



## Network for Democracy and Development Documentation and Research Department

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### Weekly Political Events Regarding the SPDC's Election (021/2010) English Version

June 13 – June 19, 2010

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

-A Muse resident stated that the military regime required skillful tailors, from northern Shan State, to make traditional Shan dress for representatives of Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) who would contest in the elections. **(S.H.A.N 140610)**

-According to an official from Hakha Immigration Office, in Hakha, Chin State, the Immigration Office has been providing national IDs at a cheap price in order for eligible voters to be able to vote in the upcoming elections. **(Khonumthung 150610)**

-U Nyo Min Lwin, from Difference and Peace Party, stated that the Election Commission instructed the registered political parties to follow 1962 Censorship Act if they publish campaign pamphlets or any political publications. The Commission also instructed political parties to submit 100,000 kyat for registration and 100,000 kyat for warantee to the Censorship Board. **(RFA 150610)**

-According to a resident, U Aung Than Htay, the Village Peace and Development Council (VPDC), and U Kyaw Myint, the Clerk of VPDC, in Kyigy Village Tract, Ingapu Township, Irrawaddy Division, threatened residents that they would be arrested and questioned if they did not support and vote for Union Solidarity and Development Party in the elections. **(Yoma3 150610)**

-A demonstration on voting was held at No. 1. High School, Kyimyindine Township, Rangoon on 12 June. The Chairperson of the Union Election Commission and officials from township, district and divisional levels attended the event.. The voting of ethnic Karen and Arakanese voters, and voters in poor health were also demonstrated. **(EMG 140610)**

-Local people from Kunchangon were frustrated and disappointed when they found out that the Union Solidarity and Development Party representative contesting the elections for Kunchangon is U Lun Thi, the Minister of the Ministry of Energy and native of Chaungwa village in Kunchangon Township. **(NEJ 160610)**

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-According to military sources and observers, Senior Gen. Than Shwe, the leader of the military regime, instructed regional commanders to support USDP in order to win the upcoming elections, at the quarterly meeting held at the Office of the Commander-in-Chief in Naypyitaw, in May. **(Mizzima 160610)**

-Burmese Embassies have been collecting lists of Burmese people abroad who would be eligible to vote. Embassies, such as Burmese Embassy in US, sent messages on 26 May to Burmese people abroad officially recognized by embassies. In those messages, embassies required Burmese people to give them their personal information, such as, names, age, gender, national ID #s and addresses, in Burma, to embassies. **(Mizzima 180610)**

-A member of the National Unity Party (NUP) stated that Dr. Hmu Htang, who was designated as the representative of the USDP to contest in Tantalán, upper Chin State constituency, has been giving medical treatments to local people for free of charge. **(Khonumthung 180610)**

-The military regime announced that motorcycles made in China and tri-wheel cars without licenses would be provided with the necessary licenses by 1 July. The announcement was posted at Myitkyina Stadium, where licenses were provided in the past. This will be used to raise as emergency fund for the elections. **(KNG 180610)**

## OPPOSITION FORCES

### A. FORCES INSIDE BURMA

-U Tin Oo, the Vice-Chairperson of NLD, and U Win Tin, a member of the Central Committee of NLD, each planted an Indian Medlar tree at a HIV/AIDS patients'shelter in South Dagon, Rangoon Division on the morning of 13 June. It was in commemoration of the 65th Birthday of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **(DVB 130610)**

-Ko Yaza, a youth member of NLD (Rangoon Division), stated that in commemoration of the 65th Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 19th June, NLD youth members began planting trees. **(RFA 140610)**

-According to a member of NLD, U Mya Zin, a member of NLD Organizing Committee, Thonegwa Township, Rangoon Division, has been wearing a blue umbrella, on which "National League for Democracy" was written in English and a fighting peacock logo was drawn, in Thonegwa in honour of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's birthday. **(DVB 150610)**

