



## Network for Democracy and Development Documentation and Research Department

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### **Weekly Political Events Regarding the SPDC's Election (024/2010)**

**July 04 – July 10, 2010**

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

-According to a resident, traffic policemen from Naypyidaw came to Mongton, eastern Shan State, fined motorcyclists without licenses, and provided licenses with costly charges to raise funds for the elections. 10 traffic policemen from Naypyidaw arrived in Mongton on 30 June and ordered local traffic police to arrest motorcyclists without licenses. **(S.H.A.N 060710)**

-A resident from Mongton stated that the Township Peace and Development Council has been collecting lists of government employees, in Mongton Township, eastern Shan State, who are eligible to vote in the elections. **(S.H.A.N 060710)**

-According to a village peace and development council official, even though authorities have been providing national IDs for residents in Gwa Township, Arakan State, there are many local people who cannot afford the cost and the time to wait. Gwa Immigration Department, in two groups, has been providing national IDs for any resident who are over 18 years of age with 1000 kyat service fee for each person. **(Irrawaddy 070710)**

-Speaking on the condition of anonymity, political sources stated that out of over 10 political parties in Shan State, only Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) has the opportunity to canvas freely. **(S.H.A.N 070710)**

-According to a resident, Union Solidarity and Development Party, Mudon Township, Mon State, has urged chairpersons of village peace and development councils to collect 40 to 50 people each village for USDP recruitment. **(IMNA 070710)**

-A resident from Lamine Township stated that officials from village peace and development councils in Lamine and Ye Townships in southern Mon State have been collecting the list of residents over 18 years of age for voting in the elections. **(IMNA 070710)**

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-According to a source close to the Office of the Auditor-General , the Office has been making a list to split assets of Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) and Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) as state and private properties since USDP was established based on USDA so to avoid complications. **(Irrawaddy 080710)**

-Thura Myint Oo, the Deputy Office In-Charge of USDA, stated that the transformation of USDP from USDA, as a political party to contest in the elections is lawful and in accordance with laws adopted by the Election Commission. **(RFA 080710)**

-A teacher from No. 3 High School in Kyimyindine Township stated that about 400 middle and high school teachers have been making lists of eligible voters at No. 3 Basic Education Department in Kyimyindine Township. **(Mizzima 090710)**

## **OPPOSITION FORCES**

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

-Dr. Daw May Win Myint, member of the Central Executive Committee of National League for Democracy (NLD), and lawyer Daw Khin Htay Kywe visited Naypyidaw, on 5 July, and submitted a complaint regarding the National Democratic Force (NDF)'s use of a bamboo hat symbol for its party flag, which can create confusion to people because the bamboo hat symbol is the symbol NLD had used and won in the 1990 elections. **(Irrawaddy 060710)**

-Dr. Daw May Win Myint, member of the Central Executive Committee of National League for Democracy (NLD), and lawyer Daw Khin Htay Kywe visited Naypyidaw, on 5 July, and submitted a complaint to Union Election Commission regarding the National Democratic Force (NDF)'s use of Bamboo Hat symbol for its party flag, and on the way back, they were harassed by authorities. **(RFA 060710)**

-The opposition NLD (headquarters), on 5 July, transferred about 2.55 million kyat to state and divisional members of NLD in order to provide financial assistance to family members of 607 political prisoners. **(Mizzima 060710)**

-On 6 June, a NLD delegation, led by Vice Chairperson U Tin Oo and Central Executive Committee member U Win Tin, visited family members of political prisoners; Ko Min Zeya, Ko Thet Zaw, Ko Thaw Zin Tun, Ma Lay Lay Mon and Ko Nyan Lin, and encouraged the family members and provided some items as support. **(DVB 060710)**

-Ko Zaw Tun of Mae Sot based All Burma Federation of Student Unions (Foreign Affairs Committee) (ABFSU-FAC) stated that ABFSU and the Anti-Military Dictatorship People Action Committee distributed postcards and pamphlets commemorating the 7 July Memorial Day. On 7 July 1962, the Student Union building in Rangoon University was blew up by the coup d'état military regime. **(Irrawaddy 070710)**

