



## 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 (018/2010) English Version

May 23 – May 29, 2010

#### STATE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (SPDC) AND ITS STOOGES ORGANIZATIONS

-SPDC top Generals arrived in Naypyitaw on 24 May to attend SPDC's quarterly meeting. The first quarterly meeting would be held at the office of the Chief of Staff (Army) starting from 25 May for three days. **(Mizzima 240510)**

-According to a resident in Magwe Division, the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) was campaigning in Minbu and Yaynanchaung Townships in Magwe Division. The USDP persuaded local people by lending money and providing recommendations for those who wanted to travel, and recruiting new party members with 1500 kyat each for a membership fee. **(DVB 240510)**

-According to U Sa Thin, the Chairperson of Falam Election Commission in Chin State, Dr. Ba Maung, a member of the Union Election Commission, visited district and township Election Commissions in Chin State and instructed commission members to let voters vote freely. **(Mizzima 240510)**

-Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) convinced local people in some divisions and states that if they joined the USDP and obtained party membership identification cards (IDs), it would be similar to national IDs and they could be able to travel more conveniently. Furthermore, some local authorities were organizing people by offering a variety of incentives to join USDP. **(Irrawaddy 260510)**

-U Thein Maung, a representative from Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) nominated to contest the elections and a close friend to the regime's Minister U Aung Thaung, was campaigning at many villages in Yathetaung Township by donating millions of kyat to those villages and telling the locals to vote for him. **(Narinjara 260510)**

-According to a local source, the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) in Myawaddy, Karen State, was collecting a 20% tax from commodities coming from Mae Sot at Kyankhin pier check-point for USDA funds. **(IMNA 260510)**

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-In Palaung villages in Manton and Namhsan townships in northern Shan State, village officials are making lists of household members to establish more militia units by recruiting young men about 20 years of age from every household. **(NEJ 260510)**

-According to residents of Monywa, Sagaing Division, starting on 25 May, the authorities in Monywa were verifying the household member lists (Form 10) and collecting names of everyone over 18 years of age in all wards in Monywa for balloting in the 2010 elections. **(Yoma3 280510)**

-Union Election Commission released a statement on 29 May warning political parties, which were allowed to register to contest in the elections, to submit the set party member list on time, and if those parties would not make it on time, then the party registration would be cancelled and those parties would be terminated. **(Irrawaddy 290510)**

## **OPPOSITION FORCES**

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

-Karen United Organization urged the United Nations to establish a Commission of Inquiry to take action against the Burmese military regime for its' offensives in Karen and other states, which could be recognized as war crimes. (RFA 230510)

-According to Daw May Win Myint, the leader of NLD Women Wing, NLD Women and Youth Wing members are working on building water storage facilities in some areas in Irrawaddy and Rangoon divisions, which are suffering from drinking water shortage. (DVB 240510)

-According to a party leader of National League for Democracy (Kauthaung Township), they will provide necessary assistance for the education of local children in monastery schools and orphanages in the township. (NMG 240510)

-All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU), 88 Generation Students, and All Burma Monks Alliance (ABMA) released a statement on 25 May urging people to boycott the unfair elections, which would enact the 2008 constitution. (NEJ 250510)

-On the 20th anniversary of the 1990 elections, the National League for Democracy (NLD) held a gathering at the residence of party Vice-Chairperson U Tin Oo to commemorate their 1990 elections victory. About 100 NLD members attended the ceremony. (Irrawaddy 270510)

-On 27th of May 2010, Kyaw Myo Naing (aka) Ko Kyaw Gyi, a member of NLD, was sentenced again to a 10 year imprisonment under the Electronic Transactions Act by the Eastern District Court of Rangoon (Tamwe Township). He had already been sentenced to a 2 year imprisonment under the Unlawful Association Act, Article 17 (1), and a 2 and a half year imprisonment under Article 505 (B) of the Penal Code for denouncing the government and causing public alarm for the distribution of photos of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. (Mizzima 280510)

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-On the 20th anniversary of 1990 elections on 27 May, 30 members of the National League for Democracy from 10 townships in Rangoon Division held a prayer ceremony for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and political prisoners. (DVB 280510)

-According to U Ohn Kyine, a member of communication committee of the National League for Democracy (NLD) delivered a letter to the Embassy of the Philippines on 28 May. In that letter, NLD congratulated the new president of the Philippines; Noynoy Aquino, son of the former president of the Philippines Corazon Aquino. The NLD expressed that it was pleased with Noynoy Aquino for being elected as the new president for his mother, the former president of the Philippines, supported democratic movement in Burma, and the NLD hoped that Noynoy would also support democracy in Burma.

