

NDD-Documentation and Research Department



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Weekly Political Events Regarding the SPDC's Election (038/2010)

October 10 - October 16, 2010

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

A. ACTIVITIES ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEVELS

-There was a directive by Ministry of Industry 1 that all the director generals and managing directors are ban to travel abroad prior to the elections given the reason that all civil servants are busy in preparation of voting in the elections. The directive was signed by Superintendent U Myint Swe for the minister U Aung Thaung. (RFA 111010)

-An official of the Department of Corrections said that they have been preparing since 14th September 2010 to send the list of people who are being locked up or detained but who will be eligible to vote to the Union Election Commission. According to the list, over 6000 detainees will be eligible to vote in the elections. (Myanmar Times Vol.25, No.487 111010)

-A source close to local authorities of Muse District, Northern Shan State, said that setting up poll stations will be completed by 25th October 2010 as the elections nears. (S.H.A.N. 111010)

-Daw Bauk Ja, who has been assisting 17 farmers who sued Yuzana construction company for eviction of the farmers from their land without full compensation, said that a court in Phakant District of Kachin State has made a decision to exonerate Yuzana company chairman U Htay Myint from prosecution. U Htay Myint is contesting in the upcoming elections as one of the Union Solidarity and Development Party candidates. (DVB 121010)

-Since 5th September 2010, civil servants and migrant workers in Naypyidaw are being issued temporary IDs to enable them to vote at next month's election, U Khin Soe, deputy director of the Immigration and National Registration Department, Ministry of Immigration and Population said. (Myanmar Times Vol.25, No.487 111010)

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-A war veteran in Bamaw Township of Kachin State said that, before and during the elections time, all the Bureaus of Special Operations in states and divisions are working hard to ensure all the army families vote for Union Solidarity and Development Party , including improvement of how to manage rank-and-file complaints against superiors for unfair practices. (NEJ 141010)

-A Nam Kham resident said that the Union Solidarity and Development Party plans to hire people as their watchers at poll stations by paying 3000 kyat per person. Three persons per poll station will be assigned by the party in Nam Kham constituency. (S.H.A.N. 141010)

-Myanmar (Burma) Sewing Employers Association stated that Ministry of Industry 1 have ordered to garment factories in Rangoon to urgently produce the new country flag of Burma approved by the 2008 constitution. (RFA 151010)

-A Naypyidaw military officer said that all the state and division chief ministers for the new government have already been selected even before the elections has taken place. (NEJ 151010)

-The Irrawaddy Division Pyapon District Fishery Department staff were very happy that their in-charge U Myint Soe asked them not to vote for Union Solidarity and Development Party at a meeting held on 13th October, one of the meeting attendants said. (Yoma 3 15110)

-A ward office staff who does not wish to be identified said that civil servants and office staffs in the wards of Pa-an District were told to help local election commission and poll station duties in addition to their own. (KIC 151010)

-An advance voting for overseas Burmese in the Philippines took place on 16 October at Burmese Embassy in Manila, a Burmese who voted there said. (Irrawaddy 161010)

B. THE UNION ELECTION COMMISSION (UEC)

-The Mong Ton Township Election Commission, without giving a proper reason, excluded from eligible voters list over a thousand Wa people from Nam Hu Khun Village Tract and Huay Aw Village Tract of Pungpahkyem sub District of Mong Ton Township constituency 2, a Wa village head said. (S.H.A.N. 121010)

-Karen State Election Commission Chairperson U Saw Aung Pwint said that people in Karen State have right to vote freely for any political party they wish to vote. (KIC 141010)

-The Department of Corrections and Union Election Commission are discussing the release of prisoners in the lead up to the November 7 election to enable them to do advance voting, a correction department official said. (Irrawaddy 161010)

C. THE UNION SOLIDARITY AND DEVELOPMENT PARTY(USDP)

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-Sources from USDP said that there are conflicts between the leaders of party top and township levels on selection of election candidates for the party. (Irrawaddy 111010)

