



## Network for Democracy and Development Documentation and Research Department

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### Weekly Political Events Regarding the SPDC's Election (022/2010)

June 20 – June 26, 2010

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

-According to residents in Mandalay Division, after the Election Commission granted permission on 9 June to Union Solidarity and Development Association to stand as a political party under the name Union Solidarity and Development Party, the USDA closed its offices in some townships in Rangoon Division and Northern Burma, and in Mandalay Division on 18 June. **(NEJ 210610)**

-A resident from Hanhae village stated that Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) forcefully recruited over 20 members from Hanhae village, Bamaw Township, Kachin State on 20 June. **(S.H.A.N 210610)**

-Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a Falam resident stated that Falam Peace and Development Council (Chin State) forced one person per family, in Falam, to join USDP by forcing them to sign membership forms. **(Khonumthung 210610)**

-Mu Sophia from Kayan Women Organization stated that the military regime held trainings, regarding the elections, for local people at City Hall of Dimawhso, and Tawwin Thazin Hall, as well as a High School in Phruhso Township on 17 and 18 June. **(KT 210610)**

-USDP members led by U Myo Min Hline, the chief of USDP Organizing Committee, Chaungzone Township, Mon State, required the village chairpersons to gather and convince at least 50 villagers from every village in Chaungzone Township to join the USDP and to vote for USDP, which is led by Prime Minister U Thein Sein. **(Mizzima 220610)**

-A Kachin preacher from Waingmaw stated that the military regime's Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) began secret campaigns in Waingmaw Township in the beginning of June for the elections. USDP approached influential people and businessmen from 48 wards in Waingmaw Township to recruit them. **(KNG 210610)**

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-Village chiefs from villages in Tapepu Region stated that local authorities have been planning for villagers in Tapepu region in northern Karen State, Taungoo District to vote two months before the actual elections. **(KIC 220610)**

-According to people close to USDP sources, the Union Solidarity and Development Party demanded organizers from towns and villages to recruit 30 party members each. **(NEJ 230610)**

-The Union Election Commission released Order No. 2/2010 on 22 June stating, "Political parties shall request permission from the election commission to both recruit members and to campaign. **(NEJ 230610)**

-A Sandoway resident stated that while the USDP was recruiting and campaigning, the USDP lured Islamic people to join the USDP in Sandoway, Arakan State by offering them benefits. Muslims from Sandoway were offered permission to travel and national IDs, which had been previously denied to Muslims. **(DVB 230610)**

-According to a Sittwe resident, during his visit to Arakan State for water shortage relief, U Thein Sein, the Prime Minister and the Chairperson of Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) urged local people to vote for USDP in the 2010 elections. **(NEJ 240610)**

-A Kengtung resident, who is close to the headquarters of Triangle Command, stated that Maj. Gen. Kyaw Phyo, the Commander of Triangle Command, and Lt. Gen. Min Aung Hline, the Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Special Operation Command (Shan and Kayah State), met with officials and soldiers from Mongyawn. During the visit the generals inquired about the construction and repairing of the military bases and ordered officials to spy on the activities of Mongla and Wa troops. **(S.H.A.N 250610)**

-A resident from Putao stated that USDP has been providing 5,000 kyat each to every local resident who would vote for USDP in the elections in Putao District, which is the northernmost district of Burma. The USDP launched that particular campaign in some villages in Machyangbaw Township from 10 to 25 May. **(KNG 250610)**

-Police Special Branch (SB) personnel questioned Ko Shwe Maung, a member of NLD Southeastern Township, Mandalay, who has been serving 6 years imprisonment in Pyapon Prison and suffering from chest and back pain, about his position on the elections and whether he would continue his political activism or not when he is out of the prison. **(Irrawaddy 250610)**

## **OPPOSITION FORCES**

### **FORCES INSIDE BURMA**

-A Kachin youth stated that he and other Kachin youths from Myitkyina, Bamaw, Waingmaw and Moemauk townships in Kachin State launched a poster campaign against the military regime's 2010 elections. **(DVB 200610)**

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-Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told executive committee members of the NLD to keep in touch with the grassroots members, so beginning from 12 June, U Ohn Kyine and U Kyi Win, who are members of Central Executive Committee, have been visiting Mogkok, Thabeikkyin, Madaya, Patheingyi, Meiktila, Myingyan, Kyaukpadaung, Nyaung-U in Mandalay Division and Pakokku in Magwe Division. Also, U Win Tin and U Han Tha Myint, members of Central Executive Committee and U Aung Myint, Chairperson of NLD Bahan Township have been travelling in Karen and Mon states as Daw Suu told them to. **(Mizzima 210610)**

-U Tin Oo, the Vice-Chairperson of NLD, stated that the Central Executive Committee meeting was held at his residence on 21 June in order to set up future plans and activities of NLD. The Executive Committee also discussed with grassroots members to continue the party activities on regular basis, as before. **(RFA 210610)**

