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Weekly Political Events Regarding the SPDC's Election

(035/2010)

September 19 - September 25 2010

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

A. ACTIVITIES ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEVELS

-A resident from Pauk Township, Magwe Division stated that local Peace and Development Council members have been collecting money from villages in Pauk Township, Pakokku District, Magwe Division, supposedly for Township Election Commission funds. (Irrawaddy 200910)

-Attendees of the voting training stated that even though people were provided with voting observation training by the Secretary of Kachin State Peace and Development Council, the Chairperson of Kachin State Election Commission, as well as authorities and experienced lawyers, attendees of the training did not fully understand the voting process. (KNG 210910)

B. THE UNION ELECTION COMMISSION

-An AP news article from Rangoon stated that when the Union Election Commission released lists of eligible voters, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was not on the list of eligible voters in Bahan Township, where she resides. (VOA 200910)

-The Union Election Commission rejected the applications of three representatives to contest in the elections from Chin State; U San Kyo from Hakha Township, U Ngun San from Thangtlang Township representing Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), and U Thang Kyin from Falam Township representing National Unity Party (NUP). (RFA 220910)

- On 24th September Union Election Commission officially announced that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was eligible to vote in the elections. When the commission originally released lists of eligible voters, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's name was not visible; however, she has since been added. (VOA 240910)

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-The Union Election Commission rejected the campaign speeches submitted to the Commission by Union Democracy Party (UDP), Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics (UMFNP) and 88 Generation Student Youths (Union of Myanmar).

-Mandalay Division Election Commission has been providing election observation training sessions to teachers from Mandalay. **(RFA 240910)**

-The Union Election Commission released a statement on 23rd September informing government offices that government employees had the right not to vote if they so chose. **(Irrawaddy 240910)**

-The Union Election Commission announced that anyone who was not on the lists of eligible voters could inform designated election commissions by 26th September and would be permitted to vote providing they had official documents such as a household family member list, and national ID. (VOA 50910)

C. THE UNION SOLIDARITY AND DEVELOPMENT PARTY

- During a visit to Kachin state U Thein Sein, Prime Minister and the leader of USDP, met with militia group leaders led by U Lasan Aou Wah, and leaders from New Democratic Army of Kachin State (NDA-K). U Thein Sein stated that after the elections, Kachin Independence Organization would be eliminated and consequently made an example of within ASEAN. (KNG 200910)

-An influential resident from Pyi San Aung Ward, Zayyathiri Township, Naypyitaw, stated that retired generals who would contest in the elections from Zayyathiri, Pombathiri, Zambuthiri and Dekkhinathiri Townships of Naypyitaw District had been campaigning by giving CDMA 450 MHz phones worth 1.5 million kyat each to influential residents of those townships, luring them to vote for USDP. **(Irrawaddy 200910)**

-USDP members stated that USDP leaders provided a short training session in Naypyitaw regarding the election campaign to about 400 representatives to contest in the elections representing USDP. **(Mizzima 200910)**

-The Karen community in Bangkok, Thailand stated that a 12 member delegation led by Prime Minister U Thein Sein visited Mahachai, Bangkok, Thailand and met with Myinegyingu Abbot. A request was made for the abbot to allow SPDC troops to be deployed in Shwe Kokko and Myinegyingu regions in Karen State but the abbot rejected the request. (KIC 200910)

-A Mongton resident stated that residents from Mongton, Monghsat in Eastern Shan State did not dare to join the Shan Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP) due to the fear of possible threats from local authorities and USDP. **(S.H.A.N 210910)**

-A person who was hired to campaign for USDP in Shwetaw village, southern part of Pa-an township, stated that while the USDP were organizing people from villages and townships in Karen State they hired people who spoke Karen and paid 3000 kyat per day to organize people. **(KIC 220910)**

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-Dr. Mu Thang stated that if USDP won in the election, he could effectively work for Chin State and possibly become the President so he would contest from Thangtlang Township for Chin State Hluttaw. **(Mizzima 230910)**

