



“We won’t forget,  
we won’t give up!”

August 8, 2008





## AUGUST 8, 1988

Young people in Burma launched massive nationwide rallies, calling for an end to military rule and the establishment of a democratic government.

Military response : 3,000 people killed, mostly students and monks. Thousands jailed.

The “8888 generation” has bravely continued work - from prison, in exile, and “inside”.

Since 1988, the movement has grown & diversified. Groups work together across sectors to”

- \* improve situation of communities,
- \* foster reconciliation, and
- \* develop capacity & common frameworks for Burma’s future.



## THE SPIRIT OF 88 IS ALIVE & STRONG!

September's Saffron Revolution  
- against brutal repression,  
economic exploitation &  
mismanagement.

Between 19 August and 2  
October: 227 rallies defied military  
rule in 66 cities across all of  
Burma's States and Divisions.

The SPDC arrested up to 6,000  
people, including at least 1,400  
monks.

All over the world, activists  
protested in solidarity –200  
actions in more than 30 countries  
within 8 weeks.



## 20 YEARS AFTER 8888

Unconditional engagement, discreet diplomacy and ASEAN's so-called constructive engagement has failed.

Under SPDC: a country gifted with natural wealth and talented peoples became one of the poorest.

The international community must stand united with us and block regime from weapons & money to continue oppressing and killing civilians.

This must begin with:

1. The unconditional release all political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi.
2. The cessation of repression and hostilities against ethnic groups.
3. The commencement of tripartite dialogue.



Regional and the international community must genuinely support democratic reforms and national reconciliation in Burma.

This includes solutions proposed by Burma's democracy movement, e.g. transitional power-sharing formula - **ALL STAKEHOLDERS** including SPDC must be part of the solution.

The international community must adopt a common position to ensure that Burma's military regime delivers genuine reforms within a clearly-stated timeframe.

National League for Democracy (NLD) and ethnic nationality leadership must be able work freely as legitimate partners with the military regime.

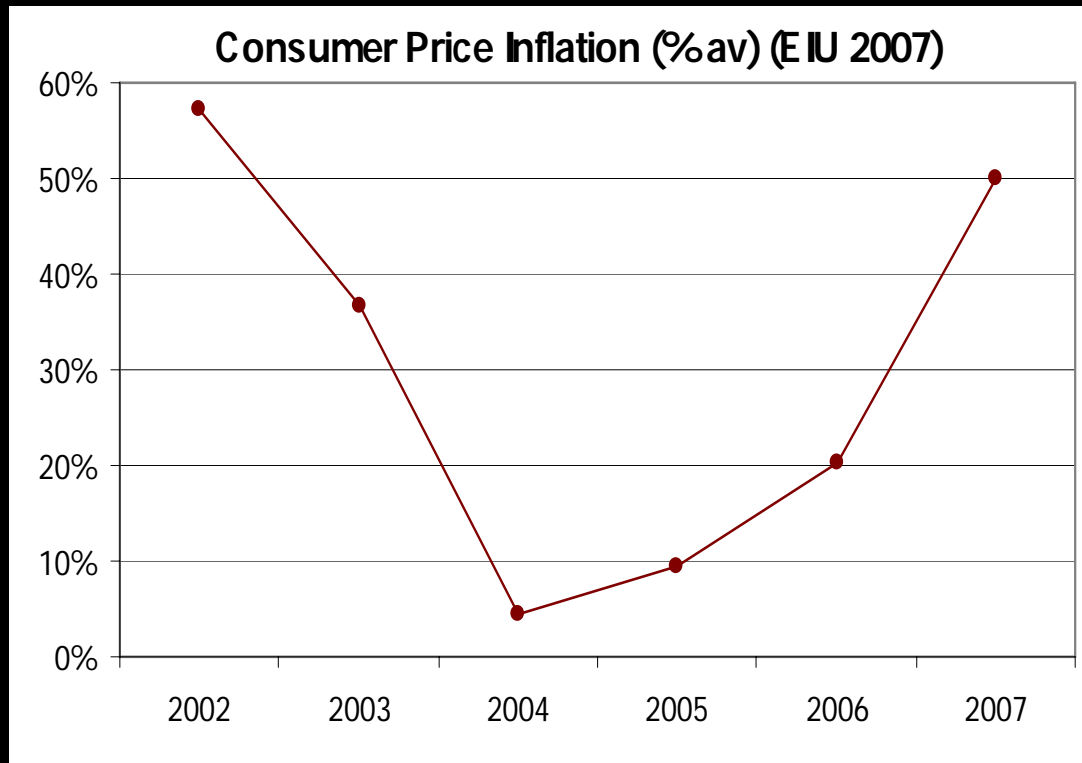


## 20 YEARS OF MISSPENT WEALTH (RICHER ARMY, POORER PEOPLE)

- The SPDC has seriously damaged the country's human infrastructure and squandered its natural resources.
- Burma has world's 10th largest natural gas reserves and gets US\$150 million/ month income.
- The Shwe gas project will earn between US\$580 and \$824 million per year when completed.
- In September 2007, Transparency International ranked Burma as the world's most corrupt country, alongside Somalia.
- The SPDC has made massive investment to double size of military. It spent at least US\$1.69 billion importing military equipment from China between 1988 and 2006.