-U Tin Oo, the Vice-Chairperson of NLD, stated that NLD leaders, in a meeting held at the NLD headquarters in Shwegondine, decided to extend NLD's social activities from current projects, such as, supporting political prisoners and family members, nursing HIV/AIDS patients and legal support, to raising awareness about the issues of child soldiers conscription, forced labor and forced land confiscations. **(RFA 150610)**

-U Nyan Win, the spokesperson of NLD, said that the birthday ceremony of Burma's Democracy Leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, would not be held at the headquarters of NLD in Shwegondine, as it had been in the past, instead it would be held at the residence of Daw May Hnin Kyi, elected member of parliament from Mogkok constituency, in 10th Mile Hill in Insein Township. **(RFA 150610)**

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-When U Tin Oo, the Vice-Chairperson of NLD, and U Win Tin and U Hantha Myint, members of Central Committee of NLD, met with 14 representatives from EU on 17 June, U Win Tin explained the details of the future activities of NLD to EU representatives in order for EU to be able to continue its support to NLD. **(VOA 170610)**

-U Ohn Kyine, a member of NLD Central Committee, and members of NLD (Mandalay Division) had a meeting on 18 June to effectively extend the political and social activities in Mandalay Division. **(RFA 180610)**

-In commemorating the 65th birthday of Burma's democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, NLD youth members from Rangoon Division and NLD youth supporters launched a blood drive, to donate 65 bottles of blood to match her age in many different locations. **(RFA 180610)**

-65th birthday ceremonies of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the democracy leader of Burma and currently under house arrest, were held in Rangoon and many other townships. **(RFA 190610)**

-On the occasion of 65th birthday of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Women Wing of NLD provided financial support to 94 students and children of political prisoners in Rangoon for their education. **(Mizzima 190610)**

## **B. ARMED ETHNIC GROUPS**

-A battalion commander from Karen National Liberation Army, battalion 103, stated that the battalion 103 staged an ambush to the military regime's Light Infantry Battalion 405, which was on its way back after switching duties with another battalion, in Bledo region, on the other bank of Mawlichai village about 30 kilometers south of Mae Sot in Thailand. One soldier was killed and 3 were injured from LIB 405. **(KIC 140610)**

## **C. FORCES OUTSIDE BURMA**

-Ko Yan Naing Tun of NLD-LA (Korea Branch), stated that U Aung Htoo, the Secretary of Burma Lawyers' Council, held a seminar regarding Rule of Law in Burma, at NLD-LA (Korea Branch) in Seoul, South Korea on 13 June. Many Burmese people attended the seminar. **(DVB 130610)**

-On 13 June, a balloting event against the military regime's 2010 elections was held in Tokyo, Japan. 17 Burmese organizations in Japan, which have been working for democracy in Burma, Amnesty International (Japan Branch), People's Forum on Burma, Japanese trade unions and some Japanese professors participated in the event. **(RFA 130610)**

-Women's League (Burma), based outside of Burma, urged people in Burma to donate as much drinking water as they could, from 16 to 19 June, for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **(DVB 160610)**

-U Khun Mar Ko Ban, the elected member of parliament from Pehkon constituency, said "Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is the only national leader who can solve the national and political problems Burma is facing," at a ceremony honoring her 65th Birthday, held by 10 Alliances in Bangkok, Thailand on 17 June. **(NEJ 170610)**

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-14th Women of Burma Day, initiated by Burma Women Action Committee, was held in Mae Sot, on the Thailand-Burma border, on 18 June, honoring the 65th birthday of Burma's democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **(NEJ 180610)**

### CEASE-FIRE GROUPS

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

-According to military observers, since the beginning of June, the pressure on ceasefire groups United Wa State Army and Kachin Independence Organization to transform into border guard forces has been decreased. **(Irrawaddy 140610)**

-Speaking on condition of anonymity, a commander from the 1st Brigade of the Shan State Army stated that SSA brigades, which had agreed to transform as militia units, and the 1st Brigade of SSA, which did not agree to transform as a militia unit, managed to reach mutual understanding, so there would not be any division and separation within the SSA as people had concerned. **(S.H.A.N 150610)**

