



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 (020/2010) English Version

June 06 – June 12, 2010

STATE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (SPDC) AND ITS STOOGUE ORGANIZATIONS

-Eye witnesses confirmed that the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) took down the association signboards from the offices in Tamwe, Mingalataungnyunt, Alone, Kyauktada and Yankin Townships, Rangoon on 7 June. **(Irrawaddy 070610)**

-A training regarding the elections was held by the Chairperson of Village and Quarter/Ward Election Commission, Maungtaw Township, Arakan State on 6 June. Over 300 people from about 120 villages and wards were present at the training. **(Narinjara 070610)**

-U Sithu Aung, the Secretary of Sittwe District Election Commission, U Myint Win, the District Immigration Chief, and U Myint Than, the (District) Legal Officer, have been giving trainings, starting at the beginning of June, to chairpersons and clerks from ward peace and development councils from Buthitaung, Maungtaw and Yathitaung townships, in Arakan State, about election laws in order for them to manage and oversee the ballot stations. **(Mizzima 080610)**

-Township Peace and Development Councils have been giving trainings regarding the election commission rules and regulations to 6 Election Commission members and 6 reserved members from every village from townships in Mon State for the 2010 elections. **(IMNA 080610)**

-According to a Kachin leader from Myitkyina, in Kachin State, in which Kachin political parties have not been allowed to launch political campaigns, National Unity Party (NUP) and Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) have been launching election campaigns and recruiting representatives to contest in the elections. **(NEJ 090610)**

-According to an attendee, at the annual meeting of the Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) held on 2nd June, Duwah Madine Zontin, the Chairperson of Kachin Literature and Culture Committee and Chief of Kachin State USDA, criticized Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP) for having connections with the ceasefire agreed Kachin Independence Organization. **(Irrawaddy 090610)**

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-The newspapers and media run by the military regime stated that the Union Election Commission released a statement on 9 June, permitting the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), led by the Prime Minister U Thein Sein, to register as a political party. **(Irrawaddy 090610)**

-According to a residence, 3 Islam leaders were arrested by police because some villagers refused to accept the green national IDs provided by authorities to Muslims in some townships in Arakan State to be able to vote in the elections. **(Narinjara 090610)**

-According to a resident, the Chairperson of village USDA and some members rather than helping the fire victims from a village in Sinbaungwe Township, Magwe Division but also abused and took advantage for their benefits, such as the rice bags donated by fellow villagers to the victims. **(DVB 090610)**

-Ko Myint Soe, a former political prisoner and a member of the National League for Democracy in Twante Township, Rangoon Division, was beaten by a ward official and members of USDA for he was wearing a T-Shirt with Gen. Aung San, the Independence leader and the father of the opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **(DVB 090610)**

-According to local people, the military troops have been launching election campaigns for 2010 elections in District 2 of the Karenni State, and were forcing locals to work for them. **(Kantarawaddy 090610)**

-According to a government employee, when the district level election commissions were formed in Arakan State, active duty government employees became the backbone of those election commissions. **(Narinjara 100610)**

-Before the elections, the authorities in Mon State have been providing national IDs to those eligible to vote but not had received IDs or who had lost their IDs for a cheap price. **(IMNA 100610)**

-The Election Commission has opened divisional and district election commission offices in divisions and states and government employees and USDA members have been giving trainings about election procedures. **(DVB 110610)**

-The military regime's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on 10 June, released a statement refuting the claim that the news released by Democratic Voice of Burma and Al Jazeera that the Burmese military regime has been acquiring nuclear capabilities with the help of North Korea were not true. **(DVB 110610)**

-According to a local residence, youths over 18 year of age and breadwinners from households in Dimawhso and Loikaw Townships in Kayah State were forced by USDA to join the association and were asked for 1000 kyat each for membership IDs. **(KT 110610)**

-Local people from Ha-kha criticized the regime's activities such as building bridges, improving the drainage systems in some wards in Ha-kha, Chin State as persuading and organizing local people for the 2010 elections. **(Khonumthung 110610)**

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-Daw Ye, mother of Ashin Gambira, visited him on 12 June, stated that personnel from police special branch (SB) questioned Ashin Gambira in relation to the elections, who was detained in Kalay prison, Sagaing Division. **(Irrawaddy 120610)**

-According to a member of the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), even though the date of the elections have not yet been announced, it will be announced 2 months before the elections. **(BBC 120610)**

OPPOSITION FORCES

A. FORCES INSIDE BURMA

-U Tin Oo, the Vice-Chairperson of the National League for Democracy (NLD), stated that NLD Rangoon Division would be the base for future NLD's political and social organizing activities. **(RFA 080610)**

-U Tin Oo, the Vice-Chairperson of NLD, stated that the military regime, instead of pursuing nuclear weapon program, should solve the problems in Burma, which the people are suffering from. **(Mizzima 080610)**

-According to Ma Phyu Phyu Thin, member of Central Committee of NLD, NLD youth members would plant over 20,000 trees in divisions and states starting from 10 June in celebration of the 65th birthday of the national leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. They have plans to plant 66 trees each in 318 townships in Burma. **(Mizzima 100610)**

