



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 (028/2010)

August 01 – August 07, 2010

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

-Residents of Karen State say that since the beginning of August, SPDC troops operating in most of Karen State areas have placed more restrictions on local people in the lead up to the elections. Restrictions include, preventing them from going out of their villages, investigating people while on trips, asking for family registration lists, taking records and even asking for money. **(KIC 030810)**

-A young person, close to the Chinese Temple, states that the administrative team of the Chinese Temple in Mogaung Township, Kachin State, helped Chinese people in Mogaung area obtain national IDs, and influential Chinese residents of Mogaung were forced to become Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) party members, and wear the party uniforms, in an effort to persuade the rest of the Chinese people in the area to join the USDP. **(NEJ 030810)**

-A military official who attended the State Security Meeting held on 1 August stated that Lt. Gen. Myint Swe from the Ministry of Defense had ordered a tightening of security for an important event, and it seemed that he mentioned the elections will possibly be in December 2010. **(Irrawaddy 030810)**

-An official from Shan Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP) stated that even though military regime authorities and many different levels of the election commissions hinder ethnic political parties in states, they help support the campaigns of USDP. **(NEJ 050810)**

-In an article published in The New Light of Myanmar dated 4 August, one of the military regime's daily newspapers stated that anyone who violates the restrictions under the Election Law regarding 2010 elections, Article 3, can be punished from 5 to 20 years imprisonment and fined. **(Irrawaddy 050810)**

-USDP party members and residents stated that USDP organizers in Yenanchaung Township, Magwe Division, were provided with funds to run a money lending business as a means to recruit more members. **(Mizzima 050810)**

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-According to a resident of Saku, the USDP, with the help of the Ministry of Health, has been persuading people from Saku Township, Magwe Division, to join USDP by offering free healthcare. **(RFA 050810)**

-A resident of Ingapu stated that U Thein Aung, Minister of Forestry, has been building three houses worth 420 million kyat in Ingapu Township, Irrawaddy Division, to stay during election campaigns, and provided 5000 kyat each to 1500 teachers in the township to vote for him in the elections. **(DVB 050810)**

-U Tin Oo, the Vice-Chairperson of National League for Democracy (NLD), stated that commemorating the 22nd anniversary of the 8888 democracy uprising, NLD youth members, in accordance with the training of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, would hold a Reading Conference Session at the residence of a NLD member (Tanyin Township), and at 5 other residences. **(DVB 050810)**

-A clerk from the office of Ward Peace and Development Council, Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Division, stated that even though the USDP announced they would donate rice to everyone in wards and villages, in Mahlaing Township, Mandalay Division, only some low-income families and families recommended by authorities received the donation. **(Irrawaddy 060810)**

-A member of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation (Central Committee, Rangoon Division) stated that USDP has been pushing former members of the disbanded Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, The Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association and Swanahshin (People's Power Organization) to sign that they will become party members. **(Irrawaddy 060810)**

-A township level law officer stated that the Rangoon Divisional Law Office instructed district and township level law offices to check the political bulletins published by political parties who are contesting the 2010 elections. **(NEJ 060810)**

OPPOSITION FORCES

A. FORCES INSIDE BURMA

-The All Burma Youth Union (ABYU), established on 2 August by youths from all over Burma, to free Burmese people from military dictatorship and promote democracy in Burma, urged people to boycott the military regime's 2010 elections for they are designed to strengthen military rule in Burma. **(DVB 020710)**

-An NLD delegation led by U Tin Oo, the Vice-Chairperson of NLD, and U Win Tin, member of NLD Central Executive Committee, visited families of 12 political prisoners on 3 August. They visited the families of the members of Committee Representing People's Parliament (CRPP) as well as ethnic nationality political prisoners: U Khun Tun Oo, U Pu Kyin Shin Htang and U Kyaw Min, and U Sai Nyunt Lwin, Secretary of Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD), Sai Hla Aung, Gen. Hso Ten, and Arakan youth Ko Tin Tin Aung. **(DVB 030810)**

-A member of NLD in Sandoway, Arakan State, stated that an NLD delegation led by U Ohn Kyine, member of the NLD Central Executive Committee, met over 20 NLD members from Sandoway branch

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during its visit to Arakan State for party existence and recruiting, and briefed them that even though the NLD could not stand as a political party, the NLD would continue social welfare activities. **(DVB 040810)**