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-On the 48<sup>th</sup> memorial day of 7 July, on which the student union building was blew up by the then military regime, democratic forces both inside and outside Burma urged the people in Burma to boycott the military regime's elections. **(DVB 070710)**

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

-Karen National Union responded to Col. Saw Chit Thu, tactical commander of the Brigade 999 of Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), and said that DKBA did not want to fight against fellow Karens only as a military trick. **(Mizzima 060710)**

-In order to make a cease-fire between two armed Karen ethnic groups, Karen National Union and Democratic Karen Buddhist Army troops under the command of both parties held meetings in last week of June. **(VOA 050710)**

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

-A report, regarding human rights violations perpetrated by the Burmese military regime, written and endorsed by 13 right groups including Burma Lawyers Council and Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) was submitted to UN Human Rights Council on 5 July. The report was facilitated by Human Rights Education Institute of Burma. The Burmese military regime will be under UN Human Rights Council review in January 2011 for its human rights records. **(RFA 060710)**

## **CEASE-FIRE GROUPS**

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

-According to sources close to ceasefire groups, Shan State Army (SSA), which had agreed to a cease fire, was instructed by the military regime to deploy a battalion in Shweli Valley region (aka) Htonmao near Sino-Burma border, so it is likely that that battalion will become a militia unit or a border guard force. **(S.H.A.N 050710)**

-Maj. Sai Lao Seng, the Spokesperson of SSA (South), stated that some soldiers from Shan State Army (North), led by Maj. Gen. Loi Mao, agreed to transform as a border guard force, deserted SSA (N) and joined Shan State Army (South) (SSA (S)), led by Lt. Gen. Yawd Serk. **(Irrawaddy 060710)**

-Nai Hantha Bon Khai, member of the Central Executive Committee of New Mon State Party (NMSP), stated that NMSP reopened almost all offices in towns which had been closed in April due to the conflict between the military regime and NMSP since the military regime pressured NMSP to transform as a border guard force, but NMSP defied the pressure. **(DVB 060710)**

-A Tanyang resident stated that the military regime forcefully recruited vilagers to become militias, and armed them, from villages in the controlled area of SSA (N) 1st Brigade, which had refused to transform as a border guard force. **(S.H.A.N 070710)**

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

-U Nay Myo Wai, the General Secretary of Peace and Difference Party (PDP), stated that PDP recently held a North Okkalapa branch office opening and new membership recruitment ceremony in North Okkalapa Township. Personnel from regional police Special Branch (SB) and Military Security Affairs, and some riot police trucks came to the ceremony so new-members-to-be of the party evaded the threat and ran away. **(Irrawaddy 060710)**

-Union Election Commission released an announcement stating that National Unity Party and Mro or Khami National Solidarity Party (Organization) already submitted their party member lists to the commission. **(DVB 060710)**

-U Phyo Min Thein, the Chairperson of Union Democracy Party (UDP), stated that UDP sent an open letter to the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) demanding to review the Election Section of the 2008 constitution if the 2010 elections would be held in accordance with the 2008 constitution, since there are many flaws in the section. **(DVB 070710)**

-U Thu Wai, the Chairperson of the Democratic Party (Myanmar), stated that because authorities have been watching political parties' election campaigns so closely, politicians from political parties and people cannot discuss the elections and politics freely at the pre-election time. **(NEJ 080710)**

-After the Election Commission granted permission to 36 political parties to contest in the elections, 10 political parties have been canvassing in Arakan State, such as Mro or Khami National Solidarity Party (contested in 1990 elections), Khami National Development Party, Mro Ethnic Party, Kaman National Progressive Party, Rakhine Nationalities Development Party, National Democratic Party for Development (Muslim dominated party), Rakhine State National Force, Union Solidarity and Development Party, National Unity Party and New Era People's Party. **(NEJ 080710)**