-A resident from Ingapu Township, Irrawaddy Division stated that U Thein Aung, Minister of Forestry has been loaning money to get peoples votes in the elections. Consequently allowing farmers in 6 village groups in Ingapu Township to build water wells. **(Yoma3 230910)**

-Farmers from Thayetpinsaik village, Pegu Division stated that USDP organizers forcefully urged residents of Oakpo, Western Part of Pegu Division, to sign documents promising not to vote for other parties, whilst also distributing USDP member cards to them. **(NEJ 230910)**

-A businessman from Mudon Township, Mon State, stated that USDP members, unlike other political parties, did not campaign in villages, but instead, were providing many different opportunities and collecting signatures of possible voters of USDP in the elections. **(IMNA 240910)**

-U Hla Kyine, NUP Organizer of Tharawaddy Township, stated that NUP submitted a complaint to the Union Election Commission regarding the case where U San Win, USDP organizer seized the party membership cards of 16 NUP members from Myauklayyone village, Tharawaddy Township, Pegu Division on 19 September and forcefully urged them to join USDP. **(Irrawaddy 250910)**

-Residents from Myaungmya and Wakhema stated that USDP township organizers arbitrarily recruited residents from Myaungmya and Wakhema townships, Irrawaddy Division in the middle of September. **(KIC 250910)**

NATIONAL UNITY PARTY

-U Han Shwe, the Spokesperson of National Unity Party (NUP), stated that NUP submitted an appeal regarding 4 representatives whose applications were rejected by the Union Election Commission, and said NUP was not related with and never received any support from the current government. **(DVB 200910)**

- On 24 September at the 22nd anniversary of the establishment of NUP, U Khin Maung Gyi, a leader of the organization, stated that NUP would not make alliance with USDP but would try to win the elections. **(Irrawaddy 240910)**

-NUP submitted a complaint to the Union Election Commission regarding the USDP organizers attempt to arbitrarily recruit NUP members from Tharawaddy Township, Pegu Division. **(Irrawaddy 250910)**

OPPOSITION FORCES

A. FORCES INSIDE BURMA

-Daw Hla Hla Moe, an elected Member of Parliament from Minhla Township in the 1990 elections, stated that the National League for Democracy (NLD) Central Executive Committee members led by U Han Tha Myint during their Magwe visit, had been meeting with NLD members from Yenanchaung and

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other townships in Magwe Division and explaining the importance of boycotting the election. **(DVB 200910)**

-U Han Tha Myint, a member of the Central Executive Committee of NLD, stated that even though the military regime officially threatened to take actions on any anti-election campaigns, NLD would continue its anti-election campaigns. **(Irrawaddy 200910)**

-U Ban Lian, the Chairperson of NLD Chin State, stated that in Hakha, Falam and Tedim townships in Chin State, the majority of local people supported NLD activities regarding the anti-election boycott initiated by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **(Khonumthung 220910)**

-U Han Tha Myint, stated that the campaigns of Dr. May Win Myint and himself, two leaders of NLD, had been successfully accomplished and NLD grassroots members and the majority of people supported NLD's position. **(RFA 240910)**

-U Aye Tha Aung, the General Secretary of the Committee Representing People's Parliament (CRPP), stated that the military regime's announcement allowing Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to vote in the elections was a political trick. **(Irrawaddy 250910)**

-All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU-2007 Generation), New Generation, Saffron Generation, Middle Burma Student Organization and Student and Youth Activists in Rangoon Division formed a secret coalition on 8 August, the 22nd anniversary of 1988 Pro-Democracy Uprising, to boycott the 2010 elections. **(Mizzima 250910)**

B. FORCES AT BORDER AREAS

-Khun Myint Tun, the General Secretary of Pa-O National Liberation Organization, stated at the ceremony of International Peace Day on 21 September, that Pa-O nationals wanted to end clashes among each other that were caused by military oppression. **(Yoma3 210910)**

