

**United Nationalities Alliance (UNA)
Rangoon, Burma (Myanmar)**

Date: 20 February 2009

**Special Announcement on
National Reconciliation and Democratization in Burma/Myanmar, Rejecting
the Regime's 2010 Election**

We, United Nationalities Alliance (UNA), a coalition of 12 ethnic political parties in Burma which contested and won (67) seats altogether in the 1990 general elections, today announce our position on national reconciliation and democratization in our country. We also make suggestions to the United Nations and the international community as follows.

(1) We strongly believe that the current political, social and economic crises in Burma can only be solved through a meaningful and time-bound dialogue between the ruling military regime, known as State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), the National League for Democracy (NLD) party led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and the representatives of ethnic nationalities. With this belief, we have consistently asked the SPDC to engage in a dialogue immediately and start an all-parties inclusive process of national reconciliation and democratization for the sake of country and the people of Burma, who deserve to live in peace and prosperity.

(2) However, the SPDC still ignores our requests, and instead has embarked on its own path of consolidating its powers and building a permanent dictatorship in Burma with a sham constitution, forcibly and illegally adopted in 2008, and a sham election, claimed to be held in 2010.

(3) The 2008 Constitution was written by a group of the regime's handpicked delegates through the on-off national convention process, which lasted over 13 years. It is designed to place supreme power in the hands of the military Commander-in-Chief. In addition to reserving 25% of seats in the Parliaments at every administrative level for military personnel, executive, judiciary and legislative powers are also vested in the military. The Constitution denies the fundamental rights of the people and makes ethnic nationalities to be the subordinates of the Burman majority. This Constitution, if it comes alive through the 2010 election, could not produce any positive outcome, but it would push our country towards total chaos.


(4) Therefore, we support the demands made by the National League for Democracy party, calling for the SPDC to release all political prisoners, to review and revise the Constitution and to engage in a meaningful and time-bound dialogue with election winning parties and ethnic representatives, without further delay.

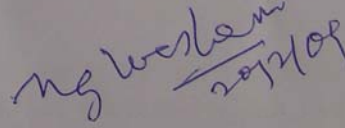
(5) We also reaffirm our position that until and unless the military regime shows its sincere will to make positive changes and start an all-parties inclusive process of democratization and national reconciliation, we will not participate in the 2010 election and we will not recognize that election as legitimate.

(6) We also urge the United Nations and the international community to refrain from supporting the regime's unilateral roadmap and planned election. The United Nations Security Council and the international community should apply effective pressure on the regime to abandon its plan to create a permanent military dictatorship in Burma, and to instead engage in a meaningful and time-bound dialogue with the National League for Democracy party, and ethnic representatives, to find a negotiated political settlement to build a democratic, prosperous, and better Burma.

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