-After US Senator Jim Webb's statement that the election would be held on 10 October 2010, political forces inside Burma urged the military regime to postpone the elections in order for the political parties to have enough time to prepare. **(DVB 100610)**

-U Win Tin, member of the Central Committee of NLD, stated that the US Senator Jim Webb's statements regarding the 2010 elections were not in accordance with the United States' official political position. **(NEJ 100610)**

-U Ohn Kyine, member of Central Committee of NLD, said, "We would offer meals to monks, and in accordance with Daw Suu's wishes, provide educational financial assistance to children of NLD members and political prisoners on her 65th birthday on 19 June 2010." **(Irrawaddy 110610)**

-While meeting with lawyer U Nyan Win and engineers, who would fix her house, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that NLD should focus on social activities related to politics, and encourage youths, from all over the country to work for the betterment of the future Burma, and that the people of Burma could freely decide to vote or not because this is their right. **(RFA 110610)**

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B. ARMED ETHNIC GROUPS

-Sergeant Saw Htee Khu from battalion 201 of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) stated that KNLA troops, operating in Worlae region in Kawkaeik Township, Karen State, intercepted a military column and captured food and medical supplies on 9 June.

-Maj. Saw Hla Ngwe, the Secretary (1) of the Karen National Union (KNU), stated that 2 skirmishes occurred between Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and SPDC troops in Kya-In-Seikkyi Township, Karen State on 10 June, and 11 SPDC soldiers were killed and about 20 were injured. **(Irrawaddy 120610)**

CEASE-FIRE GROUPS

ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN TRANSFORMED AS BORDER GUARD FORCE

-An officer from the 5th Brigade of Democratic Karen Buddhist Army stated that the military regime seriously warned DKBA 5th Brigade on 5 June to transform itself into a border guard force by 10 August 2010. **(Irrawaddy 080610)**

-According to a person close to New Mon State Party, Southeastern Command ordered Col. Kyaw Min Htay, the Commander of the Tactical Command 3, based in Anankwin village, Kyar-In-Seik-Kyi Township, Karen State, to meet with NMSP leaders on 15 June to discuss the unresolved issue of transforming NMSP into border guard force. **(NMG 110610)**

OTHER FORCES

A. PARTIES THAT WERE PERMITTED TO STAND AS POLITICAL PARTIES

-U Tun Aung Kyaw, the Chairperson of the New Era People's Party, stated that they have been preparing to do business for party funding after they receive the party registration number. He also explained that the party would collect funds in three ways such as collecting membership fees, collecting donations from supporters and doing business for fund raising. **(DVB 070610)**

-A famous former actor, who had contested in 1990 elections, stated that some journalists and artists became involved in political parties to contest in the elections. **(NEJ 080610)**

-Ko Phyto Min Thein, the Chairperson of the Union Democracy Party, stated that some political parties began using means to connect to voters, such as blogs and webpages. He also said, "We used a webpage with the intention to inform Burmese people abroad what our party is doing, what the policies are, in a transparent way." **(Irrawaddy 080610)**

-U Ohn Lwin from National Political Alliances Party, which was granted permission as a political party, stated that political parties preparing to contest in the elections could only launch election campaigns with the permission from local authorities. **(DVB 070610)**

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-U Han Shwe, the spokesperson of the National Unity Party (NUP), stated that even though the last date for political parties to register was not announced by the government, there cannot be more than 40 political parties currently registered to contest in the elections. **(RFA 080610)**

-According to a Matupi resident, the Union Democracy Party (UDP) has been preparing to open new offices in townships in southern Chin State. **(Khonumthung 080610)**

-A Namhkam residence stated that Shan Nationalities Democratic Party, which would contest in the elections, held its office opening and signboard mounting ceremony at 7:45 in the morning of 9 June in Namhkam, northern Shan State. **(S.H.A.N 090610)**

-Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics Party, led by U Aye Lwin, and the 88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar) Party led by U Ye Tun, which have been preparing to contest in the elections, were campaigning in Mandalay with flying peacock flags mounted motorcycles. **(RFA 110610)**

-Union Democracy Party and National Democracy Force stated that even though political parties, which would contest in the elections, were granted permission to publish Na-Tha journals (Political News Journals?) some political interviews in some journals have been still censored by the government Censor Board. **(DVB 120610)**

B. PARTIES THAT HAVE REGISTERED TO STAND AS POLITICAL PARTIES

-U Thein Nyunt, a spokesperson of National Democratic Force, which registered with the Election Commission at Naypyitaw on 27 May, stated that even though the EC has not replied yet, they hoped to receive a reply letter from the Commission. **(DVB 080610)**

-A special prayer ceremony was held at Kachin State Progress Party (KSPP) headquarters on 5 June, by KSPP and Myitkyina Christian Council, for KSPP to be allowed to contest in the 2010 elections. **(KNG 07610)**

C. ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN PREPARING TO REGISTER TO STAND AS POLITICAL PARTIES

-Nai Chan Twe, former Joint-Secretary, Nai Htaw Ain (Nai Kho Saik), member of Central Committee, and Nai Tin Hla, who recently resigned from New Mon State Party (NMSP, has been preparing to contest the elections. **(IMNA 090610)**

PUBLIC, CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

-Maung Wuntha, writer and journalist, held a speech titled "State Building and the role of Media" at a hall in Fishery Department in Kyokone, Rangoon on 5 June, and stated that free and independent media is much needed to provide news to the people regarding the election.