-A local villager said that there are many job vacancies in schools and education department of Demawhso and Hpruso Townships of Karenni (Kayah) State due to the staff leaving their jobs to join the USDP. (KT 111010)

-The USDP Namkham Township organizing committee members led by U Chit Tin asked all civil servants in the township to vote for "lion" - the logo of USDP. They also took notes of civil servant ID numbers and home addresses in apparent intimidation, a civil servant said. (Palaung Land 111010)

-A staff of Income Tax Department said that USDP election candidates came to canvass for votes to ensure victory in the upcoming polls at government offices in Rangoon. (Irrawaddy 1210110)

-Civil servants said that USDP produced campaign leaflets, newsletters, hats and T-shirts with USDP logo including USDP flags free of charge using SPDC Ministry of Information equipment and garment factories under the supervision of the SPDC Ministry of Industry-1. (Irrawaddy 121010)

-A Rangoon Election Commission official confirmed that in some constituencies, USDP candidates will definitely be elected due to no rival contestants from other political parties. (NEJ 121010)

-Letpanchaung villagers in Kale Township of Sagaing Division said that the donation of 100,000 kyat and 200 bags of cement made to a sub-high school by USDP was intended to win hearts and minds of local people. They also said that donation came from state funds. (Khonumthung 121010)

-A Maei resident of Sandoway District in Arakan State said that USDP summoned local villagers from some townships in Arakan State to schools and offered alcoholic drinks and food as canvassing tools to persuade them to vote for the USDP. (Irrawaddy 131010)

-Muslims from Minglataungnyunt Township said that a Islam preacher U Ali urged over 1500 prayers at the Yaungnath mosque at a regular Fridays prayer service to vote for the USDP. (Irrawaddy 131010)

-The USDP organizers and Ward Election Commission members including ward authorities in Rangoon Division Dagon four satellite Townships discussed over five options for securing advance votes as instructed by the USDP party headquarters. (BBC 131010)

-A Rangoon Division USDP official said that they have mounted campaign posters of party election candidates in respective constituencies across Burma including eight townships in Naypyidaw and several townships in Rangoon. (Irrawaddy 131010)

-The USDP officials in various townships of Rangoon Division discussed five options for securing advance votes from civil servants, soldiers and junta-backed civic organizations to ensure their victory in the upcoming elections, according to a USDP township official. (Irrawaddy 131010)

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-The Democratic Party (Myanmar) Syriam Township election candidate U Soe Kyi said that despite his party complaint against USDP's use of similar canvassing cards to his party there has been no clear response or action taken by the district election commission. (BBC 141010)

-Yedwinaung villagers of Aungchantha Village Tract, Khamaukgyi Township, Tenasserim Division said that, on 13 October 2010, Tenasserim Division Kawthaung Township USDP organizers collected advance ballots from every household in their village. (DVB 141010)

-The USDP and local authorities are working together to buy votes and canvassing for the elections in the townships of Rangoon and Irrawaddy Divisions as well as in Arakan State, locals said. (Irrawaddy 141010)

-Rohingya people from Maungdaw and Butheedaung Townships in Arakan State said that they were forced to buy party membership cards from USDP organizers. (Irrawaddy 141010)

-Thinganjon Township residents of Rangoon Division were forcefully summoned by USDP officials for the party canvassing purposes. (DVB 151010)

-Pegu Division Prome District police battalion No. 10 rejected the instruction from their superiors to vote for USDP, policemen from the battalion said. (BBC 151010)

-Army family members said that army battalions under military commands are instructed to vote for USDP. (BBC 151010)

-Rangoon Mayor, Ex Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, a leading member of the USDP, is facing a challenge from independent candidate Kaung Myint Htut, 35, who is a former political prisoner, Kaung Myint Htut said. (Irrawaddy 141010)

-A Kokang Democracy and Unity Party (KDUP) member who did not wish to be identified said that his party has the support of more than half of the population of Lashio in Northern Shan State and if their party won in the elections then it will merge with the USDP. (S.H.A.N. 151010)

