

NDD-Documentation and Research Department



Network for Democracy and Development  
Documentation and Research Department

P.O Box 179, Mae Sod, Tak, 63110, Thailand. Phone: +66 85-733 4303.  
E-mail: ndddrd07@csloxinfo.com; ndddrd07@gmail.com

## Weekly Political Events Regarding the SPDC's Election (017/2010) English Version

May 16 – May 22, 2010

### SPDC AND ITS STOOGES ORGANIZATIONS

-Union Solidarity and Development Association members from Namsan, led by U Khun Pwint, campaigning in villages in Namsan Township, Kyaukse District, northern Shan State offered to provide a computer and handphone to anyone who can persuade villagers to come to ballot polls and vote for Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP). Furthermore, they also offered to provide financial assistance and fuel cost for the to and from trip to ballot polls for anyone who will come and vote for USDP. **(Palaungland 170510)**

-According to water donors on 16 May, who travelled to townships in Rangoon Division and donated water to those suffering from shortages, USDA members asked whether they were National League for Democracy members or not. USDA members also demanded water donors to use USDA flags if they wanted to donate water in those townships. **(NEJ 180510)**

-According to U Myat Hla, the chairperson of the National League for Democracy (Bago), USDA members were distributing their USDA flags to volunteers, who visited to regions in Bago Division which faced the drinking water shortage, to place on the water carrying vehicles. In some areas, regional police also took records of the license numbers of vehicles, amount of money to donate and names of persons leading the volunteers. **(Irrwaddy 190510)**

-As the preparation for the elections, USDP members led by Prime Minister Thein Sein have been launching organizing campaigns in many townships with variety of ways. In some wards in Kauthaung Township, Tanessrim Division, USDP members went house by house and urged people to fill in USDP membership application forms, and they even filled out the forms for people and demanded that people sign them. **(DVB 190510)**

## **NDD-Documentation and Research Department**

-According to a local, USDP membership recruiting campaign began on 15 May in Namkam Township, northern Shan State. USDP members had to recruit at least 50 members each from every ward of the township. **(S.H.A.N 200510)**

-According to a Matupi residence, in many townships in Chin State, the immigration department was collecting a list of people who were 18 years of age or over, including those who would turn 18 prior to October 2010. The immigration also investigated the presence of household members, and if a family member was not at home, the whereabouts and the time of return were also asked. **(Khonumthung 200510)**

-According to the Burmese community in South Korea, the Burmese Embassy located in Seoul, South Korea, sent letters dated the 17th May to inform and encourage them to register to vote at the embassy for the elections. **(DVB 210510)**

-According to an eye witness, in Kawthaung Township, Tanessrim Division, members of both the Kawthaung Township Election Commission and the village Election Commission were giving trainings to local people about the rules and regulations of the elections and how to vote in the elections. **(RFA 210510)**

-The authorities allowed the villagers from Susee village in Shataw Township, Kayah State to work on their farms again. The villagers regarded the military regime's move as an election campaign since they had been barred from planting their farms previously. **(Kantarawaddy Times 210510)**

## **OPPOSITION FORCES**

### **A. FORCES INSIDE BURMA**

-On 17 May, Kayan New Generation Youth released a statement describing that "the regime's stooge" the Kayan National Party and its leaders, which registered to contest in the 2010 elections, irresponsibly registered the party without the will of the Kayan people. **(Kantarawaddy Times 210510)**

-Youths from the National League for Democracy (NLD) and the Democracy Party as well as U Aye Myint, the leader of "Guiding Star" organization, jointly dug and donated water wells at villages in Waw Township, Bago Division. **(RFA 220510)**

### **B. ARMED ETHNIC GROUPS**

-Maj. Gen Sao Yawdserk, Chairperson of Shan State Re-establishment Committee and the commander of the Shan State Army, at the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary ceremony of Shan Revolutionary Day on 21 May, urged people to boycott the military regime's 2010 elections in support of the major political parties such as National League for Democracy and Shan Nationalities League for Democracy who were excluded from the elections. **(DVB 210510)**

## **NDD-Documentation and Research Department**

-Khu Oo Reh, the Secretary 1 of the Karenni National Progressive Party, said he was concerned about racial consequences since the Election Laws stated that Karen People's Party had constituencies in Kayah State. **(Kantarawaddy Times 210510)**

### **C. FORCES OUTSIDE BURMA**

-On 17 May, in front of the Burmese Embassy in Tel-Aviv, Burmese people in Israel led by Burma Action (Israel) launched a demonstration expressing that the National League for Democracy was not invalidated and they would continue to give their support to the NLD. **(Mizzima 170510)**

