



Global Campaign Against  
**Burma's 2010 Military Elections**

## About the Campaign

*For public distribution*

### **Campaign Goal:**

For key international governments and intergovernmental bodies to:

#### **Denounce the military elections and refuse to recognize the results unless the junta changes course and meets the minimum benchmarks:**

1. The unconditional release of all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi
2. Cessation of attacks against ethnic communities and democracy activists
3. Inclusive dialogue with key stakeholders from democracy groups and ethnic nationalities, including a review of the 2008 Constitution

#### **Initiated by the Ten Alliances of Burma's democracy and ethnic rights movement:**

National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB)  
Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB)  
National Democratic Front (NDF)  
National League for Democracy – Liberated Area (NLD-LA)  
Members of Parliamentary Union (MPU)  
National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB)  
Forum for Democracy in Burma (FDB)  
Women's League of Burma (WLB)  
Students and Youth Congress of Burma (SYCB)  
Nationalities Youth Forum (NYF)

Endorsed by over 150 organizations worldwide (see Annex 1 for the full list).

*Campaign Secretariat: Burma Partnership*

### **Key Messages:**

**The international community must stand with the people of Burma and denounce these military elections for what they are—a thinly veiled attempt to legitimize continued military rule.**

Burma's movement for democracy and ethnic rights has continued to push for solutions—**key benchmarks that the junta must meet to ensure truly democratic progress in Burma**, without which these elections will not be a step forward. They include:

1. The unconditional release of all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi;
2. Cessation of hostilities against ethnic groups and pro-democracy forces; and,
3. Inclusive dialogue with key stakeholders from democracy groups and ethnic nationalities, including a review of the 2008 Constitution.

Without meeting these minimum benchmarks, the 2010 elections will only serve to solidify the junta's rule over the people of Burma and sow the seeds for further instability and conflict.

The regime's **new election laws**, which ban the most viable leaders of Burma's democratic and ethnic opposition, are a clear signal of its disregard for the movement's benchmarks, as well as global calls for free, fair, and inclusive elections. This is why Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy and other major democratic and ethnic parties have taken the difficult but courageous stand not to participate in this flawed process.

### **Our Calls:**

Now that key opposition leaders and parties inside Burma have determined these elections are too flawed to take part in, it is more imperative than ever that those outside of Burma raise their

voices in support. **We call on the international community to denounce these military elections and refuse to recognize the results unless the junta changes course and meets the minimum benchmarks.** Global governments can no longer afford to take a “wait-and-see” approach as to whether the regime will meet its promises for “free and fair” elections. Governments must apply pressure on the regime for there to be any substantive changes.

We also call for a UN Commission of Inquiry into crimes against humanity and war crimes in Burma, as supported by the UN Special Rapporteur for human rights in Burma. The time for investigation is now, as more human rights violations are being committed by the regime in the lead up to the elections. These violations are likely to continue and even worsen following the elections, through which the 2008 Constitution will be enacted, guaranteeing the regime immunity for past and future crimes.

### **Why a global campaign?**

We know that peaceful and democratic change will only come from inside Burma, and we continue to see an incredible range of resistance from all communities—from villagers refusing to cooperate with increased military presence in their communities to urban students distributing pro-democracy leaflets at great personal risk. They are working towards change through any and all means with the little political space available.

**Despite the people's sincere desire for democratic elections, the regime's intentions are clear: these elections are not aimed at resolving Burma's crises or responding to the needs of the people, but are being undertaken to increase the junta's credibility internationally.** The success of the regime's elections will depend on cooperation and the legitimacy lent by Burma's neighbors and friends. The international community can therefore play a unique role, supporting efforts inside, to push the regime to make substantive and positive change towards genuine democracy for Burma.

*For more background on key messages see the Ten Alliances' position paper "Stealing Democracy."*

### **Background, Consultation and Coordination:**

The ten leading alliances of Burma's democracy and ethnic rights movement initiated this campaign and called on supporters to join them at their 14<sup>th</sup> Strategic Consultation Meeting held in November 2009. Shortly thereafter, the Foreign Affairs Coordinating Team of the alliances discussed the campaign with Burma and non-Burma groups at the Regional Strategy Meeting (RSM) jointly organized by Burma Partnership and Altsean-Burma in Bangkok in November 2009.

