



Federation of Trade Unions-Burma

Responsibilities & Rights

International Contact
Burma Office - Japan
101-0062
3F, Sohyo Kaikan
3-2-11, Kanda-Surugadai
Chiyoda-Ku Tokyop Japan
Te: 81 3 5296 3010
Fax: 81 3 5296 7903

Announcement of the election date on 7th November 2010 is only a diversion.

The Federation of Trade Unions- Burma urges the international community to recognize that the State Peace and Development Council's announcement of elections on the 7th November 2010 is a diversion meant to draw internal and international attention away from the current economic and social crisis within Burma and the unrest within the military.

Although the military regime announced that its sham elections will be held in 2010, in practice, there are many obstacles the SPDC must address before it can undertake elections.

First, while the international community has been urging the military to hold inclusive elections, the electoral and governance structures established by the 2008 constitution and the restrictive political party registration laws prohibit political engagement by the National League for Democracy (NLD) and other prominent political parties.

Second, ethnic groups that previously signed ceasefire agreements with the SPDC have refused the SPDC's efforts to force them to join the proposed Border Guard Force, and many ethnic nationalities have announced that they will not allow any voting in their area.

Third, the regime is also facing major financial difficulties. These financial difficulties have sparked conflicts within the armed forces, some of which have been reported by the Burmese media. The primary issue is that the SPDC misused the savings of the soldiers for unwise business ventures, and now the SPDC is unable to return funds to the soldiers.

The SPDC has a number of objectives in announcing the elections:

- 1) Plan to solidify the troops by launching military attacks against those who refuse to join the BGF;
- 2) To divert domestic and international attention away from the unrest within the military;
- 3) To use the time to print currency notes to appease those in the military who are asking for savings to be returned;
- 4) To divide and annihilate the ethnics by ordering the same nationalities who became BGF to attack these who refuse to join.
- 5) To divert the attention of their nuclear ambitions being implemented with N Korea, China and Russia.

The FTUB calls upon the people of Burma and the international community to not be fooled or diverted by the SPDC's election date. The Burmese people and the international community must continue to press on the respective issues, boycott the election so that the basic rights are respected and restored and dialogue for an inclusive political process is reached.

Contact phone number - 1 202 352 7884