-On 19 May, Burma Lawyers Council (BLC) released a law analysis and demanded the SPDC to terminate the elections due to the Election Commission laws which were established on 11 March 2010 for the upcoming elections being totally biased toward the Union Solidarity and Development Party by permitting USDP to contest in the elections so there would be no way to hold free and fair democratic elections. **(RFA 190510)**

-Published on the 20<sup>th</sup> May in the public announcement section of the regime's Mirror newspaper, the flag of 'Myanmar Democratic Party for a New Society' was revealed and announced that anyone who had a disagreement could complain. Ko Moe Thee Zon, who had founded the Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS) on 14 October 1988 and became the Chairperson of the party from 1988-89 objected to the announcement as the flag was similar to the original DPNS flag. **(NEJ 210510)**

-On 21 May, Burmese dissidents in Japan staged a demonstration in front of Burmese Embassy in Tokyo demanding the release of all political prisoners including the 88 Generation Student leader Min Ko Naing. **(DVB 210510)**

### **CEASE-FIRE GROUPS**

#### **A. ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN TRANSFORMED AS BORDER GUARD FORCE**

-According to an anonymous source close to the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade of the Shan State Army (SSA), on May 11 the SSA 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade sent an open letter to Let. Gen. Ye Myint, the Commander of the Military Security Affairs, informing him they would only discuss the issue of transforming (to Border Guard Force) with the new government (after the elections). Two other issues mentioned in the open letter: the SSA 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade did not want to clash with the military regime, and they wanted both parties to follow the ceasefire agreements as signed in 1989. **(S.H.A.N 170510)**

-According to a residence of Lae Cha (Lai Kha), even though the Mong Naung Military Command invited SSA 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade to meet with Col. Chit Oo, the deputy Commander of the Eastern District Military Command, the leaders of SSA 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade refused to meet because they did not trust the military regime. **(S.H.A.N 180510)**

-According to sources from Pansan on April 28, even though having pressured to transform into a Border Guard Force, there were no serious clashes as expected by analysts between ceasefire agreement -

## **NDD-Documentation and Research Department**

signed armed ethnic groups, regardless the United Wa State Army controlled areas became flourished again. **(S.H.A.N 190510)**

-According to sources close to ceasefire signed SSA, some soldiers from U Loi Mao's troops, who had previously agreed to transform the unit into a militia group, fled from U Loi Mao's force and joined ceasefire signed groups that did not agree to transform into BGF and others joined yet another SSA force which had not signed a ceasefire and were still fighting the regime. **(S.H.A.N 190510)**

-According to KIO source, representatives of the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) left from Laiza to Myitkyina on May 19, by the invitation of Maj. Gen. Soe Win, the Regional Commander of Northern Command, to discuss transforming KIO into Border Guard Force. **(S.H.A.N 190510)**

-Beginning from the first week of May at Yathetaung village in Thanbyuzayat Township, the military regime started giving basic military trainings to Nai Aung Nai's troops which had agreed to transform to as a militia force. Nai Aung Nai, currently the leader of Mon Peace and Defense Force, used to be a commander in New Mon State Army and some troops led by him separated from New Mon State Party in 2008. **(IMNA 190510)**

-People's Daily Newspaper (English) based in China expressed that the Shan State Special Region (4) Mong La troops were among the troops that attended a ceremony to transform into a Border Guard Force at Tachileik, Eastern Shan State on May 18. Let. Gen. Ye Myint, the Commander of the Military Security Affairs, also attended and led the ceremony. However, an anonymous officer from Mong La headquarters denied the news reported by People's Daily. **(S.H.A.N 200510)**

### **B. ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN TRANSFORMED AS BORDER GUARD FORCE**

-The ceremony of transformation of Lahu Militia Force, based in Tachilaik Township, Eastern Shan State, into the Border Guard Battalion 1009 was held in Tachilaik on May 18. The ceremony was opened by Let. Gen. Ye Myint, the Commander of the Military Security Affairs, and he was responsible for the transforming of ceasefire-signed armed ethnic groups into border guard forces. **(DVB 190510)**

-According to locals, the Karenni Nationalities People's Liberation Front, which had already transformed into a border guard force and is based near Moso village, Fruso Township in Kayah State, abused its power and used local motorcycles till they broke down but no compensation was provided to the owners. **(Kantarawaddy Times 200510)**

- The transformation ceremony of regional militia forces, in Wa autonomous region in Eastern Shan State, into the Border Guard Battalion 1010 was held on May 20 and Let. Gen. Ye Myint attended and opened the ceremony. **(NMG 210510)**

