

# PDC NEWS COMMENTARY

## October 2010

Compiled and commented by the Political Defiance Committee (PDC)  
National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB)

### The activities of NLD and domestic opposition forces

#### The relationship between NLD and the military junta

In order to forestall international pressure before accomplishing the 2010 elections the SPDC regime has not reacted harshly to NLD's election boycott campaigns, but it is continuously watching and recording NLD members' activities. However, the C-in-C (Army) office has been issuing instructions continuously since early September to regional commands and the Home Ministry to take effective action against those who obstruct the elections.

The SPDC is inciting its military units by briefing them about NLD's conspiracy to wreck the elections and exiled opposition's plans to launch bombings and create mass disturbances. The SPDC also instructed local authorities to provide money to informers and spies in order to watch and infiltrate the NLD.

Though the regime has not overtly taken action against top NLD leaders' campaigning activities, it has started intimidating and test-lashing grass root levels of the NLD. On September 1, the SPDC briefly detained U Tun Yin, Secretary of Rangoon Division Dala Township NLD, on account of distributing flyers bearing Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's message about the right to refrain from voting. The Police Special Branch summoned NLD Information Team member U Nyan Win on September 16 to talk about Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's case. On September 29, the ABFSU reported that the military regime has arrested eleven students who handed out pamphlets calling for election boycott.

Despite SPDC newspapers' threats against election boycotters and boycott campaigners, the NLD carried on with its activities, NLD Central Committee member U Hantha Myint asserted on September 20. The NLD Central Executive Committee meeting held on September 6 resolved to meet with ethnic leaders with regard to SPDC election matters and armed ethnic forces' affairs.

The SPDC permitted Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to meet with her attorneys on September 3 but refused to let further meetings. On September 14, SPDC Election Commission declared dissolution of the NLD and other five political parties that won seats in 1990 elections as well as another five newly-registered parties which failed to put up candidates in at least three constituencies for 2010. The NLD responded on September 16 that it could not accept the notice of the SPDC.

An electoral roll put out on September 20 by Bahan Township East Golden Valley ward election commission failed to include the names of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her two women aides, the AP news agency reported. Criticism and rebukes against the SPDC came up

regarding such news, eventually resulting in ward commission's addition of their names to the ballot list on September 24. However the Press Scrutiny Board forbade domestic media from printing the news. Granting Daw Aung San Suu Kyi right to vote in spite of a clear stipulation in SPDC election laws barring convicts from voting was military regime's attempt to trick politically, CRPP Secretary U Aye Tha Aung commented on September 25. On September 3, the CRPP formally called for a boycott of SPDC's 2008 Constitution and 2010 elections.

The NLD is planning to sue the SPDC regime on two accounts of unfair election laws intended to illegalize the party, NLD CEC U Nyan Win disclosed on September 5. Despite SPDC's claim of NLD being dissolved, the NLD is not disbanded but would continue its political duties, NLD Vice-Chairman U Tin Oo proclaimed at the ceremony marking 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the founding of NLD on September 27.

Because more than 3000 candidates from 37 political parties are going to contest, the 2010 election will be a free, fair and inclusive election, SPDC Foreign Minister U Nyan Win claimed at the 65<sup>th</sup> UN Human Rights Council conference on September 28. NLD CEC U Nyan Win rejected the claim next day.

We assume that if the NLD started direct contacts with Burma Army and armed ethnic organizations to win them over, SPDC Generals would not tolerate it at all but could strongly react to it.

### **The relationship between ethnic groups and the military junta**

As the SPDC military regime used force to pressure ceasefire groups to transform into border guard forces (BGF) by September 1 or else be illegalized, tensions and confrontations were rising up between the regime and peace groups which do not accept BGF transformation. SPDC troops battled with SSA (North) Brigade 1 forces thrice within September.

The UWSA turned down SPDC's ultimatum to withdraw southern Wa troops and transform into BGF by September 1, and instead increased security at its Pangsang HQ and in the whole Wa territory. After September 1, the SPDC started recalling government employees working in Wa and Mongla regions. Triangle Command as well covertly informed civil servants in southern Wa region's Mongton and Monghsat townships to live vigilantly. Wa HQ in Pangsang sent three assault battalions to strengthen its southern territory.