-Even though the National League for Democracy members attempted to commemorate the 7th anniversary of the Depayin Massacre in monasteries in Mandalay, they were denied by head monks from those monasteries. U Zawana, a monk political activist at the Thai-Burma border commented that it happened because those monks were under various pressures by local authorities, especially before the elections. (RFA 290510)

-To commemorating the upcoming 7th anniversary of the Depayin Massacre, Thura U Tin Oo, the Vice-President of the National League for Democracy and retired General, on 26 May urged people, including ethnic nationalities and people's soldiers, to support Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for the NLD's future activities and to support a dialogue to solve problems peacefully. (RFA 290510)

## **B. ARMED ETHNIC GROUPS**

-Col. Nadar Mya from Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) said, "Karen separatist groups including DKBA cannot be neglected while building unity among the Karen people," at the recently held Karen Unity Seminar. (NEJ 240510)

-The 7th Karen Unity Seminar held on 21 May released a statement denouncing the 2010 elections which would prolong the military dictatorship and would not support the interests of ethnic nationalities. (KIC 240510)

-From 21 to 24 May, ceasefire and non-ceasefire ethnic groups held a meeting on the Thailand-Burma border and discussed the current political situation of Burma and the military regime's treatment towards ethnic groups. (RFA 240510)

-From 21 to 24 May, on the Thailand-Burma border, 5 ethnic armed groups namely Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), New Mon State Party (NMSP), Chin National Front (CNF), Karen National Union (KNU), and Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) held a secret meeting and agreed to collectively defend themselves if the military regime launched offensives against any of the groups, due to the regime's increasing pressure on ceasefire groups to transform into Border Guard Forces. (Mizzima 270510)

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-Restoration Council of the Shan State (RCSS) released a statement on 26 May declaring that it would not recognize nor support any people from Shan State who would join the Union Solidarity and Development Party and National Unity Party, and still recognizes the 1990 election results. (S.H.A.N 270510)

### C. FORCES OUTSIDE BURMA

-On 23 May, Arakan League for Democracy (Exile-Japan) held an event in Tokyo, Japan condemning the 2010 elections. About 100 people attended the event. (Narinjara 260510)

-Burmese Democracy Forces in London staged a demonstration in front of the Burmese Embassy. They displayed a ballot poll voting against the military elections and for real elections, and demanded recognition of the 1990 election results. (DVB 270510)

-A Global Day of Action, condemning the military regime's 2010 elections, was held on 27 May. It was initiated by the Foreign Affairs Coordinating Team of the Ten Alliances of Burma's movement for democracy and rights of ethnic nationalities. (Irrawaddy 270510)

-On Thursday 27 May, over 200 migrant workers at the ballot poll held in Mae Sot, Thailand condemned the military regime's 2010 elections by choosing the opposition leader against the military leader. (Mizzima 270510)

-At the 20th anniversary of the 1990 elections, the Mon National League for Democracy (MNLD), member of United Nationalities Alliance, urged people to boycott the 2010 elections, as the 2008 constitution, drafted by the military regime, would come into force after the 2010 elections. (DVB 270510)

-Chinese Prime Minister Wan Jia Bao will visit Japan prior to his visit to Burma, meanwhile Burmese Democracy Forces in Japan demonstrated in front of the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo and recommended that the Chinese government put pressure on the Burmese military regime. (DVB 280510)

-Dhaka-based Arakan (Rakhine) Women Association initiated Global Day of Action in Nwayonetaung village, Coxbazaar District, Bangladesh on 27 May 2010. The event was attended by over 100 people and condemned the 2010 elections. (Narinjara 280510)

### CEASE-FIRE GROUPS

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

-Brigadier Gen. Gun Maw, the second in command of the Kachin Independence Army, said that he hoped Chinese Prime Minister Wan Jia Bao could persuade the Burmese military regime to solve the problems with ceasefire ethnic groups by peaceful means during his visit to Burma. (BBC 230510)

-According to a resident close to Wa leaders, Maj. Gen. Aung Than Htut, the commander of the Northeastern Command, sent a letter on 19 May inviting Pauk Yu Chan (Bao Youxiang), the Chairperson

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of the United Wa State Army, to Lashio because some Wa leaders misunderstood the issue of transforming into Border Guard Force. **(NEJ 240510)**

-According to a company commander of DKBA 555 Brigade on 24 May, the issue of transforming into Border Guard Force before the 2010 elections became controversial among DKBA troops. **(KIC 240510)**

-United Wa State Army (UWSA) rejected the invitation from Maj. Gen. Aung Than Htut, the commander of the Northeastern Command, on 19 May, which related to the discussion of transforming UWSA into Border Guard Force. **(S.H.A.N 240510)**

-At the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Shan National Revolutionary Day held at Shan State Army headquarters on 21 May, Brigadier Gen. Sai Yi, who went underground again after signing a ceasefire agreement with the military regime, demanded the SSA (North) to bravely sacrifice for the people and the country. **(S.H.A.N 240510)**

-Pauk Yu Yi, a leader of United Wa State Party (UWSP); Eastern Shan State Special Region (2), visited Mongmaw district and explained UWSP policies to townships and district level leaders of UWSP enabling them to explain to local people in the region. **(NMG 240510)**

-A delegation led by Maj. Gen. Soe Win, the commander of the Northern Command, met with some Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) leaders and discussed issues such as transforming into Border Guard Force and the explosions near the river junction dam project area in Kachin State. **(Irrawaddy 250510)**

