in the mountains.⁵⁷ On 3 September, tensions heightened when UWSA leaders refused to respond to the SPDC's Army demand to hand over Peng Jiasheng and three other MNDAA leaders.⁵⁸

Military observers and analysts predict that if the SPDC Army launched an offensive against the UWSA, an estimated 50,000 Shan and Wa refugees would flee to neighboring Thailand and even more into China.⁵⁹

BGF talks go nowhere

The SPDC remained unwilling to soften their ultimatum to ethnic ceasefire groups to transform their armies into the BGF.⁶⁰ On 17 September, state-run media stated that Burma's ethnic nationalities and their militias should give up their arms and enter politics.⁶¹ Ceasefire groups continued to resist SPDC coercion.

- **3 September:** The New Mon State Party (NMSP) informed the SPDC that it wants to maintain the ceasefire agreement but that it was not going to accept any attempt to break the party away from its armed units.⁶²
- **5 September:** Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) leaders adopted a resolution rejecting the SPDC ultimatum and instead offered to transform their troops into an autonomous Kachin Regional Guard Force (KRGF).⁶³

SPDC Army desertions

In September, new reports surfaced of massive desertions of SPDC Army soldiers stationed in Northeastern Burma:

- **Mid-September:** Twenty SPDC Army soldiers stationed near the Gangdau Yang and Nam San Yang villages on the Myitkyina-Bhamo highway in Kachin State deserted and joined the Kachin Independence Army (KIA).⁶⁴
- **17 September:** Two Kachin soldiers from the SPDC Army's Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 324 deserted after their superiors punished them for refusing to extort money from local villagers in Monkoe, Northern Shan State. The deserters said they did not receive regular military rations and

⁵³ DVB (01 Sep 09) Kokang conflict 'could spark bigger problems'; SHAN (08 Sep 09) Junta engages in diversionary tactics

⁵⁴ Irrawaddy (01 Sep 09) Rangoon Opinions Differ on Kokang Assault; Reuters (01 Sep 09) Q+A-Will the conflict in northern Myanmar intensify?; DVB (02 Sep 09) Burmese troops move into Wa region; SHAN (03 Sep 09) Will Kokang occupation trigger Alamo-like stand?; Mizzima News (03 Sep 09) UWSA will be in a spot if Wei sides with junta; SHAN (03 Sep 09) Junta's next move still a question mark; IPS (03 Sep 09) Junta Targets Ethnic Rebels to Forge Unity Ahead of Polls; Washington Post (02 Sep 09) Burma's Rising Toll: The Junta Widens a War on Ethnic Groups; Irrawaddy (04 Sep 09) Wa: The Regime's Next Target; Asian Tribune (06 Sep 09) Civil War Knocking At Burma's Doors; Irrawaddy (07 Sep 09) Prelude to a Civil War?; IPS (07 Sep 09) Junta Targets Ethnic Rebels to Forge Unity Ahead of Polls

⁵⁵ SHAN (02 Sep 09) Kokang source: Struggle continues; Reuters (01 Sep 09) Q+A-Will the conflict in northern Myanmar intensify?; IPS (03 Sep 09) Junta Targets Ethnic Rebels to Forge Unity Ahead of Polls

⁵⁶ Kachin News Group (01 Sep 09) 3,000 Burmese civilians head for China border; DVB (02 Sep 09) Burmese troops move into Wa region; Mizzima News (10 Sep 09) Civil war imminent in Burma: Observers

⁵⁷ Irrawaddy (09 Sep 09) Wa Units in Southern Shan State Build Defenses

⁵⁸ SHAN (03 Sep 09) Breaking News: Junta demands Peng's extradition; Mizzima News (03 Sep 09) Burmese Army might be targeting UWSA: Observer

⁵⁹ Mizzima News (10 Sep 09) Civil war imminent in Burma: Observers

⁶⁰ Irrawaddy (03 Sep 09) Junta Continues its Campaign against Burmese Diversity

⁶¹ AP (17 Sep 09) Myanmar tells ethnic minorities to join elections; Xinhua (17 Sep 09) Myanmar official media call on peace groups to honor commitments of discarding arms