Beginning from early September, the SPDC reinforced its troops near Wa-controlled territories. SPDC convoys laden with arms, ammo, ration supplies, medicine and fuel oil headed toward Wa region on September 2, Lashio residents reported. On September 12, three battalions under the command of Kyaukme-based MOC 1 arrived in Tangyang and took up positions east of Salween River near Wa-controlled territories. Mongton-based IB 225 has ordered fifty uniforms each of SSA (North) and UWSA troops from tailors and was planning to conduct feigning actions. Though there are tensions between Wa and SPDC, observers found no sign of war breaking out before the elections.

Relations between SPDC and KIO worsened in September. Due to KIO's refusal to surrender, the SPDC imposed restrictions on KIO movements beginning from September 5, causing food problems for the KIO. The MAS which undertakes liaison between SPDC and KIO has also cut off contacts with KIO liaison offices. SPDC Election Commission again turned down applications of Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP) Chairman Dr. Tuja and fourteen party leaders to contest in elections as Independents. They have tried to run as Independents after

failing to get their party officially registered. Dr. Tuja announced formal dissolution of their KSPP on September 27.

As SPDC troops reinforced their positions toward KIO outposts in Kachin State Monghnyin and Phakant townships, the KIO made war preparations too. Starting from September 15, the KIO moved important material from its present HQ in Laiza to the former HQ Lysin base. On account of security situation, the KIO has decided to suspend operation of gold prospecting fields in its territory. During his campaigning trip in Kachin State, SPDC Prime Minister cum USDP leader U Thein Sein vowed that the regime would annihilate the KIO once and for all after the elections. On September 23, KIO forces fired warning shots at an SPDC chopper flying over Laiza.

When the SPDC expanded its troop strength inside SSA (North) Brigade 1 territory in September, battles broke out between regime forces and SSA (North) Brigade 1 which has refused to become a People's Militia. SPDC troops opened fire on an SSA (North) detachment in Hsipaw Township Nam Kyang region on September 14. In the battle, an SSA (North) man got wounded. Another firefight broke out on September 20 near Wanhai village, Mong Reh Township, resulting in one dead from SPDC side. An SPDC LIR 325 column launched a surprise attack on an SSA (North) outpost near Mant Konnyu village between Mong Reh and Hsipaw townships, forcing withdrawal of SSA troops from the post.

The SPDC assigned its cronies, People's Militia leaders cum drug tycoons, to run for elections as USDP candidates in Kachin and Northern Shan State, thereby sowing dissensions among ethnic groups. Ta-moe-nyai People's Militia leader Yan Guai-ta would contest in North-Eastern Shan State Kutkhai Township while Pansay People's Militia leader Kyaw Myint would run for elections in Namkham Township. The regime reinforced its troops in SSA (North) Brigade 1-controlled territories and along the Wa frontier. The new Commander of North-East Command Brig. Aung Kyaw Zaw and Tangyang Tactical Commander Col. Khaing Zaw personally made an inspection tour of frontline outposts.

The SPDC also threatened the New Mon State Party (NMSP). On September 2, MAS Chief Lt. Gen. Ye Myint informed the NMSP that the regime would declare it as an unlawful association if it failed to transform into a BGF. In return the NMSP designated its territories as war zone, issuing orders to subordinate troops to shoot if SPDC troops entered.

The Karen Peace Council led by Brig. Htein Maung who has struck a ceasefire agreement with the SPDC replied to South-East Command Commander on September 1 that it could not accept SPDC's ultimatum to transform into a BGF in one week.

Tensions continued between SPDC troops and DKBA forces which have converted into BGFs. On September 19, Prime Minister U Thein Sein called on Myaing Gyi Ngu Abbot to ask for permission to deploy SPDC troops in two areas mainly controlled by DKBA forces but was refused. Nevertheless the SPDC called up BGF-transformed DKBA troops for military training refresher courses and sent five battalions into border areas formerly controlled by DKBA. When the SPDC confiscated unlicensed cars in Myawaddy including those owned by the DKBA, troops led by Bo Saw Kyaw Thet sieged Myawaddy Police Station on September 21. When SPDC troops encircled DKBA forces from outer rim, a shootout almost broke up. The SPDC did not return the cars, and moreover South-East Command Commander issued orders to deal with such lawless acts severely.