-Lawyer U Nyan Win, the Spokesperson of the NLD, stated that the NLD Central Executive Committee members, including himself and U Nyunt Wai, the Chairperson of the NLD Pegu Division, met with NLD members from 8 townships at Latpadan Township in western Pegu Division on 5 August, and assured them that the NLD would continue political and social activities to keep in touch with grass root members. **(Irrawaddy 050810)**

-All Burma Monks Alliance (ABMA) and student organizations; the 88 Generation Student Group and the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU), named the USDP a “Terrorist Party” and urged everyone who is for democracy to boycott the 2010 elections. **(Mizzima 060810)**

B. ARMED ETHNIC GROUPS

-Padoh Saw Aung Maw Aye, the Chairperson of the Karen National Union, Pa-an District, stated that the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) ambushed the Infantry Battalion (62), under the command of 19th Regional Operation Command based in Ft. Pulu, Paikyone region, Pa-an district, Karen State, and that the Infantry Battalion (62) suffered casualties of 8 dead and 14 wounded. **(KIC 030810)**

-An officer from the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) stated that KNU ambushed the military convoy of Lt. Gen. Khin Zaw, the commander of Special Operation Command, near a check-point on the Dawna Mountains on the way from Kawkarate to Myawaddy, Karen State, and at least one SPDC soldier was killed. **(Mizzima 060810)**

-According to an intellectual political activist, due to the local authorities’ hinderance on teaching people in Karenni State about 2008 constitution, people in Karenni State are disadvantaged in political knowledge, which every single citizen should know. **(Kantarawaddy Time 070810)**

C. FORCES OUTSIDE BURMA

-Naw Mari Hla, an official from Burma Campaign UK, stated that Burma Campaign UK had over 1600 letters requesting David Cameron, the Prime Minister of United Kingdom, to initiate the international community to effectively pressure the military regime for democracy in Burma. **(DVB 040810)**

-U Ngwe Lin, the General Secretary of Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS), stated that DPNS released a statement commemorating the 22nd Anniversary of the 8888 Pro-Democracy Uprising, and urged people to unanimously boycott the 2010 elections and to abolish the military dictatorship and 2008 constitution. **(RFA 050810)**

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CEASE-FIRE GROUPS

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

-Capt. Padoh Saw Hte Nay from the 6th Brigade of KNU stated that some DKBA soldiers from battalions of the 5th Brigade of DKBA under the command of the brigadier Col. Saw La Pwe (aka) Maj. Moustache, joined battallion 18 under the 6th Brigade of KNU. The 5th Brigade, led by Col. Saw La Pwe, has been refusing to transform itself into a border guard force, which created tension between the military regime and the 5th Brigade of DKBA. **(DVB 040810) (IMNA 040810)**

-Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a Myawaddy resident close to DKBA stated that on 3 August, Brigade 999 of DKBA, which had accepted to transform into a border guard force, laid down their arms to the military regime. **(NMG 040810)**

-Speaking on the condition of anonymity, a DKBA official stated that soldiers from DKBA and Houghtharaw Karen Ceasefire Group agreed with the border guard force plan to register at the Military Security Affairs Office in Myawaddy starting from the beginning of August. **(Kaowao 050810)**

-A member of DKBA stated that by direct order from Naypyitaw, Col. Khin Maung Htay, the Commander of the Regional Operation Command 12, ordered on 5 August that Karen National Flags be dismantled from bases and check-points of the ceasefire Karen groups in Karen State. **(KIC 050810)**

-A top officer from the 5th Brigade of DKBA stated that DKBA troops and SPDC troops clashed in the early evening of 4 August, as soldiers from the Brigade 999 of DKBA, with arms and ammunitions, travelled to the 6th Brigade of KNU, and the SPDC troops stopped the DKBA convoy at the Lower Banglo Check-Point on Kawkarate-Myawaddy road, which is the border of the 6th Brigade and 7th Brigade controlled areas. **(KIC 050810)**

-Some people close to Shan State Army (North) (SSA-N) stated that on 27 July, Maj. Gen. Aung Than Htut, the Commander of Northeastern Command, ordered U Loi Mao, the Chairperson of SSA-N, who agreed to transform as a militia unit, to visit the headquarters of the 1st Brigade of SSA-N, within 2 weeks, as they had not agreed with the border guard force plan, and persuade them to accept the plan. **(S.H.AN 050810)**

-People close to DKBA stated that on 5 August, the SPDC troops controlled the check-points run by DKBA troops along Thai-Burma border near Myawaddy, and dismantled Karen National Flags and raised government flags instead. **(Irrawaddy 060810)**