C. ARMED ETHNIC GROUPS

-Maj. Saw Eh Sae, the office administrator of the 7th Brigade of Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), stated that a skirmish broke out between the battalion 21 of the 7th Brigade of KNLA and a company from Light Infantry Battalion (343) under the Regional Operation Command 19 of the military regime, leaving 4 soldiers were dead and 7 wounded on the military regimes' side. **(KIC 200910)**

D. FORCES OUTSIDE BURMA

-Karenni National Community of Canada (KNCC) released a statement on 20th September urging people in Karenni State not to vote for USDP in the elections. **(KT 220910)**

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CEASEFIRE GROUPS

A. ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO BORDER GUARD FORCES

-Col. Sin Hua, the Spokesperson of Kachin Independence Organization (KIO), stated that even though the military regime demanded that KIO obtain permission for any travel within Kachin State, no permission was granted, leaving KIO struggling to obtain supplies. **(RFA 190910)**

-A KIO officer stated that due to the military regime's restriction on KIO movements, they have been forced to set strategies and be militarily preparing. **(RFA 210910)**

-International Crisis Group (ICG) released a report on 21 September stating that KIO and United Wa State Army tried to get support from China regarding the establishment of autonomous regions for them. **(Irrawaddy 210910)**

-Col. Sai Lao Sai, the Spokesperson of Shan State Army-South (SSA-S), stated that after two attacks against the 1st Brigade of SSA North on 14 and 20 September, the military regime deployed more troops to SSA-North controlled areas. **(RFA 220910)**

-Maj. Gen. Sin Wah, the General Secretary of KIO, stated that Kachin Independence Army (KIA) soldiers fired warning shots to a military helicopter flying above Laiza, Kachin State for over an hour. **(Irrawaddy 240910)**

-Ret. Col. Kao Yut, Military Advisor for New Mon State Party (NMSP), stated that NMSP issued an order to open fire if SPDC troops entered a 5-mile perimeter of NMSP controlled areas. **(Mizzima 250910)**

POLITICAL PARTIES ALLOWED TO CONTEST IN THE ELECTIONS

-U Thein Nyunt, a leading member of National Democratic Force (NDF), stated that even though lists of eligible voters were announced, it was unclear that NDF-requested copies of eligible voter lists from the Union Election Commission. **(BBC 200910)**

-According to the representative lists of 37 political parties permitted to contest in the elections, there were 454 representatives and only 36 female representatives (8%) were included to contest in the elections. **(Irrawaddy 200910)**

-Difference and Peace Party (DPP) gave a public speech, entitled "Sharing Political Knowledge" one week before permission at a space behind the Military Graveyard in Htaukkyant, Mingaladon Township, it is estimated that 50 people attended. **(Mizzima 200910)**

-A member of National Democratic Party for Development (NDPD) an Islamic member based party, stated that even though the party submitted 25 representatives to contest in the elections, 10 representatives were rejected. **(NEJ 200910)**

-Nai Ngwe Thein (aka) Nai Janu Mon, the Chairperson of All Mon Region Democratic Party (AMRDP), stated that the party began pre-election campaigns this week. **(Kaowao 200910)**

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-A party member of the Ta'ang (Palaung) National Party stated that leaders of the party were allowed to travel from Namhkam to Muse Township, but restrictions applied to long distance trips. In addition, they have been prevented from contacting political organizations abroad. **(Palaungwomen 210910)**

-Opposition political parties stated that there were many more voting stations than in the previous 1990 election, making it difficult for all stations to be supervised. As a result fraud may be a possible outcome in the 2010 elections. **(Irrawaddy 210910)**

-U Thein Tin Aung, the General Secretary of the Union Democracy Party (UDP), stated that an official from US Department of State, Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Department, Chief of US embassy in Burma and the First Secretary of US embassy in Burma met with representatives from NDF, Democratic Party (Myanmar) and UDP to discuss the current political situation and the difficulties political parties have been facing. **(VOA 220910)**

-The Union Election Commission rejected the application of Nan Saw Ohn, SNRP representative for Burmese Affairs of Kachin State because her name at the national ID was a Shan name. **(DVB 220910)**