Within a span of just over one month from late August to end of September, fifty-nine members of DKBA and Brig. Htein Maung's KNU/ KNLA KPC together with their arms defected to KNLA Brigade 6. As the SPDC heavily reinforced its troops to fight KNU and DKBA breakaway Brigade 5, battles broke out successively in KNLA Brigade 6 and Brigade

7 territories. Within September more than thirty battles occurred between KNLA and SPDC armies.

Prompted by SPDC military pressure, ethnic ceasefire groups and non-ceasefire ethnic groups conducted consultations among them. Top political and military leaders from KNU, KIO, NMSP, KNPP, SSA (N) and CNF secretly met in Chiangmai, Thailand, from September 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, agreeing to set up an alliance and cooperate militarily and politically. These groups have secretly met first in Chiangmai on May 22.

The SPDC announced on September 16 that, "due to security reasons," it would not hold elections in four townships and nearly 300 villages where ethnic candidates could win. We assume that there is few likelihood of SPDC launching military attacks against armed ethnic groups during the election period, probably focusing on probing and splitting acts.

### **The activities of NLD and domestic opposition forces**

Campaigning teams made up of NLD Vice-Chairman U Tin Oo and Central Executive Committee members, Central Committee members, NLD Youth leaders and NLD Women's Affairs leaders made separate trips to States and Divisions to brief grass root members about Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's messages that included boycotting SPDC's sham elections, and NLD's future programs.

U Tin Oo and team visiting Irrawaddy Division paid a salute to Bogyoke Aung San statue in Bassein on September 1 and pledged to carry on with the unfinished Independence struggle. On September 4, U Tin Oo and U Win Tin led a team to visit families of eight political prisoners in Twantay and gave encouragement. The NLD has met with family members of over 640 political prisoners to give encouragement, U Tin Oo disclosed on September 1.

On September 1, Mandalay Division NLD leaders met with South-East Township organizing teams and briefed them about Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's messages and NLD's positions, also assigning them to re-brief the people. Township-level NLD members also carried out election boycott speeches and distribution of flyers. On September 27, NLD member Ko Myint Soe handed out flyers calling for boycott of elections in Twantay, DVB reported.

NLD CEC U Ohn Kyaing led a campaigning team to Mandalay for the second time on September 9 and met with township NLD representatives from southern part of Mandalay Division including Meikhtila on 10<sup>th</sup>. The team also visited some areas of Shan State, meeting with NLD representatives from Northern Shan State townships on September 12 at Lashio.

Campaigning trips led by Dr. May Win Myint and U Hantha Myint for election boycott were successful, U Hantha Myint reported on September 24. NLD township organizing committees continued to brief local members of their respective localities. The NLD Social Assistance Team was leading well-sinking work in Rangoon Division, digging a drinking water well in Nget-aw-san village, Kawthmoo Township, on September 8.

U Tin Oo and NLD leaders also received foreign diplomats who called on him to ask about political situation, and explained to them NLD's political views and future programs. On September 21, officials from British Foreign Office and British diplomats visited U Tin Oo's house to ask about NLD dissolution and programs for future. Representatives from American NGOs doing social aid called on some NLD leaders on 22<sup>nd</sup> to talk about supporting NLD's social works. Next day, Australian Ambassador Ms. Michelle Chan called on U Tin Oo and earnestly enquired about Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's case.

When the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung group invited Dr. Nay Win Maung and Dr. Khin Zaw Win of IDE (Myanmar) and Myanmar Egress groups to its workshop on Burma issue held in Berlin, Germany, under the title "Elections are for future change," the NLD sent a protest letter to the EU on September 17. After a political party compared the election-boycotting NLD to a 'dog let loose on shoal' NLD leader U Win Tin remarked in his speech at the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of NLD founding day on September 27, "Even a dog let loose on shoal is able to bark, bite or swim to shore. But those who take part in the elections are like cattle sent to the butcher house, certain to end their life without any recourse by meekly going to the knife."