After the RSM, the alliances, through the facilitation of Burma Partnership, held consultation meetings with political and issue-based organizations (e.g. health, education, environment) along the Thai-Burma border (Sankhlaburi, Mae Sot, Chiang Mai, and Mae Hong Son) between November 2009 and February 2010, receiving their suggestions and support for the campaign.

Burma Partnership (BP) was asked to serve as Campaign Secretariat. BP prepared a campaign concept paper for the alliances to consult with BP working group members and regional campaign partners. Then BP, as the Campaign Secretariat, consulted with international and regional Burma support groups and called for campaign endorsements in February and March 2010. Initiated by the Ten Alliances of the movement, this campaign has now been endorsed by over 150 Burma and non-Burma groups on the borders and globally, with a high concentration of groups from the Asia-Pacific region.

## Campaign Launch

On 19 March, following the regime's release of undemocratic election laws, the Ten Alliances of Burma's movement for democracy and rights of ethnic nationalities and over 150 endorsing organizations worldwide formally launched the Global Campaign at a press conference in Bangkok (see the press release, endorsing organizations, and photos [here](#)). Speakers included Naw Zipporah Sein, General Secretary of the Karen National Union, U Thein Oo, MP-Elect of the NLD and Secretary of Members of Parliament Union, and Ma Khin Ohmar, Foreign Affairs Secretary of the Forum for Democracy in Burma, member of the alliances' Foreign Affairs Coordinating Team, and BP Coordinator.

There was an impressive turnout—including members of civil society, media, and government—and media coverage ranged from exile media ([Irrawaddy](#) and [Mizzima](#)), to international wires ([Associated Press](#) and [UPI](#)), to national publications in various languages (i.e. [Angola Press](#) and the [Bangkok Post](#)). Much of the coverage focused on Naw Zipporah Sein's remarks regarding the [impact of the elections on ethnic people and possible renewed conflict](#).

Updates on the campaign will be available shortly on the new website. To subscribe to the mailing list, please e-mail [burma2010elections@gmail.com](mailto:burma2010elections@gmail.com)

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## Annex 1:

### Global Campaign Against Burma's 2010 Military Elections

Alliance Organizations & Endorsing Organizations as of 29 April 2010

#### Ten Alliances of Burma's democracy and ethnic rights movement & member organizations

National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB)

Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB)

- Arakan Liberation Party (ALP)
- All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF)
- All Burma Muslim Union (ABMU)
- All Burma Young Monks' Union (ABYMU)
- Chin National Front (CNF)
- Committee for Restoration of Democracy in Burma (CRDB)
- Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS)
- Democratic Party for Arakan (DPA)
- Federation of Trade Unions - Burma (FTUB)
- Karen National Union (KNU)
- Lahu Democratic Front (LDF)
- Muslim Liberation Organization of Burma (MLOB)
- Myeik Dawei United Front (MDUF)
- Naga National League for Democracy (NNLD)
- Network for Democracy and Development (NDD)
- Palaung State Liberation Organization (PSLF)
- Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO)
- Wa National Organization (WNO)
- Overseas Burmese Liberation Front (OBLF)
- Overseas Karen Organization (OKO)
- People's Patriotic Party (PPP)

- People's Liberation Front (PLF)
- People's Progressive Front (PPF)
- People's Defence Force (PDF)

National Democratic Front

- Arakan Liberation Party (ALP)
- Chin National Front (CNF)
- Lahu Democratic Front (LDF)
- Palaung State Liberation Front (PSLF)
- Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO)
- Wa National organization (WNO)
- New Mon State Party (NMSP)
- Kayan New Land Party (KNLP)
- Karen National Union (KNU)

National League for Democracy – Liberated Area (NLD-LA)

Members of Parliamentary Union (MPU)

National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB)

Forum for Democracy in Burma (FDB)

- All Burma Federation of Student Unions - Foreign Affairs Committee
- All Burma Students Democratic Front
- Burmese Women's Union
- Democratic Party for New Society
- Network for Democracy and Development
- People Defense Force
- Yaung Chi Oo Workers Association

Women's League of Burma

- Burmese Women's Union (BWU)
- Kachin Women's Association - Thailand (KWAT)
- Karen Women's Organization (KWO)
- Karenni National Women's Organization (KNWO)
- Kuki Women's Human Rights Organization (KWHRO)
- Lahu Women's Organization (LWO)
- Palaung Women's Organization (PWO)
- Pa-O Women's Union (PWU)
- Rakhaing Women's Union (RWU)
- Shan Women's Action Network (SWAN)
- Tavoy Women's Union (TWU)
- Women's League of Chinland
- Women's Rights & Welfare Association of Burma (WRWAB)