-The Union Election Commission rejected the submission of a 15 minute political speech by Democracy Party (Myanmar) to air on Myanmar Radio and TV stations, their reasoning was that it contained some personal attacks (or hate speech). **(NEJ 220910)**

-Nai Ngwe Thein, the Chairperson of AMRDP, stated that due to AMRDP's strong organizational power, the majority of Mon people became more interested in AMRDP. **(IMNA 230910)**

-U Htay, the Vice Chairperson of UDP, stated that the Union Election Commission rejected the submission of a political speech by UDP to air on Myanmar Radio and TV stations, UDP were not prepared to re-submit the revised version. **(Irrawaddy 240910)**

-Leaders of ethnic political parties stated that in the lists of ethnic representatives announced at the election commission offices in village groups and wards, the names of political parties were not mentioned so it affected the political parties. **(NEJ 140910)**

-Dr. Aye Maung, the Chairperson of Rakhine Nationals Development Party (RNDP), stated that when RNDP was canvassing in Aungmyingala Ward in Sittwe on 23 September, commander of the police ward police station and the Chairperson of Ward Peace and Development Council arrived and disturbed the event. **(Narinjara 250910)**

INDIVIDUALS PREPARING TO CONTEST IN THE ELECTIONS

-Dr. Than Myint, an individual representative contesting in the elections from Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division, stated that individual representatives had long been focusing on social work in the areas they would represent so they did not need to lure people using money and benefits as USDP did. **(VOA 210910)**

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-U Ba Tint Swe, an individual representative to contest in the elections from North Okkalapa Township, Rangoon, stated that 14 individual representatives held a press conference at Traders' Hotel in Rangoon regarding their positions in the elections and both local and international reporters, some diplomats from Japanese Embassy in Rangoon, and about 100 invited guests attended the event. **(RFA 210910)**

SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

-Saw Khin Maung Myint, the Chairperson of Phalon Sawaw Democratic Party (PSDP), stated that elections would not be held in 155 villages in Karen State so many Karen people lost their rights to vote. **(VOA 200910)**

-Ma Pauk Pauk, who led the distributing of postcards, stated that on International Peace Day, political activists distributed postcards, stating "boycott 2010 elections to get true peace," at Sule Pagoda in downtown Rangoon and in Kyauktada, Hlingthaya, Shwepaukkan and Tharketa townships in Rangoon.

-A female teacher from Maungtaw Township, Arakan State, stated that on International Peace Day on 21 September, an anti-election campaign happened in four townships in Arakan State with pamphlets stating "boycott the 2010 elections and establish the true peace: being distributed. **(Narinjara 210910)**

-Teachers from Karenni State stated that even though teachers from Karenni State were not interested in being in charge of voting stations, they were given no other choice. **(KT 220910)**

-Residents stated that villages in the two townships in Karenni State were not permitted to vote in the election following an announcement by the Union Election Commission on 16 September stating that the area was too remote so would be excluded from the election. **(KT 220910)**

-Residents of Mandalay said that posters, stating Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's words "Citizens have the right to vote or to not vote under the 2010 election laws", were posted in places such as Thappan Street in between 62 and 78 Street, 84th Street in between 26th and 41st Street and some other places. **(NEJ 220910)**

-Sunshine, the Chairperson of Karenni National Youth Organization, stated that because Nationalities Unity and Development Party members who represented Karenni State were not allowed to stand as a political party, many youths were disappointed and were no longer interested in the election. **(Kantarawaddy Times 230910)**

-Ko Naw Din, the Editor of Kachin News, stated that Kachin State Progressive Party was not allowed to contest in the elections. In addition Kachin leaders' submissions to contest as individual representatives were rejected so the Kachin people may vote for NUP. **(NMG 230910)**

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OVERSEA BURMESE

-A Burmese migrant worker from Joho Baru, Malaysia, stated that even though the Union Election Commission announced the eligible voters list for the whole country, no lists for Burmese nationals abroad has been announced yet. **(Mizzima 210910)**