## RAMPANT INFLATION, MULTIPLE EXCHANGE RATES



- By the end of 2007, Burma's inflation rate reached 50% - up from an already crippling 20% in 2006.

- In the aftermath of cyclone Nargis, rice prices doubled again.

- The regime imposes an illogical dual exchange rate, with 6.23 kyat to US\$1 at the official rate, and a black market rate that has fluctuated between 1,100 and 1,350 kyat to US\$1.

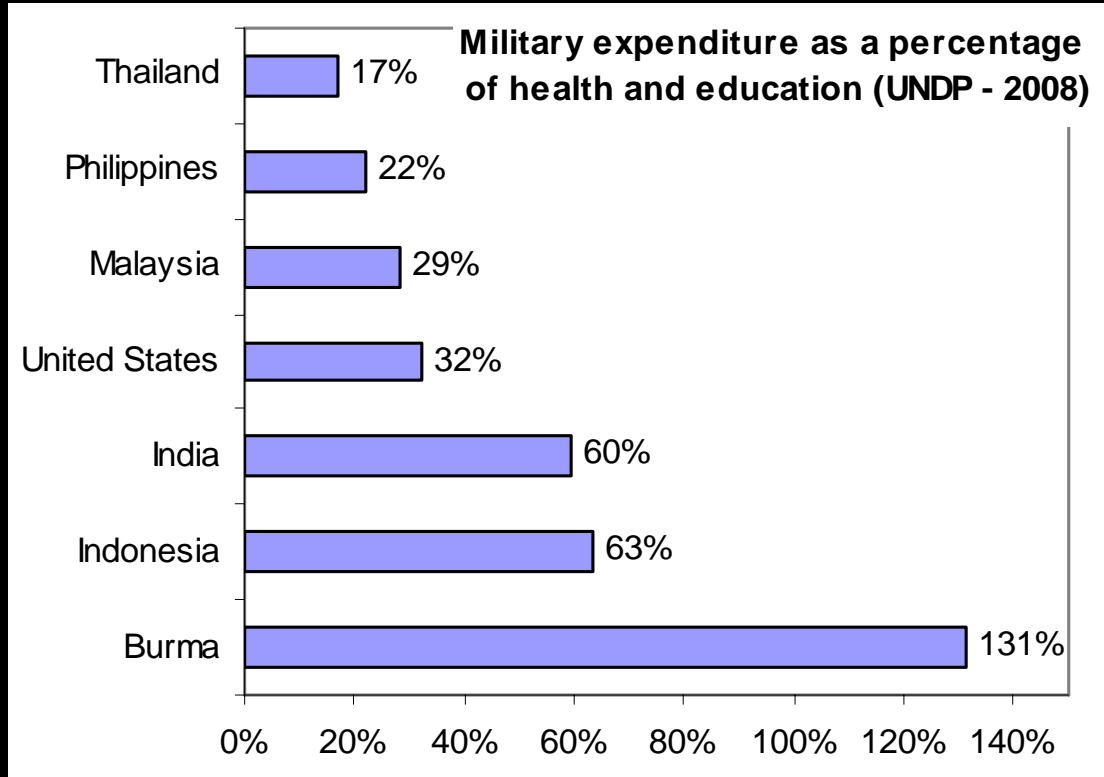
- The junta has manipulated the exchange rate to steal more than US\$10 million from cyclone Nargis aid.





## GETTING HUNGRIER

- In 2007, it was reported that 90% were living on less than \$1 per day (below poverty line).
- Before the fuel price hikes of August 2007, average household incomes in Burma were around US\$1.10, but cost of feeding a household was \$1.15.
- Before cyclone Nargis, people in the Irrawaddy delta was already suffering – about 30% of people had chronic and 9% acute malnutrition.
- Arakan and Chin villagers recently fled to Bangladesh and India because of food shortages.



## DISASTROUS HEALTH

- 40% of annual budget to military spending, less than 3% to health and education - collapse of human services.

- Junta's mismanagement, corruption, bad policies, oppression and military attacks are root causes of humanitarian crisis. Recent blocking, and the stealing of Cyclone Nargis aid is an example.

- In Eastern Burma: basic health indicators same as those of the world's worst disaster zones of Afghanistan and Sudan.



## KILLING THE CHILDREN

- Burma 70,000 child soldiers, the highest number in the world.
- Second worst child mortality rate in Asia, after Afghanistan.
- Between 100,000 to 150,000 children under-five years of age die every year and most of the deaths are from preventable diseases.
- In Eastern Burma, 20% of children die before their fifth birthday. Nearly half of the deaths are from malaria.





