

Long March and Hunger Strike for Freedom and Democracy in

BURMA

Day 18

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September 18, 2004 (Eighteenth Day)

□ The scenery for the freedom fighters has changed from the beautiful and tranquil countryside of Upstate New York to the bustling streets skyscrapers of New York City.

□ As usual, the marchers had little time to appreciate the surroundings. Instead, the activists were holding flags in one hand and distributing pamphlets from the other. They wore T-shirts bearing Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's picture. The activists began their journey for Day Eighteen at the corner of 168th Street and Broadway.

□ While marching on Broadway, the activists remembered the fallen innocent people of Burma that were killed on Burma's streets by the military regime's soldiers on the day of military coupe. Day eighteen of the Freedom Long March coincides with the sixteenth anniversary of the military coupe in 1988.

□ The people living in the United States enjoy freedom and basic human rights, protected by a constitution based on democratic values and the rights of freedom. It is hoped that the people of Burma may receive the same freedoms and basic human rights that many people from around the world enjoy. Those living outside Burma can help to bring basic freedoms and human rights to Burma.

□ As the marchers proceeded along Broadway with many thoughts in their minds, they managed to distribute more than 2,000 pamphlets. The New Yorkers showed their interest by asking for pamphlets before they were being given, and many of them came up to the activists and asked good questions.

□ In the evening, remnants of a tropical storm brought heavy rain and thunderstorms to the New York City area. The activists were soaked from the heavy rain. The activists ended their day journey at the corner of 86th Street and Broadway, and

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(Dr. Thaung Htun will handle medical related services.)

Democratic Forces in New York

spend the rest of the day preparing for their Hunger Strike campaign that is now only two days away.

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

□ Please note that a ceremony is planned to mark the successful completion of the Long Freedom March and the beginning of the Hunger Strike campaign. The ceremony will take place on 21 September 2004, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, in front of United Nations (at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza on the corner of 47th Street and 1st Avenue).

□ U Sein Win, Prime Minister of National Coalition Government of Union of Burma, and the Chairman of the National League for Democracy (Liberated Area), U Win Khet, will attend the ceremony. In addition, leaders from numerous organizations that the activists had met during the course of Long March journey as well as other friends and supporters will be attending the event. At the end of the ceremony, the seven activists will remain behind to begin the Hunger Strike. The Hunger Strike will last for an indefinite period and is an effort to encourage the United Nations to take serious and effective action on Burma's pressing matters.

□ While the hunger strike activists are peacefully staging their campaign, Democratic Forces in New York will have a photo gallery presenting the ruthlessness of the military regime's atrocities.

□ For those who are unable to make it to the opening ceremony on 21 September 2004, Democratic Forces in New York would like to welcome all people from around the world to assist and support these seven Hunger Strike activists by taking action to support their cause. To support and show solidarity with the activists, supporters are encouraged to hold similar events in front of United Nations offices in their respective countries. Friends and supporters from the New York Community and from communities within the United States are strongly urged to contact the following committee members to help and assist in this campaign.