⁶² DVB (03 Sep 09) Mon party warn on border guard pressure

⁶³ Mizzima News (07 Sep 09) Kachin rejects 'Border Guard Force' proposal

⁶⁴ Kachin News Group (24 Sep 09) Twenty fresh desertions from Burmese Army in Kachin State

suffered discrimination at the hands of their Burman superiors. About 70 soldiers from LIB 324, mainly ethnic Kachin and Wa, have reportedly deserted since early August.⁶⁵

Bombs

On 17 September, seven small bombs exploded in various locations across Rangoon. Five bomb blasts occurred in Hlaing Tharyar Township. Two bombs went off in North Okkalapa and Mingaladon Townships. No casualties were reported.⁶⁶ State-run TV claimed the explosions were meant to “put international attention” on Burma during the annual session of the UN General Assembly.⁶⁷

Food insecurity continues

On 17 September, the Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO) released a new report “On the edge of Survival.” The report said that the ongoing rat infestation, which began in 2007, had aggravated food insecurity in seven townships in Chin State as well as some areas of Sagaing Division in western Burma. The report noted that the SPDC had done little to address the food crisis. The report said that the SPDC exacerbated the crisis through sustained human rights abuses and economic repression. The SPDC also denied repeated requests for food aid, even as it reported a rice surplus. In addition, local SPDC authorities banned villagers from receiving foreign aid and threatened reprisals against anyone who accepted foreign aid.⁶⁸

Meanwhile, on 16 September it was reported that tens of thousands of Kokang civilians were experiencing food shortages, partly because UN and NGO agencies have suspended aid projects after the clash between SPDC Army troops and Kokang militias.⁶⁹ In addition, the Karen Information Center report claimed that 7,000 Karen in Papun District have faced an acute shortage of food since the beginning of the year due to continued SPDC Army activity in the area.⁷⁰

HUMAN RIGHTS

Detention conditions

- **4 September:** AAPP expressed concern over 137 political prisoners who suffer from poor health due to harsh prison conditions and lack of adequate medical care.⁷¹
- **14 September:** AAPP said that prison authorities placed 88 Generation Student Nobel Aye aka Hnin May Aung, 28, in solitary confinement in Monywa Prison in Sagaing Division.⁷²
- **20 September:** Burma-born US citizen Nyi Nyi Aung told US embassy staff who visited him in Insein prison that SPDC authorities had subjected him to torture, including severe beating, sleep and food deprivation, and denied medical attention for the injuries he sustained.⁷³

DISPLACEMENT

Refugees remain in China, more expected

As of 14 September, only half of the 37,000 ethnic Kokang who fled to China during the August SPDC Army offensive in the Kokang Self-Administered Zone in Northern Shan State, had returned.⁷⁴

⁶⁵ Kachin News Group (29 Sep 09) Ethnic soldiers in Burmese Army discriminated against

⁶⁶ NLM (17 Sep 09) Series of bomb blasts in Hlinethaya, North Okkalapa and Mingaladon townships; AP (17 Sep 09) Explosions hit Myanmar's biggest city, no injuries; AFP (17 Sep 09) Seven bomb blasts in Myanmar, no casualties: police; DVB (17 Sep 09) Seven blasts hit Rangoon; Irrawaddy (16 Sep 09) Seven Bombs Go Off in Rangoon

⁶⁷ AP (24 Sep 09) Myanmar accuses American of planning unrest

⁶⁸ Mizzima News (17 Sep 09) Food insecurity aggravates in Chin state

⁶⁹ Irrawaddy (16 Sep 09) Food Shortages Reported in Laogai

⁷⁰ KIC (15 Sep 09) Food shortage stares 7,000 Karen in the face

⁷¹ Mizzima News (04 Sep 09) Political prisoners on the rise in Burma: AAPP

⁷² Irrawaddy (14 Sep 09) Female Dissident Put in Solitary Confinement: AAPP

⁷³ AP (25 Sep 09) American claims mistreatment in Myanmar prison; AP (26 Sep 09) U.S. Issues Formal Myanmar Complaint; Mizzima News (24 Sep 09) US embassy protests maltreatment of detained citizen; DVB (24 Sep 09) US citizen arrest a 'political smear campaign'; DVB (24 Sep 09) US detainee in Burma allegedly beaten

