

Day 2 of Hunger Strike

Sept. 22, 2004

□ As the sun began to rise on the horizon, darkness slowly retreated and the scenery around Dag Hammerjokld Plaza became much clearer. United Nations' flags representing countries from around the world danced left and right as a steady breeze blew in from the East River.

□ Due to the General Debate for the 59th Session of the General Assembly at the United Nations, the streets are empty of regular traffic. Traffic in the immediate United Nations area is limited to law enforcement officers from a number of agencies.

The quiet streets of the United Nations came alive as the staff, delegates, and leaders from around the world streamed into the United Nations buildings. Media teams and reporters flooded the compound to report on this week's important schedule of events and meetings.

□ At the Dag Hammerjokld Plaza right across from the United Nations, the seven freedom fighters can be seen staging an indefinite hunger strike peacefully, so that human rights, freedom and democracy may one day thrive in Burma.

□ In an effort to get the United Nations to take serious action on Burma's pressing matters, the seven devout Buddhist activists started their second day by prayers, meditation and a recitation of mantras.

□ In the last few weeks the activists have marched more than 180 miles. With hardly a pause, they then embarked on a hunger strike campaign. Despite the physical strain of previous weeks, the activists appeared fresh, alert, upbeat, and determined to send a message to the world on behalf of the people of Burma.

□ "I used to have four meals a day before I went on the Hunger Strike. I don't know why I am not feeling hungry even though I have not eaten for two days. I guess my passion and my mind is holding off my hunger," Daw Khin San Nwe said, jokingly, to the supporters who came to offer her encouragement. As she had a heart surgery on 26 August 2004, many people tried to convince to refrain from participating in a hunger strike, but to no avail.

□ The first day of the Hunger Strike, 21 September 2004, was the 53rd birthday of one of the activists, U Han Lin. Activist U Han Lin said, "Since we are made of flesh and blood we cannot escape the aches and pain stemming from the 180 mile Long March. However, when you

remind yourself that this [the Long Freedom March and Hunger Strike] is for the people who died for freedom and democracy in Burma, and for all of the political prisoners suffering under brutal conditions, and for all of the people who are at the border suffering from economic and other difficulties -- the satisfaction I get from this cannot overpower the pain that I am suffering."

□ Many of the other activists were also mingling and conversing with the people who came to give moral support.

□ Inside the park, along with the activists from Burma, people from China, India, Pakistan, Albania and Zimbabwe were also peacefully protesting for their respective causes.

□ While activists from other countries were only at the park for a few hours, the seven activists from Burma stayed at the park day and night to continue their hunger strike, a testament to their determination to help the people of Burma.

□ At 7:00 PM, one of the activists prayed for the people of Burma, prayed that they may one day be free from fear and that they may one day obtain the human rights, freedom and democracy that they desire and so dearly deserve.

□ There were no sanitary facilities at the park, nor were the activists allowed to rent a portable facility. Additionally, the activists had to sleep without tents at night. Even so, they disregarded the adversity and were focused intensely on helping the people of Burma.

□ The granite on the ground is their bed.

□ The sky and stars is the roof over their head.

□ The cool breeze brought in by the East River □ □ sends chills through their bodies throughout the □ □ night.

□ The activists have long thought about the challenges that they are now facing. They have come prepared, both mentally and emotionally, knowing that their perseverance and commitment will bring them to an ultimate victory.

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□ (For the readers' interest, each of the activists' biographies and their beliefs will be updated and posted. The Communication and Media Operators Committee urged the New York community to assist and support these activists, and also urged organizations from around the world to send letters and statements showing support and solidarity. If possible, please send flowers in show of solidarity and good will.)

Visit our websites:

<http://longmarchandhungerstrike.odfb.org>
www.hungerstrike4burma.com