On the anniversaries of Saffron Revolution, International Day for Peace, NLD Founding Day and CRPP Founding Day, NLD members and youths in some township offices collectively performed merit-making rituals dedicated to the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and political prisoners. On September 7, NLD members offered meals to more than 120 monks in Akyab. On 21<sup>st</sup>, NLD Youths in Ahlone Township and Non-Violent Activist youths of 2007 monks' incident collectively offered meals to monks at the NLD Office in Ahlone. NLD leaders and members attended the funeral of Veteran Politician Thakin Ohn Myint (aged 93) on September 20. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also sent a floral basket with a placard saying, "Forever remembering Uncle's deeds!"

The two NLD leaders, U Tin Oo and U Win Tin, have their health impaired within this month prompting them to acquire medical treatment. U Win Tin suffered from shortness of breath and tightness of chest, leading to hospitalization at Asia Tawwin Hospital on September 12. Vice-Chairman U Tin Oo's left eye condition worsened resulting in a surgical operation at Singapore's Tan Tock Seng Hospital on 30<sup>th</sup>.

Activities of various classes and monks increased within the month. A memorial service offering meals to monks for the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Ma Win Maw Oo's death was held at her home on September 19 and was attended by NLD members and political activists. Human rights activists held a meal-offering ritual for five monks on September 26 at fellow activist Daw Khin Aye's home in South Dagon Township in dedication of monks killed during the Saffron Revolution.

Though three years have passed since the Saffron Revolution, the military regime still hasn't apologized to the monks for its crimes, prompting the All Burma Monks Alliance to proclaim continuation of the Excommunicative Boycott on September 26. The Monks Alliance also laid wreaths at sites where monks were killed in the Saffron Revolution. The Alliance also distributed 500 short-wave radios to tune in to foreign-based news agencies. On the third anniversary of Pakokku monks' incident, the Upper Burma Student Monks Organization issued a statement urging the people to use all kinds of non-violent means to protest against junta-backed USDP and prevent it from winning the elections. The All Burma Monks Alliance also strongly denounced SPDC Election Commission's proclamation of NLD's dissolution.

On September 8 Arakanese monks residing in Rangoon held a memorial prayer at Shwedagon Pagoda for the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Rev. U Oattama's death. Monks in Arakan State and the All Burma Monks Alliance objected to military regime's sentencing U Pyinnyasara of Arakan State Akyab City Buddha Vihara Monastery on September 29 to eight years in jail and a fine of Kyat 10,000, and demanded his release.

On September 5, All Burma Federation of Students Unions (ABFSU), All Burma Youths Union and Basic Education Students Union jointly launched a mass campaign to oppose military regime's elections. Women activists also handed out anti-election flyers at Rangoon's Shwe Pyitha Nawarat market, Shwe Pyitha Road Bend near township PDC office and four

places in Mingladon Township. A pro-democracy student activist group mailed flyers bearing the words "Voting for USDP would bring about further killing of monks and starvation of people!" addressed to businessmen and government offices.

On September 21, the International Peace Day, activists carried out anti-election poster campaigns on Theikpan Road between 62<sup>nd</sup> St. and 78<sup>th</sup> St. of Mandalay, 84<sup>th</sup> Road between 26<sup>th</sup> St. and 41<sup>st</sup> St. of Mandalay, and in four townships of Arakan State. On September 30, students, youths and monks distributed anti-election flyers in Kachin State Bhamo and Rangoon townships.

Underground organizations of various kinds formed alliances to oppose regime's elections by all means. 2007 Generation Students Union, ABFSU, Mid-Burma Students Organization, New Saffron Generation Organization and New Generation Youth Organization set up a Burma Pro-Democracy Activists Front on the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of four 8s uprising day, and started coordinating anti-election campaigns. The ABFSU issued a statement on September 29 demanding immediate release of Dagon University and Hmawbi GTC students arrested for carrying out anti-election campaigns. On behalf of civil servants who went into retirement before the pay raise for government employees came into effect, twenty-eight civil servants wrote to SPDC Chairman asking for a hike in pensions.