Students and Youth Congress of Burma

- All Arakan Students' and Youths' Congress
- All Burma Students' Democratic Front
- All Burma Students League
- All Kachin Students and Youth Union
- Arakan League for Democracy - Youth Wing (Exile)
- Democratic Party for a New Society - Youth
- Karen Youth Organization
- Kayan New Generation Youth
- Kuki Students Democratic Front
- Mon Youth Progressive Organization
- National League for Democracy – Liberated Area, Youth
- Naga National League for Democracy – Youth
- Pa-O Youth Organization
- Ta'ang Students and Youth Organization

- Tavoyan Youth Organization
- Zomi Students and Youth Organization

#### Nationalities Youth Forum

- All Arakan Students' and Youths' Congress
- All Kachin Students and Youth Union
- Arakan Youth Network Group
- Chin Students' Union
- Karenni National Youth Organization
- Karenni Student Union
- Karen Youth Organisation
- Kayan New Generation Youth
- Mon Unity League
- Pa-O Youth Organization
- Ta'ang Students and Youth Organization
- United Lahu Youth Organization
- Zomi Students and Youth Organisation

#### **Other Endorsing Organizations**

Alternative Asean Network on Burma  
 Arakan Labour Campaign  
 Arakan League for Democracy (Exile-India)  
 Arakan Workers' Union  
 Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development  
 Asia Pacific Solidarity Coalition  
 Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA)  
 Association Suisse-Birmanie  
 Backpack Health Workers Team  
 Burma Action Ireland  
 Burma Campaign Australia  
 Burma Campaign Korea  
 Burma Campaign New Zealand  
 Burma Centre Delhi  
 Burma Democratic Concern  
 Burma Lawyers Council  
 Burma Medical Association  
 Burma Partnership  
 BurmaInfo (Japan)  
 Burmese American Democratic Alliance  
 Burmese Migrant Workers Education Committee  
 Canadian Friends of Burma  
 Center for People's Dialogue (Sri Lanka)  
 Chin Human Rights Organization  
 Chin National Community - Japan  
 Chin Students and Youth Federation  
 Chin Women Organization - Japan  
 Chin Youth Conference  
 Christian Solidarity Worldwide  
 CISL (Italian Confederation of Workers Trade Union)  
 English PEN  
 Falam Chin Women Development  
 Federation of Workers Union of the Burmese Citizens (Japan)  
 Foundation for Media Alternatives (Philippines)

Free Burma Campaign Singapore  
Free Burma Coalition (South Africa)  
Free Burma Coalition Philippines (Philippines)  
Friends of Burma (Thailand)  
Friends of the Third World (Sri Lanka)  
Generation Wave (Burma)  
Grassroots Human Rights Education and Development  
Hong Kong Coalition for a Free Burma  
Human Rights Education Institute of Burma  
Info Birmanie (France)  
Initiative for International Dialogue (Philippines)  
Interfaith Cooperation Forum  
International Campaign for Freedom of Aung San Suu Kyi and Burma  
International Women's Partnership for Peace and Justice  
Karen Rivers Watch  
Kayan National Development Foundation  
Kayan Women's Organization  
La Communauté de Birmanie de France  
Lamkang Naga Students Union  
Lamkang National Council  
Naga Senior Citizens' Forum  
Naga Students Union Delhi  
Naga Youth Organization  
National Democratic Party for Human Rights, exile (Malaysia)  
National Health and Education Committee (Burma)  
Norwegian Burma Committee  
People in Need (Czech Republic)  
People in Peril (Slovakia)  
People's Forum on Burma (Japan)  
Polish Burma Solidarity  
Reporters Without Borders  
Shwe Gas Movement  
Social and Health Development Association  
Solidaritas Indonesia untuk Burma (Indonesian Solidarity for Burma)  
Swedish Burma Committee  
Swedish Democratic Students Burma Project  
Taiwan Free Burma Network  
Task Force on ASEAN and Burma  
Thai Action Committee for Democracy in Burma  
Zanniat Youth Organization  
Zomi Community Committee  
Zomi National Congress  
Zomi Reunification Organization  
Zomi Women's Union