-U Ohn Kyine and U Kyi Win, members of NLD Central Executive Committee, during their visit to Pakokku on 22 June, explained to NLD township officials about the NLD's political and social activities as well as the political position. **(RFA 220610)**

-U Win Tin stated that he and U Han Tha Myint, members of NLD Central Executive Committee have been touring Karen and Mon States since 19 June, and met with NLD members and urged them *"not to vote in the upcoming elections and if they were required to vote, vote for others but not to vote for National Unity Party and Union Solidarity and Development Party."* **(Irrawaddy 230610)**

-Lawyer U Nyan Win stated that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi would officially submit a complaint for U Nyan Win who was warned by officials before meeting again with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 25 June. He was warned because U Nyan Win told the media what Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said about the right to vote: , *"People have the right either to vote or not to vote"* when he met with Daw Su on 11 June. **(DVB 250610)**

-Members of the NLD Central Executive Committee have been touring to meet grassroots NLD members in divisions and states, explaining to them the position and future activities of the NLD. **(DVB 250610)**

-U Ko Ko Lay, Chairperson of NLD Northeastern Township, Mandalay Division, stated that the Social Committee of the NLD (Mandalay Division) provided 50,000 kyat for a political prisoner enduring prolonged imprisonment under the plan to support political prisoners on a monthly basis, beginning on 26 June. **(DVB 260610)**

## **CEASE-FIRE GROUPS**

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

-New Mon State Party (NMSP) stated that the NMSP does not need to meet with the military leaders because NMSP already announced, while meeting with Lt. Gen. Ye Myint on 7 April, that they would not

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consider transforming into a border guard force, nor will they contest in the 2010 elections if the military regime does not want to have a dialogue to review the 2008 constitution. **(NEJ 230610)**

-A delegation consisting of about 40 members, led by Col. Khaing Zaw, Commander of Tactical Command based in Tangyan and Brigadier Gen. Win Thein, the Deputy Commander of Northeastern Command, met again with Wa leaders such as Shao Min Lian, the Deputy Chairperson, Bao Yu Lee, the Joint Secretary and Bao Yu Lian, Jiao Kauan, Jiao Wun Kun, and Li Zu Liae (aka) U Aung Myint. The meeting was held in Panghsang on 22 June and the delegation threatened Wa leaders that if Naypyitaw's proposal about asking Wa troops transform into border guard force was rejected (by Wa leaders) then there will be bad consequences, a source close to the Wa group said. **(S.H.A.N 240610)**

-When Shan State Army, a ceasefire group led by Chairperson U Loi Mao, agreed on 22 April to transform into a militia unit, many soldiers left their group and about 20 of them came and joined Shan State Army (South), sources from SSA (South) said in June. **(S.H.A.N 250610)**

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

-Three soldiers from Karenni Nationalities People's Liberation Front (KNPLF) which had transformed into border guard force, deserted and joined Karenni Army under Karenni National Progressive Party due to the unberable control of the military regime troops on the border guard force. **(KT 230610)**

### **PARTIES THAT WERE PERMITTED TO STAND AS POLITICAL PARTIES**

-U Thu Wai, the Chairperson of Democratic Party (Myanmar), stated that the election commission warned political parties, who had been granted permission to contest in the elections, about various issues, including only raising their party flags at their party offices. **(Irrawaddy 210610)**

-U Phyo Min Thein, Chairperson of Union Democracy Party, stated that political parties faced more difficulties in launching political campaigns since the Election Commission restricted the use of party flags. **(DVB 210610)**

-Nai Ngwe Thein, party leader of All Mon Region Democracy Party (AMRDP), stated that AMRDP launched organizing campaigns to recruit new party members in Ye, Lamine, Thanbyuzayat and Mudon townships in Mon State and that the campaigns were successful. **(IMNA 210610)**

-Leaders from political parties, which are contesting in the elections, stated that it is important to have honest and qualified political leaders from 2010 multi-party elections. **(EMG 220610)**

-A party member of National Democratic Party for Development (NDPD) stated that NDPD, established mostly by Muslim members from Rangoon, began organizing campaigns after the Election Commission granted permission on 4 June, under registration number 31, to contest in the elections. **(NEJ 230610)**

-Ko Hla Htay, Secretary of Central Youth Wing of Democratic Party (Myanmar), stated that Democratic Party has been facing difficulties in renting places to open party offices due to the hinderance of local

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authorities who have been pressuring landlords not to allow Democratic Party to use their properties as an office. **(DVB 230610)**

-U Phyo Min Thein, the Chairperson of the Union Democracy Party, said, "I hope to have the chance to organize people even though there are some restrictions (by Election Commission)." Meanwhile, other political parties and observers stated that the Election Commission's newly released instructions, dated 23 June, for political parties regarding recruiting new members were very strict. **(RFA 230610)**