⁷⁴ SHAN (14 Sep 09) Tensions slightly easing on the Sino-Burma border

However, sources along the border reported that a new wave of refugees from MDAA, UWSA and National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA) territories in Shan State have camped in Nansan and Talaw towns in Yunnan Province.⁷⁵

On 25 September, the Chinese government began setting up refugee camps along the border capable of handling an additional 15,000 refugees in anticipation that fighting in the region will resume.⁷⁶

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

US unveils new Burma policy

On 23 September, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said that the US planned to change its approach to Burma by enlisting a combination of sanctions and direct high-level engagement. Clinton said, “Engagement versus sanctions is a false choice in our opinion, going forward we will be employing both of those tools.” Clinton indicated that there would be no softening of US demands toward the SPDC and the calls for the junta to release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Clinton also called on the SPDC to begin talks with the NLD and ethnic nationalities about democratic change in the country.⁷⁷

The thaw in relations between the US and the SPDC was noticeable even before Clinton’s statement. On 19 September, the US allowed SPDC FM Maj Gen Nyan Win to visit the SPDC Embassy in Washington, DC. While at the embassy, Nyan Win met with US Senator Jim Webb and discussed bilateral relations.⁷⁸

After Clinton’s statement, US moves to engage the SPDC accelerated:

- **24 September:** US State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said that the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell will lead US policy for Burma.⁷⁹
- **28 September:** US Senator Jim Webb met with SPDC PM Gen Thein Sein.⁸⁰
- **29 September:** Kurt Campbell met with SPDC Minister of Science and Technology Thaug.⁸¹
- **30 September:** Webb held hearings on US-Burma relations in the US Senate.⁸²

SPDC moans about sanctions

On 28 September, in the SPDC’s speech at the annual session of the UN General Assembly in New York, SPDC PM Gen Thein Sein termed Western sanctions against Burma “unjust” and promised that the junta would take “systematic steps to hold free and fair elections” in 2010. Thein Sein also complained that Burma had received “only half” of the US\$691 million pledged over three years by international donors for the post-Nargis effort.⁸³

Ban Ki-moon: Release ALL political prisoners

At the UN General Assembly, UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon was busy lobbying for the SPDC to release all political prisoners:

⁷⁵ Kachin News Group (25 Sep 09) China sets up three refugee camps for Burmese in anticipation

⁷⁶ Kachin News Group (25 Sep 09) China sets up three refugee camps for Burmese in anticipation

⁷⁷ WSJ (24 Sep 09) U.S. to engage Myanmar’s junta

⁷⁸ Mizzima News (23 Sep 09) Webb discusses US-Burma relations with Nyan Win

⁷⁹ Irrawaddy (25 Sep 09) Campbell to Lead US Burma Engagement

⁸⁰ Irrawaddy (29 Sep 09) “Friends of the Regime” Meet in New York

⁸¹ Irrawaddy (30 Sep 09) US Begins Dialogue with Junta

⁸² AP (30 Sep 09) US: talks with Myanmar won’t replace sanctions

⁸³ AP (28 Sep 09) At UN, Myanmar blasts sanctions, pledges democracy; Reuters (28 Sep 09) Myanmar PM Meets U.S. Senator, Promises Reforms; Kyodo (28 Sep 09) Myanmar premier, in U.N. speech, urges end to sanctions; Reuters (29 Sep 09) Myanmar PM - Reforms can't be imposed from outside; Bangkok Post (29 Sep 09) Burma PM slams Western sanctions; Mizzima News (29 Sep 09) Burmese PM toes familiar line in UN speech; DVB (29 Sep 09) Burmese PM says sanctions ‘hinder development’; Irrawaddy (29 Sep 09) PM’s ‘Free and Fair Elections’ Promise Rings Hollow; Reuters (29 Sep 09) Myanmar PM - Reforms can't be imposed from outside

