

# Long March and Hunger Strike for Freedom and Democracy in

# BURMA

# Day 17

published by the Communication and Media Operators Committee

## September 17, 2004 (Seventeenth Day)

### Summary of Day Seventeen

At approximately 1:10 PM, the activists began their day's journey at the corner of 242nd Street and Manhattan College Park Street, located near the George Washington Bridge. The activists marched along Broadway with participants, including a Buddhist monk, Venerable U Pyinyar Nanda from Utica, New York, Ko Sithu Zaw Win, Ko Khin Zaw and his wife, Daw Aye Aye Htun from Fort Wayne, Indiana. The March for Day Seventeen ended at the corner of Broadway and 168th Street at approximately 3:35 PM.

□ According to Ko Win Shwe, one of the activists, one of the notable things that happened on day seventeen was that local residents along the course of the march showed their support in greater numbers than during previous days. The fact that the activists had distributed more than 2,000 pamphlets had helped the campaign to gain public awareness. Even though the first part of the campaign has almost reached its destination, the activists have not slowed down to take a rest. When not marching, they were busy scheduling routes to take in New York City and preparing for the upcoming hunger strike. Despite their busy schedule, the marchers covered an additional seven miles during day seventeen. To date, the marchers have covered a total of 179 miles.

□ U Khin Zaw from Fort Wayne, Indiana arrived today to join the activists for the march. Since he is also one of the activists who took the oath to be on hunger strike campaign, his arrival marked the first time that all of the hunger strike activists who took the oath marched together. Seven activists will be staging the hunger strike for an indefinite period in an effort to encourage the UN Security Council to take serious action on Burma's pressing issues. The hunger strike opening ceremony is planned to begin at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, 21 September 2004, and will be attended by special guests from different organization from around the world.

□ Freedom and Democracy in Burma activists and supporters from around the world are called upon to coordinate and hold similar events in front of the United Nations offices at their respective countries to show support and solidarity.

As mentioned in the Day Sixteen's news update letter, the Democratic Forces in New York has formed four committees to assist and support the peaceful freedom fighters. The following is the statement released by the Democratic Forces in New York:

□ Dear Friends and Supporters of Freedom and Democracy in Burma,

Due to the fact that freedom, rule of law, democracy and basic human rights in Burma remain non-existent, the Democratic Forces in the United States have launched a Long Freedom March and Hunger Strike campaign in an effort to encourage the United Nations and leaders from around the world to take serious and effective action on Burma's issues. The Long Freedom March began in Albany, New York, on 1 September 2004 and will conclude at the United Nations in New York City. The Long Freedom March will be followed immediately by a Hunger Strike campaign in front of the United Nations (at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza).

□ To assist and support the committed and resolute freedom fighters participating in the Long Freedom March and Hunger Strike, the Democratic Forces in New York held a community meeting on 27 August 2004. The meeting resulted in forming four committees to help and support these comrades. For the campaign to be successful and effective, friends and supporters of democracy and freedom in Burma are urged to volunteer their time and effort.

The Democratic Forces in New York strongly encourage the New York Community to contact the following committee members to help and assist in this campaign.

#### Budget Committee

Ma Sandi (917-445-9222)  
Ma Nang Sun Nun (917-915-3770)  
Ma Thapaye (917-704-4623)  
Ma KayKhine (917-291-9862)  
Ko Shwe (917-951-2428)  
Ko Aung Aung (718-335-0911)

#### Help and Relief Committee

Ko Ye Htut (718-672-8789)  
Ko Naing Kyaw Moe (708-813-2420)  
Ko Naing Gyi (631-974-5623)  
Ko Thaug Htun (212-338-0048)  
Ma Thapayae (917-704-4623)  
Ko Michael (708-813-2420)  
Ko Zarni Min Htet (718-803-2420)  
Ma Nang Zorm Oo (212-338-0048)  
Ko Zaw Gyi  
Ma Nang Sun Nun (917-509-3771)  
Ma Mya Mya Soe (917-797-2034)  
Ma Sandi (917-445-9222)  
Ma KayKhine (917-291-9862)

#### Communications & Media Operators Committee

Ko Min Sun Min (718-434-5292)  
Ko Nyan Win Lett (646-320-5311)  
Ma Nang Sun Nun (917-519-3771)  
Ma Sandi (917-445-9222)

#### Transportation Committee

Ko Win Shein (718-335-5923)  
Ko Sun Myint (917-523-5227)  
Ko Moe Chan (646-643-8689)  
Ma Mya Mya Soe (917-797-2034)  
Ma Nang Zorm Oo (212-338-0048)  
(Dr. Thaug Htun will handle medical related services.)

Democratic Forces in New York