-A Hsenwi resident in Shan State North said that the USDP, during their election campaigning in Hsenwi, pledged that they would protect the locals from the regime army's intimidation and bullying. (S.H.A.N. 151010)

-A local from Meikhtila of Mandalay Division said that locals show no interest in upcoming elections despite the USDP mounting sign boards and carrying out election campaign. (Yoma 3 151010)

-Mingla Market in Minglataungnyunt Township which was damaged by a fire on 24 of May is allowed to reopen after the inspection by Rangoon mayor and USDP election candidate U Aung Thein Lin, a shop owner said. One of the shop owners at the market reportedly told the mayor that they will vote for the USDP. (RFA 161010)

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OPPOSITION FORCES

A. FORCES INSIDE BURMA

NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR DEMOCRACY (NLD)

-The NLD Vice Chairperson U Tin Oo urged the Burmese people in Singapore who gathered to pay respects to him at Tobaroo Buddhist monastery to closely monitor the situation in Burma. U Tin Oo was in Singapore to receive eye operation. (RFA 101010)

-U Nyan Win, the lawyer of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, said that she may not be included in the prisoners release prior to the elections on November 7 as news media reported. (RFA 111010)

-NLD Central Leading Committee member U Ohn Kyaing and delegation had a meeting with local members of Nyaung Shwe Township, Shan State, at Dr. U Htun Hlaing's house in Nyaung Shwe and discussed the party's campaign for an election boycott. (DVB 111010)

-Pegu Division Zeegon Township NLD Chairperson Daw Khin Wine said that they have carried out a T-shirt and photo campaign which tells people they have the right not to vote in the elections. Burmese regime foreign minister U Nyan Win is contesting in Zeegon Township constituency. (Mizzima 121010)

-After being informed by the authorities that she could vote in the upcoming elections, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has refused to vote on the grounds that under Burmese election law it will be illegal for her to vote, her lawyer U Nyan Win said. (VOA 121010)

-The Committee Representing People's Parliament (CRPP) Secretary U Aye Tha Aung said that the CRPP is participating in NLD's election boycott campaign trip to Kachin State and plans to meet with cease-fire ethnic groups. (RFA 131010)

-The NLD Central Executive Committee member U Ohn Kyaing said that he and the members of NLD spoke about the elections boycott campaign in 12 Townships in Mandalay Division at the NLD Mandalay Division Chairperson U Thein Dan's residence on October 13th. (DVB 131010)

-The NLD lawyer U Nyan Win said that there was an internal statement issued stating the party is still legal because the case filed at the Burma's high court has been accepted. (VOA 141010)

-Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told her lawyers that she disagreed with statements that the upcoming election is the only way for democratisation in the Burma, her attorney U Nyan Win said.

-U Aye Myint, head of a human rights NGO called Guiding Star, has constantly criticized and attacked NLD leaders particularly with their position on boycotting the elections. (RFA 151010)

-Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's attorney U Nyan Win said that some major western countries may have different opinions regarding upcoming elections in Burma but he hoped that their fundamental policies on Burma will not be changed. (VOA 151010)

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B. ARMED ETHNIC GROUPS

-Pado Saw Hte Nay of Karen National Union (KNU) said that KNU Brigade 6 ambushed SPDC Infantry Battalion 32 near Tasu village between Khone Khan and Taung Zun villages in Three Pagoda Pass border crossing and SPDC suffered casualties: 3 dead, 1 wounded. (Kaowao 131010)

C. FORCES OUTSIDE BURMA

-Ko Nyein Chan Lin of Burma Refugees Council (BRC) said that they have staged a demonstration in front of the Burmese Embassy in Bangkok on 10th of October to boycott Burma's 2010 elections. (DVB 101010)

-Assistant Association for Political Prisoners - Burma (AAPPB) Joint Secretary Ko Bo Kyi said that there has been no official statement by the military regime regarding the news about its plan to release prisoners ahead of November elections to enable them to vote. (BBC 111010)