- **22 September:** Ban Ki-moon said he would continue to seek Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's release and the release of all political prisoners in Burma "so that this election can be credible and fair and transparent".⁸⁴
- **23 September:** Ban urged the SPDC to create conditions for credible elections in 2010 and to allow the UN a role in the process of national reconciliation.⁸⁵
- **26 September:** Ban urged ASEAN FMs to take a tougher line with the SPDC in hopes the junta will free political prisoners and hold fair elections. Ban said it was in ASEAN's best interest to press the SPDC to free political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.⁸⁶

Thailand crackdown

On 13 September, Thai police raided the offices of several Chiang Mai-based Burmese organizations, including the Human Rights Education Institute of Burma (HREIB), the Burmese Women's Union (BWU), and the National Health and Education Committee (NHEC). Police detained 10 Burmese women who were attending a capacity-building workshop with BWU.⁸⁷ Thai authorities also ordered the temporary closure of several other exiled organizations in the Thai-Burma border towns of Mae Sariang, Mae Sot, and Sangkhlaburi.⁸⁸

ECONOMY

Gas deals increase instability, enrich the SPDC

In September, two rights groups released reports that exposed the impact of billion-dollar gas deals on stability in Burma, international sanctions, and the pocketbooks of the SPDC.

On 7 September, Shwe Gas Movement released "Corridor of Power." The report examines the Chinese government's decision to ignore financial and political risks, and begin construction on 4,000 kilometer oil and gas pipelines from the Arakan Coast to China's Yunnan Province.⁸⁹ The report claims that construction will lead to increased militarization, forced relocations, and forced labor, all of which will further inflame ethnic tensions.⁹⁰ The SPDC could rake in close to US\$30 billion over the next 30 years from the sale of natural gas once the new pipeline is complete.⁹¹

On 10 September, Earth Rights International (ERI) released two reports on the Yadana gas pipeline in Tenasserim Division, "Total Impact" and "Getting it Wrong." The two reports argued that the almost US\$5 billion generated for the SPDC by oil giants Total and Chevron has weakened the impact of sanctions on the regime, and provided the SPDC a lifeline.⁹² Total and Chevron continue to operate the Yadana gas project in Burma, even though both the US and France have sanctions on the SPDC.⁹³ Total CEO Christophe de Margerie said that critics of the company's operations in Burma can "go to hell."⁹⁴

The two ERI reports accused the SPDC of siphoning off the US\$5 billion of revenue from the Yadana Pipeline deal and depositing the bulk of it in two banks in Singapore - the Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC) and DBS Group.⁹⁵ ERI also said that the two banks function as "repositories" for

⁸⁴ DVB (23 Sep 09) UN chief takes credit for prisoner amnesty

⁸⁵ Mizzima News (24 Sep 09) Ban urges junta to create conditions for credible election

⁸⁶ Daily Star (28 Sep 09) UN urges Asian nations to get tough on Myanmar

⁸⁷ Irrawaddy (14 Sep 09) Crackdown on Burmese Dissidents in Chiang Mai

⁸⁸ Irrawaddy (24 Sep 09) Arrested Dissident Accused of Terrorist Intentions; Irrawaddy (21 Sep 09) Crackdown Threats Remain

⁸⁹ Shwe Gas Movement (07 Sep 09) Corridors of Power; IMNA (07 Sep 09) China government overlooks grave risks of new energy corridor through Burma; Irrawaddy (07 Sep 09) Shwe Gas Calls on Corporations, Govts to Suspend Pipeline Project; DVB (07 Sep 09) China pressured on Burma pipeline;

⁹⁰ Shwe Gas Movement (07 Sep 09) Corridors of Power; IMNA (07 Sep 09) China government overlooks grave risks of new energy corridor through Burma;

⁹¹ Shwe Gas Movement (07 Sep 09) Corridors of Power; IPS (09 Sep 09) With Pipelines, China's Footprint in Burma Expands; Global Times (09 Sep 09) China-Myanmar pipeline project to begin amid criticism

⁹² DVB (10 Sep 09) Total and Chevron earn \$5bn for Burma junta

⁹³ ERI (10 Sep 09) Total Impact; DVB (10 Sep 09) Total and Chevron earn \$5bn for Burma junta