-According to Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) sources, the military regime has been convincing DKBA troops that they would be allowed to operate as before, because the military regime's border guard force plan caused disagreements among DKBA troops. **(KIC 150610)**

-Nai Han Tha, the Secretary of New Mon State Party (NMSP), stated on 6 June that NMSP would neither support All Mon Regions Democracy Party (AMRDP) nor reject, and instead will continue to monitor the activities of AMRDP. **(IMNA 160610)**

### OTHER FORCES

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

-U Aye Lwin, the Chairperson of Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics, stated that political parties, which will contest the elections, have started campaigning activities, such as , party signboard mounting and office opening ceremonies and said "(We have also) started political campaigns in Mandalay, Sagaing and Bassein. We also collect 500 kyat for membership application fee and 100 kyat for monthly membership fee." **(Irrawaddy 140610)**

-According to political parties, which had began organizing campaigns, since June, people were so out of touch with politics and were afraid of to get involved after two decades of military rule. **(VOA 140610)**

-U Khin Maung Swe, a leader of National Democratic Force, which was established by former members of NLD, stated that NDF was granted permission on 14 June to contest in the elections and NDF would contest nationwide. **(NEJ 150610)**

-U Win Sein, the Information Chief of Union Democracy Party, stated that political parties were allowed to publish political documents for election campaigns but facing financial difficulties. **(Irrawaddy 150610)**

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-An official from Shan National Democratic Party (SNDP) Muse Township stated that after the SNDP had opened an office in Namhkam, northern Shan State on 9 June, it opened another office in Muse on 10 June and about 200 people attended the opening ceremony. **(S.H.A.N 150610)**

-U Loap Pao, the Chairperson of Wa National Unity Party, stated that political parties including ethnic political parties have been facing difficulties when launching election campaigns due to the advantages of the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), which was recently granted permission to contest in the elections, because Union Solidarity and Development Association had already done the organizing and campaigning for USDP in many townships in some divisions and states far advanced than other political parties. The other political parties had to wait for the permission to launch organizing campaigns when USDP did not need to. **(DVB 150610)**

-An influential person in Wa community stated that out of two Wa political parties contesting the 2010 elections, Wa Democratic Party (WDP) would not be the party standing for Wa people because the WDP was a descendent party from Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA). **(S.H.A.N 160610)**

-An anonymous member of Shan National Democratic Party (SNDP) in Southern Shan State stated that political parties, including SNDP, who were to launch election campaigns in southern Shan State, in regions under control of Shan State Army led by Sao Yawd Serk, were worried about their security. **(S.H.A.N 170610)**

-U Phyo Min Thein, the Chairperson of the Union Democracy Party (UDP) stated that UDP released a 6-point statement, dated 17 June, and officially demanded a clear distinction between the position of the military regime and the Union Solidarity and Development Party led by current ministers. **(Irrawaddy 170610)**

-Nai Ngwe Thein, a leader from All Mon Regions Democracy Party (AMRDP), stated that starting from the second week of June, AMRDP has been launching election campaigns in Mudon, Thanbyuzayat, and Lamine sub-township in Ye Townships. **(IMNA 160610)**

-U Phyo Min Thein, the Chairperson of the Union Democracy Party, stated that it would be possible for political parties, which have been facing difficulties regarding manpower, time, and finances in to publish campaign documents for the elections, to cooperate as alliances. **(Irrawaddy 180610)**

## **B. PARTIES THAT HAVE REGISTERED TO STAND AS POLITICAL PARTIES**

-An official from Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP) stated that they would visit the Union Election Commission located in Naypyitaw to submit another complaint about not receiving permission for KSPP to contest in the elections. **(KNG 140610)**

-A member of Central Executive Committee of Kachin State Progressive Party stated that when KSPP submitted the registration for the second time to the Union Election Commission on 16 June, the Commission replied KSPP to wait for the decision again. **(KNG 190610)**

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

-Sunshine, the Chairperson of Karenni National Youth Organization, stated that youth in Karenni State became interested in politics due to the upcoming elections. **(KT 160610)**