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A. THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

-The European Union (EU) held a meeting in Greece on 25 September regarding democratic change in Burma. The meeting was also attended by Burma activists and NGOs from Europe. **(RFA 250910)**

B. GOVERNMENTS

-U Nyo Ohn Myint, the Chief of Foreign Affairs Committee of NLD Liberated Area (NLD-LA), stated that Jeremy Richard Browne, the British Foreign Minister from Liberal Democrat Party of the ruling British coalition government commented that the military regime's elections were not free or fair and were a shame. He offered his support to boycott the elections. **(VOA 190910)**

-U Tin Oo, the Vice Chairperson of NLD, stated that Karen Maddocke, the Deputy Chief of Asia and Pacific Affairs Department of British Foreign Ministry, and an officer from British Embassy visited him and made inquiries about the future plans of NLD regarding the military regime's announcement of disbanding NLD. **(RFA 210910)**

-U Naing Ko Ko, the Spokesperson of Burma Campaign New Zealand (BCNZ), stated that a New Zealand minister sent a message to BCNZ confirming the support of the New Zealand government for the establishment of UN commission of inquiry to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity in Burma. **(RFA 210910)**

-Maxime Verhagen, the Foreign Minister of the Netherlands, stated support on behalf of the Netherlands for the establishment of UN commission of inquiry to investigate human rights violations perpetrated by the military regime of Burma. **(Mizzima 210910)**

-Jetty Kouwen, the Senior Official of Southeast Asian Affairs Department of the Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands, confirmed, on 22 September, that the government of the Netherlands' supported the UN commission of inquiry to investigate the human rights violations in Burma. **(RFA 220910)**

-Barak Obama, the President of the United States, one again urged the military regime of Burma to release all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and implement a national reconciliation in Burma. **(Irrawaddy 250910)**

-Abhisit Vejjajiva, the Prime Minister of Thailand, stated that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi should be involved in Burma's politics after the 2010 elections. **(RFA 250910)**

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-Mr. Mark Toner, a spokesperson of US Department of State, stated on 24 September, that the military regime of Burma should allow Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to vote, release her from house arrest and begin a genuine dialogue with her. **(RFA 250910)**

C. NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

-Human Rights Watch sent a letter requesting the President of the Philippines, Benigno Aquino, to urge the establishment of the UN commission of inquiry to investigate the human rights violations of Burma' military regime at the UN Human Rights Council Meeting. **(BBC 210910)**

-Human Rights Watch, France Human Rights League, and International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), urged the European Union to support the establishment of UN commission of inquiry to investigate human rights violations in Burma. **(VOA 220910)**

-U Tin Oo, the Vice Chairperson of NLD, stated that he and U Saw Naing Naing, a member of NLD Central Executive Committee, met with American social work NGO's, officials from US Department of State, representatives from the educational field, and lawyers at the residence of the US Chargé d'Affaires to Burma to discuss future activities of the NLD. **(VOA 220910)**

-Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, Human Rights Now, People's Force for Burma and Osaka-based BRC urged the government of Japan to support the establishment of a UN commission of inquiry to investigate human rights violations in Burma on 21 September. **(RFA 220910)**

-Amnesty International urged the military regime of Burma to unconditionally release all political prisoners before the 2010 elections. **(RFA 240910)**

- On 23 September Human Rights Watch urged the US government to demand that ASEAN leaders put more pressure on the military regime of Burma to end the oppression against its own people, to release all political prisoners and to launch a dialogue with all opposition forces before the 2010 elections at their upcoming meeting with ASEAN. **(RFA 240910)**

-Debbie Stothard, a leader of Alternative ASEAN, urged for focus to be placed on Burma's election at the US-ASEAN Summit Meeting. **(VOA 240910)**

-On September 24, at the US-ASEAN Summit, US government and ASEAN leaders urged the military regime of Burma to create internationally recognized and free and fair elections. **(VOA 240910)**

End of report/ Saturday, September 25, 2010

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