

Long March and Hunger Strike for Freedom and Democracy in

BURMA

Day 19

Sept. 19, 2004 (Nineteenth Day)

□ The activists are satisfied that they were able to complete the first part of the campaign, the Freedom Long March. With the beginning of their second journey, the Hunger Strike, just days away, the activists are excited and prepared to meet the challenges that the upcoming campaign will present.

□ Looking back on the nineteen days of the Freedom Long March, the activists agree that the march has helped Burma's struggle for democracy. During the march, the activists were able to raise public awareness of Burma's freedom and democracy movement. Throughout the journey, the activists handed out over 3,000 pamphlets to New York residents, giving presentations and speeches about the plight of the people of Burma to local groups and organizations.

□ The activists received encouragement and support from religious leaders from around the world, as well as from various Peace Groups, non-governmental organizations, members of the Republican Party, members of the Democratic Party, and many Burmese political organizations. There were many people who came to walk with the marchers as a show of solidarity. The activists received many signatures on the petition form (an appeal to Secretary General of United Nations concerning Burma's issues).

□ While covering the activists' campaign local New York newspapers, television stations, and radio stations helped to bring information about Burma to the attention of the American public. By meeting with media organizations, the activists were able to lend a voice to the voiceless people of Burma.

□ In the morning, the activists were busy drafting the campaign's statements. In the afternoon, at approximately at 3:20 PM, the marchers started their day's journey at the corner of Broadway and 86th Street. The activists marched through Times Square, one of the New York City's busiest and most famous sites, and proceeded on 6th Avenue. Throughout the journey, the activists were interviewed on the phone by such media outlets as British Broadcasting Corporation and the Voice of America. The activists also went to the Mission of the Republic of China to show disapproval of China's policies toward the Burmese military regime.

Budget Committee

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Ma Thapayae (917-704-4623)
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Ma Nang Zorm Oo (212-338-0048)
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Ma Nang Sun Nun (917-509-3771)
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(Dr. Thaug Htun will handle medical related services.)

published by the Communication and Media Operators Committee

□ Today's journey includes the following individuals. U Maung Maung Tate (Music League for Democracy), Ko Wai Htun (Association for the Assistance of Political Prisoners - Burma), Ko Tin Ngwe (National League for Democracy), Daw Khin San Nwe (National League for Democracy - Liberated area), U Khin Zaw (National League for Democracy - Liberated area), U Han Lin and Ko Win Shwe (International campaign for Democracy in Burma), Daw Aye Htun (National League for Democracy) and former members of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front, including Ko Kyaw Khaing and Ko Ko Kyi, as well as by Mr. Joe Bernstein from New York.

□ As soon as the activists returned to their overnight rest location, they had a meeting with Doctor Thaug Htun (National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma) in order to draft a letter to Mr. Kofi Annan, General Secretary of the United Nations, and to discuss the list of invitees and the details of the Hunger Strike's opening ceremony. As always, the activists are ready to do anything for the people of Burma.

□ *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).

□ Prime Minister in exile, U Sein Win, 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.