⁹⁴ Reuters (11 Sep 09) Total says won't quit Myanmar after NGO accusation; Mizzima News (11 Sep 09) 'Total will remain in Burma': Chief; AP (11 Sep 09) Total Defends its Business in Burma; Irrawaddy (12 Sep 09) Chevron and Total Respond to Charges of Funding Burmese Regime

⁹⁵ ERI (10 Sep 09) Total Impact

junta revenues accrued from the Yadana gas project.⁹⁶ DBS Bank is partly owned by the Singaporean government, and other rights groups have blacklisted both banks as companies known for doing business with the SPDC.⁹⁷

Daewoo/CNPC/GAIL deal

On 2 September, South Korea's Daewoo said it will invest US\$3.2 billion as part of a consortium in expanding gas exploration and production of A-1 and A-3 offshore blocks in the Bay of Bengal.⁹⁸ Daewoo has a 51% stake in the consortium, and its partners are India's Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (17%), Myanmar Oil & Gas Enterprise (15%), Indian state-run gas firm GAIL (8.5%), and South Korea's Kogas (8.5%).⁹⁹ Starting in 2013, the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) will import 206 million cubic meters of natural gas daily from the two blocks.¹⁰⁰ On 8 September, GAIL said that it was exploring the possibility of investing US\$1.5 billion in the consortium laying the pipeline from Burma to China.¹⁰¹

New 5,000 kyat note provokes inflation fears

On 24 September, the SPDC announced that a new 5,000 kyat currency note will go into circulation on 1 October.¹⁰² The move prompted fears of increased inflation.¹⁰³ On 25 September, after news of the new currency broke, the price of gold increased while the value of the kyat fell from 1,060 to 1,140 kyat to the US dollar.¹⁰⁴

Jetstar urged to end Rangoon route

On 28 September, Burma Campaign Australia (BCA) accused Australian budget airline Jetstar of propping up the SPDC.¹⁰⁵ BCA said Jetstar airline's tax payment to the Department of Civil Aviation under the SPDC Transport Ministry is over US\$ 170,000 per year, and does not include the percentage of profits Jetstar has to provide SPDC-owned Myanmar Airways International.¹⁰⁶ Both BCA and Australian Council of Trade Unions want the Australian Government to pressure Jetstar to stop doing business in Burma and to step up sanctions against the SPDC.¹⁰⁷

OTHER BURMA NEWS IN SEPTEMBER

1	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's lawyer Nyan Win says that Daw Suu plans to repair her lakeside home to improve security.
1	Local people attack unregistered Rohingya female refugees at the Kutapalong refugee camp in Bangladesh.
1	Fellow refugees gang-rape a mute Rohingya refugee girl in Nayapara refugee camp, Bangladesh.
2	Over 100 UN and other aid workers are stranded in Northern Shan State in the aftermath of fighting between the MNDAA and the SPDC Army.

⁹⁶ Irrawaddy (10 Sep 09) Junta Gas Profits Stashed in Singapore Banks: ERI; DPA (10 Sep 09) Report: Pipeline pumps billions in Myanmar junta's pockets – Summary; Reuters (10 Sep 09) Myanmar junta siphons gas revenue offshore-report

⁹⁷ Irrawaddy (12 Sep 09) Bank Accused of Hiding Junta Gas Cash is Partly Owned by Singapore Govt

⁹⁸ Reuters (02 Sep 09) Daewoo puts Myanmar gas fields investment at \$3 bln; Irrawaddy (05 Sep 09) Daewoo Sharply Reduces Expected Shwe Gas Delivery Costs

⁹⁹ Upstream Online (02 Sep 09) Daewoo pegs Shwe spend at \$3.2bn; Reuters (02 Sep 09) Daewoo puts Myanmar gas fields investment at \$3 bln

¹⁰⁰ Reuters (02 Sep 09) Daewoo puts Myanmar gas fields investment at \$3 bln; Irrawaddy (05 Sep 09) Daewoo Sharply Reduces Expected Shwe Gas Delivery Costs; Upstream Online (02 Sep 09) Daewoo pegs Shwe spend at \$3.2bn

¹⁰¹ Reuters (08 Sep 09) India GAIL in talks to lay Myanmar-China pipeline; Upstreamonline (08 Sep 09) Gail talks up Burma-China pipe; UNI (09 Sep 09) GAIL may join consortium to lay Myanmar-China pipeline