## NDD-Documentation and Research Department

### OTHER FORCES

#### A. PARTIES THAT WERE PERMITTED TO STAND AS POLITICAL PARTIES

- Even though the National League for Democracy was not eligible to stand as a political party anymore, some former NLD members will establish a new political party under the name 'National Democratic Force (NDF) and will register with the Election Commission this week, said Dr. Than Nyein, who was trying to establish the new political party. **(BBC 170510)**

-After Daw Aung San Suu Kyi commented via U Nyan Win on May 14 that the establishing of a new political party by former NLD members was against democratic procedure, Dr. Than Nyein, the leader of the newly established National Democratic Force responded to the comment saying that "We established a new party only after NLD was officially invalidated. We have our rights to do that and as a democratic leader, Daw Suu should understand us." **(Irrawaddy 180510)**

#### B. PARTIES STILL UNDER REGISTRATION PROCESS

-Phlone-Sguaw Democratic Party-PSDP from Karen State registered with the Election Commission to compete in the elections, on April 23, 2010. **(KIC 040510)**

-Three political parties representing Arakan State registered with the Election Commission to compete in the elections. **(Kaladan News 060510)**

-Union Democracy Party (UDP), which was granted permission to compete in the elections, released its first statement on May 7, 2010 criticizing the Union Solidarity and Development Party led by current Prime Minister U Thein Sein. **(BBC 070510)**

-There are 4 political parties from Kachin state competing in the elections. Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP) has not been granted any permission yet, according to an official from KSPP. **(KNG 070510)**

#### C. FORCES HAVE PREPARED TO ESTABLISH AS A POLITICAL PARTY

- Even though the National League for Democracy was not eligible to stand as a political party anymore, some former NLD members will establish a new political party under the name 'National Democratic Force (NDF) and will register with the Election Commission this week, said Dr. Than Nyein, who was trying to establish the new political party. **(BBC 170510)**

-After Daw Aung San Suu Kyi commented via U Nyan Win on May 14 that the establishing of a new political party by former NLD members was against democratic procedure, Dr. Than Nyein, the leader of the newly established National Democratic Force responded to the comment saying that "We established a new party only after NLD was officially invalidated. We have our rights to do that and as a democratic leader, Daw Suu should understand us." **(Irrawaddy 180510)**

## NDD-Documentation and Research Department

### **PUBLIC, CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS:**

-The 94<sup>th</sup> birthday ceremony of Thakin Thein Pe, the leader of veteran politicians group, was held at his residence in Mayangone Township in the evening of 21 May. Thakin Thein Pe promised to fight for democracy in Burma and freedom from military rule until his last breath. **(NEJ 210510)**

-Residence from Mandalay sent letters to Senior Gen. Than Shwe and the Minister of Electricity requesting the regime to provide 24 hour electricity and to reduce electricity maintenance fees. **(Irrawaddy 210510)**

-U Zaw Zaw, one of the top businessmen in Burma, said he thought the upcoming elections were for the betterment of the country and the government has done what should have done. However, he did not have any plan yet to contest in the elections. **(Snapshot News Val 2 No.85)**

### **INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

#### **A. GOVERNMENTS**

-Mr. Kurt Campbell, the US State Department Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, who completed his visit to Burma last week, commented that the US government was dissatisfied with the situation in Burma since the military regime was not responsive to US's request to release political prisoners, or ease tensions with minority groups. He also said "On each of these issues, we are troubled by developments, and we are calling on the government to follow through on specific steps to allow not only a better relationship with the United States and the international community, but a better future for its people overall." **(VOA 190510)**

-U Tin Oo, the Vice-Chairperson of NLD, said Czech Deputy Foreign Minister and delegation met with NLD leaders on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May. The Deputy Foreign Minister inquired about the current political situation, future activities, and also disaster relief (or social) activities of NLD. **(DVB 200510)**

#### **B. EUROPEAN UNION**

-European Union released a statement on May 19, demanding the government to invalidate the current election laws to enhance the political environment before the elections as they are undemocratic laws would not create free and fair elections. **(VOA 200510)**

-European Union urged EU member states and high ranking officials on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May to publicly support the suggestion of Tomas Ojea Quintana, UN Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on Burma, to establish a commission of inquiry to investigate human rights violations and crimes against humanity perpetrated by the Burmese military regime. **(RFA 210510)**

---

*End of report/ Saturday, May 22, 2010*

*Distributed by Network for Democracy and Development; Documentation and Research Department (NDD)*

---