-On 14th October, 2010, on the occasion of the 22nd founding anniversary of Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS), party joint general secretary U Ngwe Lin said that the best way to boycott military regime's sham elections is a no show at the poll stations. (RFA 141010)

-On 15th October 2010, the Mass Movement for Anti Dictatorship Committee sent a letter to urge the Japanese government to support a United Nations Commission of Inquiry to investigate war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Burmese military regime. (RFA 151010)

-Kachin National Union General Secretary U Khun Hsa said that Burma democracy organisations including ethnic groups in Britain are collecting signatures supporting a campaign to boycott the 2010 elections in Burma. (DVB 151010)

CEASEFIRE GROUPS

A. GROUPS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO BORDER GUARD FORCES

-In Myawaddy, a Thailand-Burma border town, the tension between the SPDC authorities and the cease-fire group Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) battalion 902 led by Lt. Col. Kyaw Thet rose to the level of preparing to attack each other, a DKBA battalion 902 commander said. (KIC 121010)

-The house of Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) Vice Chairperson Lt. Gen. N Bang La Awng was searched for unregistered household members by local police led by Superintendent Soe Min Oo and ward authorities, the neighbours said. (Mizzima 141010)

-The Mon Peace Defense Front, a splinter Mon group, said that they haven't been able to finalise the terms with SPDC regarding the transformation of their troops to a militia type. (NEJ 141010)

-The October 15th issued state-run newspapers described the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO), a cease-fire group, as "insurgents" in a report blaming the KIO military wing Kachin Independence Army

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(KIA) for a mine blast which killed two civilians and injured one in Kachin State on Wednesday. (RFA 151010)

-Cease-fire group Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) Deputy In-Charge for Foreign Affairs James Lun Dau said that the state run newspapers description of KIO as "insurgents" meant the cease-fire period between and the KIO and the military regime is over. (KNG 151010)

POLITICAL PARTIES

POLITICAL PARTIES ALLOWED TO CONTEST IN THE ELECTIONS

-National Democratic Front (NDF) Chairperson Dr. Than Nyein said in a policy address while canvassing for votes through State Radio and TV to contest in the upcoming elections that the elections would be a 'first step' towards democracy (VOA 111010)

-National Democratic Front (NDF) Chairperson Dr. Than Nyein said that some election candidates plan to erect sign posts to advertise their candidacy within the Rangoon municipality area after they were informed by the Rangoon Division Election Commission. (Mizzima 111010)

-Ward Election Commission members in Minglataungnyunt Township asked for money from Democratic Party (Myanmar) members when they were gathering voters list in the township from the commission. So they have lodged a complaint on 11 October to the Union Election Commission, the party chairperson U Thu Wai said. (DVB 111010)

-On 11 October, 2010, Shan Nationals Democratic Party (SNDP) Chairperson Sai Aik Pau denied that they were receiving money from a Burmese business tycoon and a close associate of Burmese military regime U Hla Maung Shwe. DVB 111010)

-A news report that revealed donations by a Burmese business tycoon and a close associate of military in Burma caused problems within the six parties alliance that was created to shore up opposition support prior to elections. U Aung Than, Chairperson of the Democracy and Peace Party (DPP), one of the six parties in the alliance, said it would have a long term effect on the alliance. (Irrawaddy 111010)

-An ethnic Mon singer from Gita Mon music band who wished not to be identified said that they have refused to record party campaign songs for the All Mon Region Democracy Party (AMRDP) because they don't want to be used by politicians. (Kaowao 111010)

-The Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party election candidate Nan Hsay Awa said that they have erected their party sign post on Saturday the October 9th in front of their party office in Pa-an, Karen State. (KIC 111010)

-A Kachin political analyst Awng Wa said that National Democratic Front (NDF) election candidate U Ma Hka will compete with current Minister for Communication and Union Solidarity and Development Party election candidate U Thein Zaw in Myitkyina constituency in Kachin State. (NMG 121010)