Some farmers from Natmauk Township, Magwe Division visited Rangoon, and met with the Communication Officer of the International Labour Organization (ILO), and submitted a complaint to get a permission to work on hired farmlands which have been seized by the military. **(DVB 100610)**

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-Ko Zarny, the spokesperson of Basic Education Student Union (Ah-Ka-Tha), released a statement on 11 June urging people to participate in demanding the authorities to solve the problems of rising educational fees, lacking of educational facilities and bribery. **(RFA 120610)**

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

A. THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

-States News Service news agency in Singapore stated that Vijay Nambiar, the UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki Moon's new Special Advisor on Burma, was holding meetings on Burma issues. **(DVB 100610)**

-The United Nations released a statement that Mr. Vijay Nambiar, UN special envoy to Burma during his Asia trip to discuss on Burma issues, would visit China on 11 June and meet Chinese officials. **(NEJ 110610)**

B. GOVERNMENTS

-Mr. Jim Webb, the Chairperson of East Asia subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, recommended the Secretary of State Mrs. Hillary Clinton to investigate reports that Burma is working with North Korea to develop a nuclear program. **(VOA 080610)**

-Mr. Philip Crowley, the spokesperson of the Department of State of the United States of America, stated on 8 June that US wanted North Korea to stop providing its ballistic missile and nuclear programs to Burmese military regime, and warned that US government has been watching closely. **(RFA 090610)**

-Slovakia Ambassador Mr. Fedor Fosocho stated at the 14th Human Rights Council Conference held on 8 June that Slovakia supported the recommendation of Mr. Thomas Ojea Quintana, the Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur on Burma, for a Commission of Inquiry into the Burmese military regime's serious human rights violations and crimes against humanity.

-Mr. Jim Webb, the Chairperson of East Asia and Pacific Affairs subcommittee of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, at the Senate Meeting of World Asia Organization held on 9 June, stated that there were no genuine changes in Burma and that the extent of Burma's nuclear program needed to be exposed.

-According to U Bo Kyi, the Joint-Secretary of the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) (AAPP-B), Mr. Eric Schwartz, the Assistant Secretary of the US Department of State for Population, Refugees and Migration will meet with leading members from 15 Mae Sot, Thailand based democracy and ethnic right organizations including Forum for Democracy in Burma and AAPP on 12 June. **(Irrawaddy 100610)**

-US Senator Jim Webb, who recently returned from his Asia visit, urged on 9 June to support the Burmese military regime's 2010 elections. **(RFA 100610)**

-On 9 June 2010, Mr. Eric P. Schwartz, the Assistant Secretary of the US Department of State for Population, Refugees and Migration urged the Thai government not to deport Burmese refugees back to

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Burma and to let them take refuge in Thai soil if the elections in Burma are not free and fair elections.
(VOA 100610)

-Mr. Eric Schwartz, the Assistant Secretary of the US Department of State for Population, Refugees and Migration, stated on 10 June that he was concerned about over 140,000 refugees at Thai-Burma border while the military regime is planning to convene the elections in 2010. **(Irrawaddy 110610)**

-Mr. Scott Marciel, the Chief of US Department of State, Asia and Pacific Affairs Department, stated on 10 June that even though it was not confirmed that Burma was trying to develop nuclear weapons, the Burmese military regime's effort to develop a nuclear program was a threat to the stability of the whole South East Asia region. **(RFA 110610)**

-U Bo Kyi, the Joint-Secretary of the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) (AAPP-B), stated that while Mr. Eric P. Schwartz, the Assistant Secretary of the US Department of State for Population, Refugees and Migration, met with leading members of the Forum for Democracy in Burma and AAPP, he inquired and discussed about the political situation in Burma and the situation of political prisoners. **(RFA 120610)**

C. NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

-Experts, during the International Labor Organization meeting held from 2 to 18 June at the headquarters of ILO in Geneva, Switzerland, warned that the military regime continued to commit forced labor in Burma. **(RFA 060610)**

-Sean Turnell, the Associate Professor at Macquarie University in Australia, in a recently released report "*Dissecting the Data: Burma's Macroeconomy at the Cusp of the 2010 Elections*" warned that the Burmese military regime's economic policies not only hurt current economic development but would destroy the possibility of transitional economic growth. **(RFA 080610)**

-Laura Bush, wife of former president George W. Bush, a strong supporter of democracy in Burma, stated that she was worried about Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the people of Burma and that the elections will become the oppressive military junta's sham elections. **(VOA 100610)**

End of report/ Saturday, June 12, 2010

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