Anti-regime activities occurred with regard to two young men shot to death by the army in Pegu on September 4. '88 Generation Students, ABFSU, All Burma Monks Alliance and Union Democracy Party demanded the military regime on September 6 to conduct a fair investigation and proper action against perpetrators. Guiding Star group leader U Aye Myint and family members of the killed also spoke out harshly against SPDC army's atrocities. About 2500 people turned up at the funeral on 7<sup>th</sup> when leaflets bearing the words "Away with military dogs that bite the people!" were distributed. Some political parties and some activists from Rangoon also attended the funeral.

While political parties running for SPDC elections are stepping up their campaigning, some democratic parties were increasingly reproaching biased actions and oppressions by the military regime and the USDP. On account of regime's unfair practices, the Myanmar Democratic Party for New Society decided not to submit a candidate list and contest in the elections. U Soe Lwin, NDF candidate for Magwe Division Yenangyaung Township, withdrew his name from elections because he could not accept the 2008 Constitution. Although the SPDC has said that it would grant each party 15 minutes of air time to campaign since September 24, the Elections Commission rejected campaign speeches of Democratic Party (Myanmar), Union Democracy Party (UDP) and Arakan National Progressive Party. UDP Vice-Chairman U Htay said on September 24 that it would not revise its speech and submit it again.

In order to compete with regime-sponsored USDP and their proxy parties, Independents tried to unite and parties tried to form alliances. On September 21, six Independent candidates for People's Assembly and eight Independent candidates for Regional and State assemblies set up an "Independent Candidates Network" at the Traders Hotel. Union Democracy Party, National Democratic Force, Democratic Party (Myanmar), Democracy and Peace Party, Shan Nationalities Progressive Party, Shan Nationalities Democratic Party and Chin National Party were striving to form an alliance, UDP Chairman U Thein Htay disclosed on September 30.

Despite opposition political activists' protests against regime's elections, the USDP is almost certain to win majority seats under present circumstances, party leaders running for elections have admitted now. However we assume that they are now trapped inside military regime's election bait, hard to free themselves out of it and just getting along in dejection.



## The military junta and domestic situation

### The situation of the activities of the military junta

While SPDC Generals who have quitted the army to enter elections on USDP ticket were stepping up campaigning all over the country by exploiting state treasury, SPDC chief Senior Gen. Than Shwe was visiting neighboring countries one after another to entice support for his 2010 elections. SPDC Foreign Minister U Nyan Win led a delegation to the 65<sup>th</sup> UN Human Rights Council conference and defended SPDC elections. At the same time, the regime is preparing to crush with force those who would obstruct the 2010 elections and armed ethnic groups who are defying the regime.

An SPDC goodwill mission led by Senior Gen. Than Shwe paid a five-day visit to China on September 7 and met with Chinese President Hu Jintao on 8<sup>th</sup>. Chinese government pledged full support for SPDC elections and agreed to lend Burma US \$4200 million interest-free. Chinese President also promised to forbid any person or any organization based on Chinese border hurting relations between the two countries, SPDC newspapers reported on September 12.

The SPDC delegation led by Foreign Minister U Nyan Win appeared at the UN Human Rights Council conference in traditional Burmese costumes complete with headdresses. He claimed on September 28 that the elections would be free and fair because more than 3000 candidates from 37 political parties are contesting in the coming elections. He also accused some big powers of conspiring to exploit the Human Rights Council as a political forum and prosecute SPDC military leaders at the International Criminal Court for human rights violations. On September 24, Burmese representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) also refuted allegations about SPDC's attempts to produce nuclear weapons.

The SPDC is preparing to crush with force those who would obstruct the November elections and launch military offensives, after the elections, against those who are defying the regime with arms. Since September 1, the regime is replenishing tear gas bombs and riot control gear to riot police battalions and police force of States and Divisions. Instructions have also been issued to relevant officers to personally inspect arms and ammo issued, to mobilize and train riot control squads in police forces of all townships and sub-townships other than riot control battalions, and to hold joint demos at district police HQs from September 15 to 30.