## POLITICAL PRISONERS

- In June 2008, Burma had 1,900 political prisoners.
- This is a **65.2% increase** from July 2007, when there were 1,150 political prisoners in Burma.
- Since June 2007, 60 people have died in custody - including 16 political prisoners.
- Since 1988, 137 political prisoners have died in custody.



## FORCED LABOR

- Despite ratifying the ILO Convention 29 on forced labor, the regime is guilty of systematic forced labor.
- Forced labor situation has not improved since the ILO first raised the issue in November 2000.
- The regime forces civilians, including women, children and the elderly, to serve as military porters, act as human mine detectors, and work on infrastructure projects involving the construction of roads, dams, railroads, and military barracks with little or no pay.
- Reporting forced labor practices has resulted in the persecution, arrest, and the detention of the complainant.





## DRUGS

- Burma - the main opium producer in Southeast Asia and the second largest opium producer in the world.
- In 2007, opium poppy cultivation in Burma increased by 29%.
- Burma is also the top producer of amphetamines in Southeast Asia.
- In 2004, Burma produced approximately 700 million amphetamine tablets - about 7.5% of total global manufacture.



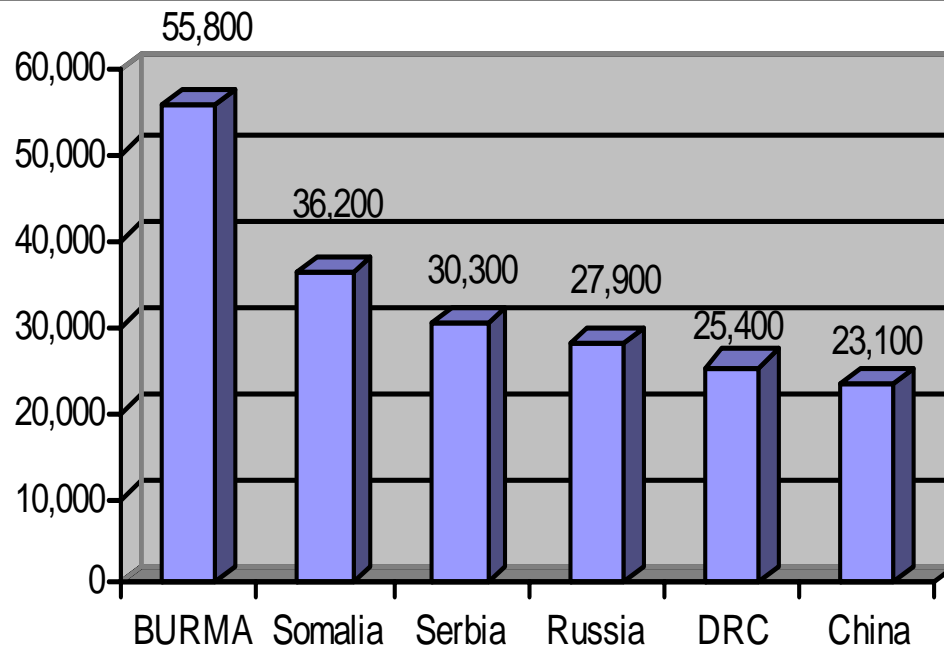


## WORLD'S LONGEST-RUNNING WAR

- The ongoing military attacks in Eastern Burma are part of the world's longest-running war.
- Over the last year, the SPDC Army deployed 85 new battalions in Karen State.
- There are 273 SPDC Army battalions (more than 30% of the Army's battalions nationwide) in Eastern Burma.
- The current offensive displaced 76,000 people in 2007, causing 25,000 people to face starvation.
- Burma has one of the world's 10 worst displacement situations.



### Main origin of asylum seekers worldwide - 2005



Source: UNHCR

## REFUGEES

- Burma is the world's third largest source of refugees after Afghanistan and Iraq.
- Between 1995 and 2005, the flow of refugees has increased up to 800% in Burma's neighboring countries.
- In the last year, the number of Burmese refugees in Thailand increased a further 3% to 138,970.





BurmaInfo (Japan)

<http://www.burmainfo.org/>

Initiatives for International Dialogue  
(Philippines)

<http://www.iidnet.org>

Alliance for Reform and Democracy in  
Asia (ARDA) (Singapore)

<http://www.asiademocracy.org>

Taiwan Free Burma Network

<http://tasskn.blogspot.com/>

Forum Asia (Thailand)

<http://www.forum-asia.org>

Burma Campaign UK

<http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk>

US Campaign for Burma

<http://www.uscampaignforburma.org>

*and many more*



## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Groups & Individuals can show their support for the people of Burma and their struggle for democracy.

- Join campaigns – UNSC Campaign, Free Political Prisoners Campaign, Peace Campaigns, etc
- Support Burma organizations in your country and in Burma's border areas
- Participate in Burma-solidarity actions
- Learn more about the oppressive regime in Burma and its allies
- Learn more about what happened in Burma in 1988 and what has happened since
- Sign petitions, write letters to newspapers and politicians raising awareness about how your country supports the regime in Burma, and what it should be doing to support democracy



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