

Long March and Hunger Strike for Freedom and Democracy in

BURMA

Day 16

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September 16, 2004 (Sixteenth Day)

Dear Friends of Freedom and Democracy in Burma,

- The freedom marchers from the Long March and Hunger Strike campaign have now covered a total of 172 miles during the course of the last sixteen days.
- The marchers will arrive in New York City on September 17th. Details for the second part of the campaign, the Hunger Strike, will be released after conferring with the New York Democracy Forces.
- The Democracy Forces in New York is giving its full support to the activists, who have committed their lives to bringing freedom, human rights, and democracy to the people of Burma. For the upcoming Hunger Strike campaign, Democracy Forces in New York has formed a Budget committee, an Help and Relief committee, an Information committee and a Transportation committee to support the activists.
- On September 21st, the activists will embark on a Hunger Strike campaign to demand that the United Nations Security Council immediately address Burma's problems. They will continue to do so until the UN Security Council addresses Burma's problems effectively.
- The hunger strike activists need 24-hour around-the-clock help and support from their friends and supporters. Anyone who is willing and able to help by assisting these brave souls during the Hunger Strike can volunteer for any of the three support shifts that have been established (from 8:00-16:00, 16:00-24:00, 00:00-08:00). Individuals can also support the activists by offering monetary contribution to the campaign, or by volunteering to help with transportation during the hunger strike event.
- The names and telephone numbers of the support committee members will be published after the New York Community meeting to be held on Friday, 17 September 2004. For the moment, those willing to help may contact either Ko Ye Htut at (718) 672-8789 or Ko Thaug Htun at (212) 338-0048.

- Brief summary of Day Sixteen
- Today, U Han Lin from the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (former member), U Maung Maung Tate from the Music League for Democracy, Ko Win Shwe from the Action Group for Human Rights in Burma, Ko Tin Ngwe from the National League for Democracy, Ko Wai Htun from the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma), and Jun Yasuda from Peace Pagoda participated in the march.
- In preparation for the long hunger strike, Jun Yasuda advised the marchers to refrain from eating in the morning. They managed to cover 11 miles during the march just by drinking water.
- At 6:35 AM, a prayer meeting was held for Daw Aung San Su Kyi and the people of Burma in a Dobbs Ferry Presbyterian Church. At around 7:15 AM the activists proceeded on their march.
- Along the way Richard Deats, editor of Fellowship of Reconciliation, came to meet them and lend support to the movement. Also, Evan Weinberger, a reporter for the Riverdale Press, came to interview the activists.
- At 11:30 AM, 1 mile away from the George Washington Bridge, the activists rested for a while and returned to Dobbs Ferry.
- When they arrived at Scarsdale, Dr. Tin Zaw Lwin, who had contacted the Information Committee, came to greet them with "Aung Tha Bye" (Victory) Leaves.
- "Anyone who gives us a cup of water or a word of encouragement gives us the drive and will to continue our work" Ko Win Shwe heartily said on behalf of the marchers.
- The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) has donated US\$1,100 to the Long March and Hunger Strike Campaign for Freedom and Democracy in Burma. This donation is deeply appreciated by all of the Freedom Fighters.

For more information please contact: Communication and Media Operators Committee

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