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-Democratic Party (Myanmar) North Dagon Township election candidate U Than Zaw Aung said that their party members are going door to door to canvass for votes due to high election campaign costs particularly renting places for gathering people. (BBC 121010)

-On October 12, 2010, the National Democratic Force (NDF) released a statement denying the accusation that the party was receiving money from a business tycoon and military regime close associate U Hla Maung Shwe. The statement was released at their party office on Kyaikasan road in Tarmwe Township of the Rangoon Division. (RFA 121010)

-The National Democratic Force (NDF) election campaign activities were prohibited in some parts of Myitkyina, Kachin State by local authorities instructed by Kachin State Election Commission, NDF party candidate U Ma Hka said. (KNG 131010)

-A Lahu patriot said that the Lahu National Development Party (LNDP) was recently threatened by junta officials to step up its election campaign or more townships (either whole or parts) would be removed from the constituency list. (S.H.A.N 131010)

-An election candidate from Kayin State Democracy and Development Party (KSDDP) who wished not to be identified said that they will field four candidates to contest for the seats of Karen State National Assembly in the upcoming elections. (KIC 131010)

-National Democratic Front (NDF) election candidate U Ma Hka said that two NDF ethnic Kachin candidates will compete against former army officers who served in Kachin State for the Myitkyina and Phakant Township constituencies parliamentary seats. (NEJ 131010)

-The Democracy and Peace Party (DPP) Chairperson U Aung Than said that they held an emergency meeting and decided to “temporarily suspended” itself from the six-party alliance after learning that the National Democratic Force (NDF) which is part of the pact is receiving money from a business tycoon and close associate to the military regime. (Mizzima 131010)

-Democratic Party (Myanmar) Chairperson U Thu Wai admitted that it is not possible to dispatch its people to monitor whether the elections is free and fair in every poll stations except the area that the party is contesting due to financial constraints. He also said that despite elections is close to take place, many political parties still do not have clear information about the number of poll stations, voters list, and advance voting procedures. (BBC 131010)

-Democratic Party (Myanmar) election candidate Daw Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein who is contesting in Kyobingauk Township of the Pegu Division said that they even have to travel on motor cycles from one village to another for their party campaign due to financial constraints. (DVB 131010)

-Kokang Democracy and Unity Party (KDUP) members has been educating eligible ethnic Kokang Chinese voters in the wards number 2, 7, 8, and 12 of Lashio, Shan State North, with sample ballots, a local Shan-Chinese woman said. (S.H.A.N 141010)

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-Difference and Peace Party (DPP) General Secretary U Nay Myo Wai said that their party has been canvassing for votes for the upcoming elections with posters says there will be freedom to represent peoples' voices in the new parliament which will emerge after the elections. (DVB 141010)

-There is small interest of the people on the elections despite political parties' ongoing canvassing for vote through print and broadcasting media. (VOA 151010)

-National Democratic Force (NDF) Chairperson Dr. Than Nyein said that their party were disturbed by local authorities and local election commissions while canvassing for vote. (Mizzima 161010)

INDIVIDUALS PREPARING TO CONTEST IN THE ELECTIONS

-An independent election candidate U Ba Tint Swe said that, on October 10th, they have set up the main office of independent election candidates in North Oakalapa Township of Rangoon Division. (DVB 121010)

-Rangoon Division North Oakalapa Township independent election candidate U Ba Tint Swe said that independent candidates are facing a lot of difficulties when canvassing for votes among the people. (VOA 141010)

SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

-On 10 October, a group of activists wore T-shirts expressed "You have the right not to vote" in public in Zeegon Township of Pegu Division, a participant said. (DVB 121010)

-People are not interested in political parties canvassing for votes through state radio and television, local youth and civil servants in Rangoon said. (Mizzima 121010)

-A Loilem resident said that people locked their houses and went out when USDP carried out election campaigns in the Loilem Township. (S.H.A.N 131010)