-Ko Nay Myo Wai, the Secretary of the Difference and Unity Party, stated that some foreign experts and Myanmar Egress based in Burma have been providing trainings during this week, such as international benchmarks for elections, observing elections and seminars, to some political parties, planning to contest the elections. **(DVB 170610)**

### **RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS**

-All Burma Monk Representatives and Sasana Defense Front released an open letter dated 16 June demanding Union Solidarity and Development Association members “to renounce being members of the stooge organization of the military regime and cooperate with the people towards a peaceful, anti-military revolution.” **(RFA 170610)**

### **INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

#### **A. THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

-The opposition Green Party Foreign Affairs spokesman and MP Keith Locke criticized the New Zealand government for not announcing the attendance of the representative of Burmese military regime to the ASEAN Regional Forum held in Auckland. **(RFA 160610)**

-United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention condemned the Burmese military regime, stating that its detention of the democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was illegal and it violated the Universal Declaration on Human Rights Articles 9, 10, 19 and 20. **(Mizzima 170610)**

-Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, the UN Special Rapporteur on Burma, recommended the Burmese military regime to release Burma’s democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest since her detention was arbitrary and illegal. **(VOA 170610)**

-On 17 June, officials from the Embassy of Germany, which is the current rotational Chair of European Union embassies in Burma, along with representatives from Great Britain, France, Italy, Denmark, Finland, the Neatherlands, Czech Republic and Austria, met with leaders of NLD at the Embassy of Germany in Rangoon, and inquired about the current political and future activities of NLD, and in return, U Win Tin, member of the Central Committee of NLD, detailed the future activities of NLD in order for the EU to be able to continue its support to NLD. **(VOA 170610)**

-Mr. Ban Ki Moon, the Secretary General of the UN, Mr. Barack H. Obama, the President of the United States of America, US Department of State and US Senate Women Caucus, in honoring the 65th birthday of Burma’s democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 19 June, urged the Burmese military regime to unconditionally release all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **(VOA 180610)**

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-Commemorating the 65th birthday of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the democracy leader of Burma, European Parliamentary Caucus on Burma sent an open letter on 17 June to honor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and condemned the military regime's 2010 elections. **(VOA 180610)**

### **B. GOVERNMENTS**

-Representatives from the Foreign Ministry of Japan, who were in Burma, met with NLD leaders and leaders from some political parties, which would contest the elections, and explained about the position of Japanese government and urged the Burmese military regime to make the elections inclusive. **(DVB 160610)**

-William Hague, the Minister of Foreign Ministry of the United Kingdom, urged the Burmese military regime to immediately release all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on Daw Suu's 65th birthday, on 19 June. **(DVB 180610)**

-Mrs. Nadir Bagar, the Director of the Southeast Asia Affairs of Canadian Foreign Ministry, met with NLD leaders on 18 June and said that the Canadian government respected the decision of NLD not to contest the elections and in return NLD urged the Canadian government to take actions for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **(DVB 180610)**

-Mr. Barack Obama, the President of the United States of America and Noble Peace Prize Laureate, sent a birthday wish for the 65th birthday of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, democracy leader of Burma and Noble Peace Prize Laureate, on 19 June. **(RFA 190610)**

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

-The group of veteran world leaders known as "The Elders," which was founded by the South African National Leader Nelson Mandela, stated that the military regime's elections would not bring any accountable results, and urged UN to initiate a dialogue for national reconciliation in commemorating the 65th birthday of Burma's democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **(VOA 170610)**

-A thesis on Burma published by Transnational Institute (TNI) based in Amsterdam, the Netherlands stated, last week, that 2010 would be the most important year for Burma in 20 years and the military regime's elections might change the political situation for future generations. **(RFA 170610)**

-Amnesty International (AI) announced on 18 June that AI would distribute radios in Burma for people in Burma to be able to access true, independent and reliable news. **(Irrawaddy 180610)**

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*End of report/ Saturday, June 19, 2010*

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