-The Election Commission granted permissions to Kaman National Progressive Party on 16 June and Khami National Development Party on 21 June to stand as political parties to contest in the elections. **(Narinjara 230610)**

-Some Arakan politicians sent a letter to the Union Election Commission complaining about the party flag of Kaman National Progressive Party, because the flag represents the Arakan State. **(Narinjara 240610)**

-All Mon Region Democracy Party stated that they would have to contest in the elections against political parties supported by the military regime, such as Union Solidarity and Development Party and National Unity Party, and that the USDP is a privileged party for it is led by current ministers and NUP has also been convincing Mon businessmen to join the party. **(NEJ 250610)**

-U Nay Myo Wai, Daw Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein and U Phyo Min Thein, leaders from political parties that will contest in the elections, stated that even though they knew the military regime's elections would not be free and fair, they would contest in the elections in order for people to gain awareness and active in political process. **(Irrawaddy 260610)**

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

-U Tu Ror, the Secretary of Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP), stated that it was not fair for KSPP since the party submitted to register, on 5 April, to contest in the elections but was still not permitted to stand as a political party. **(Irrawaddy 220610)**

-A KSPP official confirmed that even though the military regime did not announce they would not permit KSPP to stand as a political party after the KSPP visited Naypyitaw on 15 June, to re-submit their registration, the secretary of the Union Solidarity and Development Association told KSPP that it was sure the KSPP would not be granted permission. **(KNG 240610)**

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

-Divisional Police Office, Rangoon Division, required the presence of 7 responsible people, including U Pho Phyu, the legal consultant of the National Trade Union, on 22 June, under Criminal Procedure Code, Article 160/161, regarding the establishment of the National Trade Union, and informed them that the trade union could not be officially recognized. **(DVB 230610)**

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-Lawyer Ko Pho Phyu, the legal consultant to the National Trade Union, stated that even though the military regime's Labor Department and police informed 7 leaders from the trade union including Ko Pho Phyu that the union would not be recognized, they would continue to exist as a trade union. **(BBC 230610)**

## INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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

-On 19 June, Indian Parliamentarian's Forum for Democracy in Burma (IPFDB) urged Ban Ki Moon, the UN Secretary General and the Group of Friends on Burma, on the 65th Birthday of the Burmese democratic leader and Nobel Peace Laureate, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, to take effective action for the immediate release of all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma. **(RFA 200610)**

<http://www.burmanet.org/news/2010/06/21/burma-centre-delhi-indian-parliamentarians-urge-unsq%E2%80%99s-group-of-friends-on-myanmar-to-take-effective-action-for-aung-san-suu-kyi%E2%80%99s-release/>

-90 British Members of Parliament criticized the United Nations for its failure to effectively act on Burma issues, and to demand political change in Burma, from the military regime. **(BBC 210610)**

-87 Members of Parliament from the Japanese Members of Parliament Union known as Giren signed and sent a message to Senior Gen. Than Shwe, the leader of the Burmese military regime, urging him to enter a dialogue with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi before the elections for national reconciliation in Burma. Australian Members of Parliament also urged the Australian Government not to recognize the military regime's elections. **(RFA 230610)**

-Mr. John Bercow, a member of the British House of Commons, initiated a ceremony on 23 June to commemorate the birthday of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and staged a play about some parts of her life, such as being detained in Insein Prison and the Depayin Massacre. **(RFA 240610)**

-Leaders of G-8 (Group of 8 Industrialized Nations), during the Muskoka Summit, urged the Burmese military regime to hold an inclusive dialogue with opposition democratic forces, to hold free, fair and inclusive elections and to release Burmese Democracy Leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **(VOA 260610)**

### B. GOVERNMENTS

-U Nyan Win, NLD Spokesperson, stated that during her visit, Robin Lerner, the assistant of Senator John Kerry, met with NLD leaders on 22 June and stated that her visit was to observe the current political situation in Burma. **(VOA 220610)**

-Pakistan People's Party (PPP), currently in power, awarded Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is committed to fighting for democracy for her people in Burma, the Benazir Bhutto Shaheed prize on 21 June. **(VOA 220610)**

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-US Department of State released a statement on 22 June saying that the US believes the upcoming elections in Burma will not be free and fair and the Burmese military regime should not receive international recognition because of this. **(RFA 230610)**

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

-A report of 'The Fund for Peace', based in the United States, stated that Burma's political, security and development sectors were in critical situation. Burma ranks 13 in the Failed State Index of the Fund for Peace. **(VOA 210610)**

-Bidhayak Das, a media spokesperson from Asian Network for Free Elections-ANFREL, stated that the restriction announced by the Burmese military regime's Union Election Commission for political parties not to march with raising party flags was a violation of human rights. **(Irrawaddy 240610)**

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