¹⁰² Mizzima News (24 Sep 09) Burma to circulate 5,000 Kyat currency note; AP (25 Sep 09) Myanmar unveils new higher denomination bank note;

¹⁰³ DVB (25 Sep 09) Burma to introduce largest currency note; Irrawaddy (25 Sep 09) New 5,000 Kyat Note Sparks Inflation Fears

¹⁰⁴ Irrawaddy (25 Sep 09) New 5,000 Kyat Note Sparks Inflation Fears

¹⁰⁵ AAP (28 Sep 09) Jetstar prepared to talk about Burma concerns; AAP (28 Sep 09) Greens senator Bob Brown urges Jetstar to rethink Burma flights

¹⁰⁶ Mizzima News (29 Sep 09) Australian companies urged to withdraw from Burma

¹⁰⁷ ABC (28 Sep 09) Get out of Burma, ACTU tells Jetstar; ABC News (28 Sep 09); AAP (28 Sep 09) Australians urged to snub Burma; Brisbane Times (28 Sep 09) Jetstar denies link to Burma rights abuse

ABC News (28 Sep 09) Jetstar denies propping up Burma's junta;

2	SPDC police in the Kokang region of Northeastern Shan State seize over 157,400 amphetamine pills.
3	SPDC authorities in Akyab, Arakan State, ban public gatherings of town elders.
4	SPDC introduces a new 10% tax on food in Pegu Division.
5	New Zealand selects thirty Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh for resettlement.
6	Italy and Japan announce they will provide money and aid to areas affected by cyclone Nargis
7	A number of youths in Sagaing Division flee to Mizoram State, India, to avoid being conscripted by the SPDC Army.
7	SPDC drug police arrest a man and seize approximately 1,680 amphetamine tablets at the Maungdaw border station with Bangladesh.
8	NLD issues a statement that calls on the SPDC to allow the reopening of its offices and to organize political activities across Burma.
8	SPDC police rape and murder a 14-year-old Lisu girl in Mongkoe Township, Shan State.
9	SPDC Chief of Military Ordnance Lt Gen Tin Aye and Rangoon Mayor Brig Gen Aung Thein Lin attend North Korea's 61st anniversary celebrations in Rangoon.
10	US Labor Department releases report listing Burma as a country that uses child labor.
10	China's Foreign Ministry reaffirms Beijing's non-interference policy in Burma's internal affairs and calls for peaceful solutions in Burma.
11	HIV/AIDS voluntary support groups say that the SPDC Ministry of Health is forcing them to register and operate under the ministry's jurisdiction.
11	SPDC authorities seize nearly three million amphetamine tablets in two separate incidents in Tachilek Township, Shan State.
11	SPDC Health Department says that one more person has been found to be infected with swine flu bringing the total number of such cases to 35 in the country.
13	State-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar urges Burma's ethnic armies to transform themselves into Border Guard Forces before the 2010 elections.
14	SPDC narcotics police discover 5,313,000 amphetamine pills in a cave outside Yinsin village near the China-Burma border town of Laogai, Shan State
14	SPDC Meteorology and Hydrology Department issues a mock tsunami notice that creates panic among Rangoon residents.
15	Australia names Burma as one of six countries that will receive funding to combat human trafficking.
15	US President Barack Obama says that Burma has "failed demonstrably" in adhering to international counter-narcotics measures, paving the way for US sanctions.
16	WFP distributes relief to poor families in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State.
16	NLD says it urged SPDC Chairman Sr Gen Than Shwe to allow a meeting between senior party leaders and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to discuss the current political situation.
17	Na Sa Ka personnel in Northern Arakan State arrest eight local Muslims who returned from a prayer at a local mosque.
18	About 100 people demonstrate outside the Burmese Embassy in Tokyo to demand the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners in Burma.
20	Dr. Tin Myo Win and his assistant conduct a medical exam for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at her lakeside home.
21	The family of two children, aged 16, files a complaint with the ILO alleging that the SPDC Army forcibly recruited the children and then punished them for trying to escape.
21	All Burma Monks' Alliance, the All Burma Federation of Student Unions, and the 88 Generation Students release a joint statement that calls on the SPDC to stop using violence against ethnic nationalities. The statement also urges the SPDC to start dialogue with the NLD and ethnic representatives.
23	NLD issues a statement to welcome the release of over 7,000 prisoners across Burma and reiterates its call for the release of all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin Oo.
23	Bangladeshi government restricts the movement of Burmese refugees.
23	BDR pushes back five Rohingya families into Burma.
23	EU Special Envoy for Burma, Piero Fassino says that no effort should be spared towards the creation of favorable conditions for the SPDC's 2010 elections.
23	BDR go on red alert after pushing back five Rohingya families to Burma. The families fled to Bangladesh after Na Sa Ka forcibly evicted them from their homes in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State.
24	Singapore FM George Yeo says that the new US approach to Burma would enable the US and the EU to have more influence in the country's political evolution.
25	Na Sa Ka personnel in Maungdaw Township, Arakan State, severely beat a local 18-year-old Rohingya boy.
25	US Embassy in Rangoon says that it filed a protest with the SPDC over the alleged mistreatment of American citizen Nyi Nyi Aung.