-U Aye Lwin, a leader of Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics (UMFNP), stated that authorities from Eastern Rangoon Municipality Committee required UMFNP officials to be present on 7 July to be charged under municipality laws since UMFNP, on 18 June, collected donations for party funds from a market in North Okkalapa Township. **(Irrawaddy 080710)**

-A member of Shan Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP), which had opened offices in the whole Shan State starting from the beginning of June, said, "We are not worried about meeting the membership requirement. It is important to win the hearts and minds of the people. We see that quality is more important than quantity." **(S.H.A.N 080710)**

-Chin Progressive Party (CPP), which is to contest in the elections, held a township level executive member meeting at CPP office in Falam, Chin State, on 29 June; and elected 2 Patrons, 2 Coordinators, 17 Executive Committee members and 11 Falam Township Executive Committee members. **(Khonumthung 080710)**

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-A source close to Karen People's Party (KPP) stated that while KPP, which had opened its headquarters in Shwepyitha Township, Rangoon Division, was canvassing in Kayah State and Karenni people bitterly denied KPP campaigns. **(KIC 080710)**

-U Phyo Min Thein, the Chairperson of Union Democracy Party (UDP), stated that Democratic Party (Myanmar), National Democratic Force, Rakhine Nationalities Development Party, Shan Nationalities Democratic Party and UDP have been preparing to merge as a coalition due to expenses: party registration fee, fee for representatives who are to contest for seats, publishing fee for party political papers, and other expenses for campaigning for the elections. **(NEJ 090710)**

-U Thu Wai, the Chairperson of Democratic Party (Myanmar) DPM, stated on 9 July that Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) and National Unity Party (NUP) will be the main rivals of DPM in the 2010 elections. **(Irrawaddy 090710)**

-The Union Election Commission granted permission, on 9 July, to National Democratic Force (NDF), led by U Khin Maung Swe and Dr. Than Nyein (former NLD Central Executive Committees), to contest in the elections. **(RFA 100710)**

- In Myitkyina on 3 July, officials from Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP) explained to Kachin people the situation of KSPP, which is that KSPP has not been granted permission to contest in the elections by the Union Election Commission. **(DVB 060710)**

## **SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS**

-A participating student in a protest stated that over 300 students from Sitwe Institute of Technology marched to Arakan State Peace and Development Council office, on 5 July, to demonstrate against the increased doubled fares of school buses. **(NEJ 060710)**

-Sai Noan Mao, resident of Muse, stated that there has been secret pamphlet campaigns in Muse and Namhkam townships asking people not to participate or vote in the military regime's 2010 elections. **(S.H.A.N 100710)**

-According to sources from lower society in Rangoon, it is likely for a military conscription law to be enacted, in accordance with the 2008 constitution, by the new government after the 2010 elections. **(Irrawaddy 080710)**

## **INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

### **GOVERNMENTS**

- At a democracy conference, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton criticized oppressive governments, including the Burmese military regime, as governments which are "slowly crushing" democracy activists and advocacy groups which represent an important role for democratic change. **(Irrawaddy 070710)**

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- On 7 July, the UN Security Council held a meeting on the protection of civilians in armed conflict. Philip Parham, the UN representative from UK, made a statement about the Burmese military regime's attack on ethnic minority groups. **(VOA 070710)**

- On 7 and 8 July, there was a hearing in Malaysia on the Burmese elections, which would definitely not be free or fair, held by 10 alliances, which have been working on democracy and ethnic rights in Burma. It was reported, on 8 July, that Malaysian members of parliament stated that they would urge the government of Malaysia to condemn and not recognize Burma's 2010 elections. **(NEJ 090710)**

-While visiting some Central Executive Committee members of NLD at NLD Vice Chairperson U Tin Oo's residence on 9 July, Italian Charge de' Affairs to Burma, Ms. Andy Gina stated that Italian government has been closely monitoring Burma's upcoming elections. **(RFA 090710)**

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*End of report/ Saturday, July 10, 2010*

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

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