-A Burmese business tycoon U Hla Maung Shwe denied the news posting that he has funded political parties including National Democratic Force, in Myanmar Post. (EMG 131010)

-A Tharyawaddy resident said that the signboards of USDP in Tharyawaddy Township were painted with red and also graffitied with "We don't like USDP". (RFA 141010)

-Rangoon residents said that campaign leaflets featuring Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's photo and the slogans "People have the right not to vote" and "No one should force you to cast an advance vote" are distributed in Kyaukdadar, Panbaedan, and Latha Townships of Rangoon Division. (NEJ 141010)

-Statements opposing USDP and elections were painted on government offices signboards and other signboards at public places were seen in Thonehsae and Tharyawaddy of Pegu Division, a local said. (Irrawaddy 141010)

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RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

-On 13th October 2010, a Burmese Buddhist monk Rev. Awbasa who is residing in Auckland, New Zealand, urged two New Zealand parliamentarians not to recognize Burmese military regime elections. (RFA 141010)

ROLE OF MEDIA

-The Editors of Burma's biggest news journals such as 7 Day News, Modern, Eleven, and People's Era said that they won't publish political parties' campaign ads in their journals. (Irrawaddy 131010)

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A. THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

-The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Sec-Gen Surin Pitsuwan has called on Burma's military regime to ensure the coming elections help lead to national reconciliation. (VOA 131010)

-On 15th October, at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon said that he is frustrated by the Burmese military regime on their refusal to release Burma's democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners before November elections. (RFA 161010)

B. GOVERNMENTS

-During a visit to Burma, Thailand Prime Minister Abhisit Vijajiva has conveyed a number of concerns expressed by the international community about the upcoming elections particularly by the European Commission and UN Sec-Gen when he had meetings with Burma's Sr. Gen. Than Shwe and Prime Minister Thein Sein, Thai Government Deputy Spokesperson Dr. Marut Masrawanit said. (BBC 121010)

-The New Zealand Parliament Cross-party parliamentary group on Burma Chairperson Maryan Street said that the parliament unanimously passed a motion calling on Burma's military regime to release all political prisoners and to hold free and fair elections and to allow freedom of association. (VOA 131010)

-The United State government hopes that whatever government emerges from general elections in Burma will proceed along a new path and will continue to push for a dialogue and remain engaged with a wide range of countries on Burma, U.S. State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley said in a press conference. (RFA 131010)

-On 13th October 2010, Japanese Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamahana Ikuo received a delegation of Burma democracy activists in Japan who presented a paper by the Burma democracy movement explaining its position to oppose 2010 elections, a participant Ko Myant Thu said. (DVB 131010)

-Dr. Win Naing, Chairperson of NLD-Liberated Area (United Kingdom), said that Jared Genser, President of Freedom Now and Partner at DLA Piper LLP told British Parliament Lower House Committee that the

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current policy of US President Obama on Burma had articulated the right goals but just hasn't been effective in practice. (BBC 141010)

-On 14 October, Japanese Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Yamahana Ikuo told Burma activists in Japan that it would be difficult not to recognize election results of another country, but that they would have to first see how it goes. (Mizzima 141010)

C. NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

-Despite his retirement from public life he will continue to support democratisation in Burma, Archbishop Desmond Tutu said. (RFA 111010)

-During a program of panel on Burmese elections during the Forum 2000 Conference in Prague, Czech Republic, Burmese panelists discussed about Burma's elections and the fundamental flaws in the military constitution, one of the panelists Cheery Zahau of Human Rights Education Institute of Burma said. (RFA 121010)

-Ethnic women interns of Thailand based Altsean-Burma have released three campaign songs to oppose military regime's elections in Burma, ethnic Kachin woman Hseng Mai who is one of the interns said. (RFA 121010)

-Human Rights Watch urges Indonesian government to publicly support a United Nations Commission of Inquiry in Burma to investigate military regime human rights violations in the country. (RFA 161010)

End of report/ Saturday, October 16, 2010

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