PARTIES THAT WERE PERMITTED TO STAND AS POLITICAL PARTIES

-U Khin Maung Swe, a leader of the National Democratic Force (NDF), stated that NDF, which has been campaigning to contest in the elections, held a ceremony opening the headquarters of NDF at Dagon Lwin Street, Myitta Nyunt Ward, Tamwe Township, Rangoon on 1 August. **(DVB 010810)**

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-A resident from Pegu, Pegu Division, stated that the National Unity Party (NUF) stepped up its campaign in Pegu Division. NUF has already campaigned and recruited in 10 Wards in Pegu Township. **(NMG 020810)**

-U Aye Lwin, the Chairperson of the Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics, which is campaigning to contest in the elections, stated that the party would commemorate the 22nd Anniversary of the 8888 Pro-Democracy Uprising for the third time. **(DVB 020810)**

-U Khin Maung Swe, a leader of NDF, stated that in order to create free and fair elections in 2010, legal analysts need to review the laws enacted by military regimes at different times. **(NEJ 030810)**

-The Union Election Commission announced that it granted permission, on 2 August, to the Unity and Development Party of Kachin State (UDPKS) to contest in the elections. Duwah Khet Htein Nan, the Chairperson, and Pawla Gamphan, the Vice-Chairperson, used to be members of the disbanded Union Solidarity and Development Association. **(NEJ 030810)**

-Dr. Aye Maung, the Chairperson of Rakhine Nationals Progressive Party, predicted that even though the USDP has advantages, such as financial strength, assets of power and the ability to campaign in advance, compared to other parties; nationalities, however, in ethnic areas would vote based on nationalism, so ethnic parties would win decisively. **(RFA 040810)**

-U Phyo Min Thein, the Chairperson of the Union Democratic Party, quit his post on 5 August arguing that there is “No chance the elections and its results will be free and fair.” **(Mizzima 050810)**

-The Union Election Commission granted permission, on 5 August, to the Nationalities Unity and Development Party (Kayah State) to contest in the elections. 46 political parties submitted applications to register to contest in the elections and NUDP became the 40th political party to contest the elections. **(Kantarawaddy Time 060810)**

PARTIES THAT HAVE REGISTERED TO STAND AS POLITICAL PARTIES

-An official of the Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP) stated that KSPP hopes to get permission from the Union Election Commission at the end of August to contest in the elections. **(KNG 040810)**

-A former officer from the Karenni Ceasefire group stated that the USDP was unwilling to recognize the establishment of Nationalities Unity and Development Party (Kayah State), on 20 July, to represent the Karenni people, as the USDP is worried about not getting enough votes to win in Kayah State. **(KT 050810)**

SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

-Residents of Pegu stated that poster campaigns against the military regime’s 2010 elections were present at the Pegu Central Market, Highway Bus Terminal and crowded areas, such as junctions in Hlegu and Intakaw townships. **(RFA 010810)**

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-A resident from Hakha stated that residents refused the offer to have the roads paved by USDP as part of its campaign for votes. **(Khonumthung 020810)**

-Leaders of Chin Progressive Party (CPP) and Chin National Party (CNP) stated that even though USDP started its campaign to get votes from Chin people, two months ago, Chin nationalities do not accept them and they will vote for Chin political parties, instead. **(Mizzima 050810)**

-A student who initiated the 22nd Anniversary of the 8888 Pro-Democracy Uprising stated that a migrant school set up by SAW in Mae Sot, near the Thai-Burma border, commemorated the 22nd Anniversary of the 8888 Pro-Democracy Uprising. The ceremony was initiated by highschool students of the SAW school in order to raise awareness, amongst new generations, on the 1988 Pro-Democracy Uprising. **(RFA 060810)**

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

A. GOVERNMENTS

-Andrew Heyn, the United Kingdom Ambassador to Burma, and Ruth Bradley-Jones, the Spokeswoman of the British Embassy in Rangoon, visited the residence of U Tin Oo, the Vice-Chairperson of the NLD, and met NLD leaders U Tin Oo, U Win Tin, and U Nyan Win on 4 August, and stated that the British Government will continue to support the NLD. **(RFA 040810)**

B. NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

-Margaret Taylor, the Spokesperson and Activity Manager of New Zealand Amnesty International, stated that Amnesty International would hold discussions, seminars and concerts at 100 universities and high schools in New Zealand as part of the campaign for freedom in Burma. **(BBC 020710)**

End of report/ Saturday, August 07, 2010

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