26	About 30 protesters demonstrate in front of the Burmese Embassy in Bangkok to mark the second anniversary of the Saffron Revolution.
26	Bangladeshi police arrest a Bangladesh national and seize 350 amphetamine tablets smuggled to Bangladesh from Burma.
27	About 300 people, including NLD members, foreign diplomats, and reporters attend a ceremony to mark the 21 st anniversary of the party's foundation at its Rangoon headquarters.
27	NLD issues a statement that urges the SPDC to release all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Tin Oo, to create a political climate conducive to national reconciliation, and to allow the re-opening of the party's offices nationwide.
27	A Na Sa Ka officer from Area 9 in Buthidaung Township, Arakan State, commits suicide.
28	After the Indonesian government threatened to expel half of them, 200 Rohingya refugees flee their temporary shelters by boat to seek jobs in Malaysia
28	SPDC authorities seize large quantities of amphetamines in separate raids in Laogai and Tachilek Townships in Shan State.
28	SPDC Secretary-1 Gen Tin Aung Myint Oo, the chief of the Bureau of Special Operations-5 Lt Gen Myint Swe and other senior military officers attend a reception of the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China in Rangoon.
28	An SPDC Army commander from LIB No. 266 based in Thantlang Township, Chin State, orders 40 villages to provide 40 villagers each to perform forced labor to renovate SPDC Army camps.
29	Bangladeshi authorities destroy about 100 houses of unregistered Burmese refugees living near the Kutupalong refugee camp and arrest and fine eight unregistered Rohingya refugees.

REPORTS ON BURMA RELEASED IN SEPTEMBER

“**Corridor of Power: China’s Trans-Burma Oil and Gas Pipelines**”, Shwe Gas Movement,
<http://www.shwe.org/Attachments/CorridorofPower.pdf>

“**Total Impact: The Human Rights, Environmental, and Financial Impacts of Total and Chevron's Yadana Gas Project in Military-Ruled Burma (Myanmar)**”, Earth Rights International
http://www.earthrights.org/mwt_journal_admin/total-impact.pdf

“**Getting it Wrong: Flawed "Corporate Social Responsibility", and Misrepresentations Surrounding Total and Chevron's Yadana Gas Pipeline in Military-Ruled Burma (Myanmar)**”, Earth Rights International
http://www.earthrights.org/mwt_journal_admin/getting-it-wrong.pdf

“**Burma’s Forgotten Prisoners**”, Human Rights Watch (HRW)
http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/burma0909_brochure_web.pdf

“**The Resistance of the Monks**”, Human Rights Watch (HRW)
<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/burmamonks0909web.pdf>

“**On the Edge of Survival: The Continuing Rat Infestation and Food Crisis in Chin State, Burma**”, Chin Human Rights Organization (CHRO)
<http://www.chro.ca/publications/special-reports.html>

“**China’s Myanmar Dilemma**”, International Crisis Group (ICG)
http://www.crisisgroup.org/library/documents/asia/north_east_asia/177_chinas_myanmar_dilemma.pdf