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Mr. Timothy Geithner
Secretary of Treasury
U.S. Department of Treasury

By Mail, Fax and Email

BURMA: Targeted Sanctions on the Cronies in Burma

Dear Secretary Geithner,

It has now been more than 100 days since Burma's ruling regime began its pretense at democracy and shed the moniker the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). Yet nothing has changed, about 2,000 political prisoners remain behind bars, human rights abuses continue unabated, attacks against ethnic resistance groups persist and no steps have been taken towards creating a tri-partite dialogue for national reconciliation with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the democratic opposition and ethnic nationalities. Burma's military regime undertook this exercise to redesign its image in an attempt to convince countries to lift sanctions without giving up any power. It is time the United States send a clear message that the pretense of democracy is no democracy at all. It is imperative that the United States employ the levers of pressure at its disposal and pursue increased targeted financial and banking sanctions.

The Tom Lantos Block Burmese JADE Act of 2008 authorized the U.S. government to impose targeted financial sanctions on former and present leaders and officials of Burma's ruling regime, current or former officials of the security services and judicial institutions of the regime, and **any other Burmese persons, who provide substantial economic and political support for the regime**, as well as their family members. The Department of Treasury has added names and entities of the Burmese persons under targeted sanctions in its Specially Designated Nationals (SDN) list. However, the cronies targeted by the Department of Treasury are much fewer in number than those who are sanctioned by the governments of Australia and the European Union. Many of the regime's business cronies are still exempt from U.S. targeted financial sanctions.

As stated in the JADE Act, the financial sanctions should target cronies who provide the regime with economic and political support. This should include propaganda support used for political purposes. In addition to the regime-owned newspapers, TVs, and radio stations, and control over the Internet, the regime allows some of its business cronies to set up media companies, and produce publications as well

as broadcasting of FM radio stations, carrying and promoting the regime's propaganda work. These publications and broadcasters portray the military as the one and only political entity that can save the country from disintegration, they regularly attack Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the democracy movement as puppets of western powers, denounce international pressure on the regime as unfair and biased, and praise China, Russia and Cuba as true friends of Burma.

We have attached a partial list of names of the regime's cronies whom should be targeted by the Department of Treasury for your information and action.

Burma's regime leaders, the military and its proxy party, the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), do not run the country alone. They are fully supported by business cronies who are allowed control over entire sectors of the country's economy, trade, and natural resources in exchange for allegiance and wealth-sharing with the generals. They are like Ruhr industrialist Fritz Thyssen, who supported and funded Hitler and his Nazi party in Germany before the Second World War. The United States should identify cronies like Fritz Thyssen in Burma and impose financial and banking sanctions on them. This has the potential to be the most effective way to cut off the economic lifeline of the current and retired generals ruling Burma and further prevent them from stealing from the people of Burma.

Best regards,



Aung Din
Executive Director
U.S. Campaign for Burma

Enclosed: A partial list of Burmese cronies who should be targeted, prepared by the USCB

Copies sent to:

- (1) House Committee on Foreign Affairs, through Chairwoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen and Ranking Member Howard Berman
- (2) Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, through Chairman John Kerry and Ranking Member Richard Lugar
- (3) Ms. Hillary Clinton, Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State
- (4) Mr. Thomas E. Donilon, National Security Adviser
- (5) Original co-sponsors of the JADE Act, Senators Mitch McConnell, Dianne Feinstein, John McCain, Richard Durbin, Representatives Joseph Crowley, Peter King and Donald Manzullo
- (6) Mr. Adam Szubin, Director, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of Treasury
- (7) Media