The SPDC is also reinforcing riot police in cities where mass disturbances could break out. Under order of Southern Commander, fifty police from Toungoo-based Police Battalion No. 11 went to Pegu in three trucks on the morning of September 13. Authorities are also re-mobilizing and training the thugs called Power Mongers (*Swan-arr-shin*) to be used as necessary during the election period.

The SPDC has purchased fifty Russian-made Mi-24 modern attack helicopters and twelve Mi-2 military transport helicopters to be used in civil war. The War Office has ordered all regional commanders to report to Naypyidaw by September 30 for an emergency meeting on national defense and security.

The SPDC carried on shuffling military posts which began in August. It handed over the post of President of Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd. to Adjutant-General Maj. Gen. Khin Zaw Oo. The post was previously held by former Chief of Defense Industries Lt. Gen. Tin Aye who was retired from army in August. According to military sources, more than 100 mid-level military officers such as Deputy Regional Commanders, Division Commanders, MOC Commanders and Tactical Commanders continued to be reshuffled in September. Deputy Commander of NEC Brig. Win Thein was moved to MOC 16 as Commander while MOC 16 Commander became Principal of Mankat-based Advanced Military Training School

No. 8. NEC G-1 Lt. Col. Min Oo became Tactical Operations Commander in LID 99, and Rangoon Command G-1 Lt. Col. Soe Thura became Tactical Operations Commander in Kutkai, NEC, in place of Col. Min Thein who was transferred to the Military Technology Institute in Thabeikkyin as its Principal.

SPDC members Thura U Shwe Mann, Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and U Thein Sein would contest in the elections from new constituencies in Naypyidaw District like Zayarthiri, Pobbathiri and Zabbuthiri townships where there are no inhabitants yet. As an act of drumming up support for USDP candidates in Naypyidaw constituencies, the SPDC sold Kyat 500,000 worth mobile phones to campaign organizers and civil servants. SPDC crony business tycoon Zaygabar U Khin Shwe who is going to run for election from Twantay, Kawt-hmoo and Kunchangone townships as a USDP candidate disclosed on September 6 that he has spent over 1000 million Kyats for public development works. The SPDC has assigned USDP candidates cum businessmen U Win Myint, U Khin Shwe and U Htay Myint to form a trade union, and SPDC officials were visiting the ILO office in Rangoon to discuss cooperation on the matter, an ILO office staff said on September 17.

There were bombings in Muse and Pegu in September. On September 21<sup>st</sup> night, a bomb went off in front of the Royal Night Club in Muse but injuring no one. A time bomb also blew up at the election commission office in Pegu Oatthar Myothit, damaging much but there were no casualties. News of impending bomb attacks upon SPDC top brass have prompted tightened security and more guest list checkups at night.

Though observers and opposition parties contesting in the coming elections believed that the USDP is certain to win majority votes, the SPDC leadership is not confident enough yet. In the 1990 election period, the SLORC army has fully backed the BSPP-turned-NUP but since Senior Gen. Than Shwe's ascension to power, he has set up his own USDA organization, attacked and rebuked the former BSPP and constantly kept former military officers cum NUP members under surveillance.

As the NUP becomes the main rival of the USDP in the coming elections of November, tensions palpably come up between the two sides centering on self-interests. Although the NUP leadership has not reproached the SPDC publicly yet, lower level members are openly swearing at SPDC military leaders, inside sources reported.

### **The socio-economic situation of the people**

Drought in Burma this year has caused shortage of water and consequent delay in rice planting. Heavy rains and resulting floods in early September also damaged a great number of rice fields. Pegu River swelled around Pegu City prompting flood relief work. Also in late September, Sedawlay Reservoir overflowed and inundated nearby villages. Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad was submerged and cut off for three days resulting in doubling of consumer prices in Myitkyina.