-Palaung villages leaders in the SSA 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade controlled area requested Maj. Gen. Pang Fah, Head of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade, not to give in to the military regime's demand to transform the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade into a local militia force under the regime's control. **(S.H.A.N 260510)**

-According to Nai Chay Mon, the spokesperson of New Mon State Party (NMSP), three top leaders of NMSP resigned from the party because they disagreed with the party's decision not to transform NMSP into either a border guard force or a militia group as the military regime demanded. **(DVB 270510)**

-According to United Wa State Army (UWSA) officials from Pang Sang, UWSA has been explaining its policy to people in the region since 27 May, and did not allow the government employees who returned to central Burma to come back to the Wa region.

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

-Laukkai District Court in Shan State (North) sentenced 6 former Kokang Army members, Maj. Chan Li Kyone, Kyi Wai, Lao Wai, Sin Ron Lian, Shin Shan, and Laio Yin Hao Ja to 5 years of imprisonment, each under Article 19 (F) weaponry charges on 21 May. They were detained and accused of attempting to assassinate U Pai Son Chain, the new Kokang Chairperson who is a pro-military regime. **(S.H.A.N 290510)**

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### OTHER FORCES

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

-Dr. Min Nwe Soe, the spokesperson of the All Mon Region Democracy Party which was granted permission to contest in the elections, said, "We will represent the whole Mon people and all nationalities in Mon region and fight for their rights politically." **(NMG 240510)**

-The news that All Mon Region Democracy Party is allowed to contest in the elections was described in the military regime's newspapers in both Burmese and English versions dated 25 May. **(Kaowao 250510)**

-With the permission of the regional authorities, Mro (aka) Khami National United Organization is collecting voter lists in Khami, Mro, Dainet and Chin villages in Ponnakyun, Yathetaung, Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U Townships, a retired teacher and member of the organization said. **(Kaladan 280510)**

#### B. PARTIES STILL UNDER REGISTRATION PROCESS

-According to party officials, the National Democratic Force (NDF), set up by former leaders of the National League for Democracy (NLD), sent a delegation to Naypyitaw. The delegation consisted of U Thein Nyunt, a representative from Thingangyun constituency and two other party leaders who rendered their party registration with the Election Commission in Naypyitaw. **(DVB 280510)**

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

-According to his wife, Saw Wai was released after spending about 28 months in prison. Saw Wai is the poet who wrote 'Megalomaniac Sr. Gen. Than Shwe' in the 'Love' journal published on 21 January 2008, which is the poem that cost him a two year imprisonment **(Irrawaddy 260510)**

### INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

#### A. UN AND INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

-Jose Eugenio Salarich, head of the Asia-Pacific Affairs at the Spanish Foreign Ministry, announced last week at the EU-ASEAN Meeting held in Madrid, Spain that the EU will send a delegation as part of the new approach to pressure (the military regime) to bring about democracy in Burma. **(Irrawaddy 250510)**

#### B. GOVERNMENTS

-According to a statement released on 24 May, Senator Mr. Jim Webb will visit South Korea, Thailand and Burma from 29 May to 6 June. **(VOA 250510)**

-According to AP news agency, Mr. Jim Webb, the Senator and Chairperson of the Asia and Pacific Affairs Committee of Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, will urge the military regime to release the democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, during his three-day visit to Burma starting on 4 June. **(Irrawaddy 260510)**

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-ASEAN and EU released statements urging the Burmese military regime to release all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, to allow an EU delegation to visit Burma, and 2010 elections to be made free, fair and transparent. **(RFA 270510)**

-In the joint-statement on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 1990 elections, 6 US Senators condemned the Burmese military regime for oppressively ruling the country under military dictatorship, and urged the regime to immediately release all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and start a genuine dialogue. **(RFA 280510)**

### **C. NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

-On 23 May, an event called 'Captives' Release Party Fundraiser' was held in London, Ontario State, Canada to express the solidarity with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners in Burma. **(RFA 240510)**

-Human Rights Watch said that the upcoming elections in Burma would be the first elections in twenty years time, but the military has planned to exercise control through a new civilian façade and there is no sign that they will lose their grip on power. **(VOA 260510)**

-Before leaving his Prime Ministerial Residence, former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown sent a letter to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi saying that he paid his respect and tribute to the Burmese Democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and promised that he would continue his support by trying his best for the freedom of Burmese people and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **(RFA 280510)**

-A discussion with academics called 'Legalizing the Illegal Rule' was held in Washington D.C on the evening of 25 May. About 100 people comprised of officials from the US State Department, academics on Burma from international universities, international diplomats based in Washington D.C and Burmese democracy activists were present. **(RFA 260510)**

-International Crisis Group (ICG) released a report titled 'The Myanmar Elections,' which criticizes the the military regime's political practices including rapid privatization of state-owned businesses before the elections. **(BBC 280510)**

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*End of report/ Saturday, May 29, 2010*

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