Military regime's closure of Myawaddy border trade route for three months has caused a steep rise in consumer prices imported from Thailand with the return of black market border trade of smugglers. Authorities' tighter restriction of cargo load of trucks made higher freight charges and an increase in consumer prices. Forced porters to carry military equipment, forced labor, forced military recruitment and arbitrary taxations inside the country were posing the people with all kinds of hardships, resulting in a very low interest in military regime's elections and political parties. The Network for Human Rights Documentation (Burma) issued a report titled "Stomachs empty of food" on September 1, showing increasing



poverty of most people due to all sorts of human rights abuses and illogical taxation by the military regime.

As Thai authorities launched an operation to arrest illegal workers since August, illegal Burmese workers have to hide in the jungles. Thai employers even confiscated passports of legal workers and failed to pay out their full wages, causing strikes at some factories on Laotian border and in Maesod.

### **International Pressure**

The campaign to establish a UN Commission of Enquiry to investigate human rights violations committed by the SPDC military regime is gathering steam with eleven countries supporting the move by the end of September.

Canada agreed to the proposal to form the commission and would cooperate with world countries to that effect, Canadian Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon's spokesperson Katherine Loubier said on September 2. The Amnesty International urged the US government on September 3 to initiate the move. On September 6, Hungarian Foreign Minister Janos Maronyi stated his country's support for establishment of a commission. French representative Jean Baptiste Mattei attending the UN Human Rights Commission meeting announced French support for the move on 17<sup>th</sup>.

Dutch Foreign Minister Maxime Verhagen announced on 21<sup>st</sup> that the Netherlands supported the proposal. New Zealand government also decided to support the proposal on the same day and Lithuania voiced its support on 28<sup>th</sup>. Countries that have supported formation of a UN Commission of Enquiry are US, Australian, Canada, New Zealand, Britain, Slovakia, Hungary, Netherlands, Czech, France and Lithuania. UN Human Rights Special Rapporteur for Burma Tomas Ojea Quintana is going to report to the UN General Assembly about formation of an international commission of enquiry on October 24.

Because SPDC army's killing of two young men in Pegu on September 5 was another instance of Burmese military's human rights violations, facts about the matter were being collected, Quintana said on 7<sup>th</sup>. Former Czech President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Vaclav Havel wrote an article on 28<sup>th</sup> recommending UN initiative on Burmese issue.

Although Obama administration's engagement policy toward Burmese military regime has met with the doldrums, it got to be done long-term, US Under-Secretary of State Kurt Campbell asserted on 16<sup>th</sup>. US State Department spokesperson Mr. Mark Toner commented on 24<sup>th</sup> that the SPDC should not only let Daw Aung San Suu Kyi vote but also free her from house arrest and conduct meaningful dialogue. On September 25<sup>th</sup>, US President Obama urged the SPDC again to release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners so as to bring on national reconciliation. At the US House of Representatives session held on September 29, a joint committee of ruling Democrats and opposition Republicans moved a proposal denouncing SPDC elections.

British Prime Minister David Cameron asserted on 16<sup>th</sup> that SPDC's continued detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is unacceptable and added that Burma issue is important for Britain. British Foreign Minister William Hague commented on 17<sup>th</sup> that SPDC election is a sham election trying to perpetuate the military dictatorship. Also on the same day, Canadian Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon remarked that SPDC's dissolution of ten political parties was destruction of foundation for democracy.

American and ASEAN leaders stated on September 24 that the forthcoming elections in Burma need to be free and fair elections acceptable by world countries. UN Secretary-

General Mr. Ban Ki-Moon urged ASEAN leaders on 26<sup>th</sup> to help him push Burma on to the true road to democracy. Though world nations are opposing and repudiating SPDC military regime's human rights violations, neighboring China said on the first day of Senior Gen. Than Shwe's five-day visit to China that international human rights groups should not interfere in Burma's elections.

Despite international community's realization of SPDC's trying to hold a sham election and continue with the military dictatorship in another form, we found that there are few countries which would proclaim its rejection of 2010 election results in advance but more countries just want to wait and see.

***//End of Report /Sunday, October 10, 2010//***

***//End of Translation/Monday, October 18, 2010//***

Political Defiance Committee