

Long March & Hunger Strike  
for Freedom and Democracy in

# BURMA

published by the Communication and Media Operators Committee

## Day 4 of Hunger Strike

Sept. 24, 2004

□ To date the Hunger Strike campaigners have endured over 96 consecutive hours without food. The Hunger Strike campaign has taken a physical toll on the activists. One of the activists, U Maung Maung Tate, who had marched over 180 miles during the Long Freedom March, had difficulty sitting up and showed signs of having a fever. Through these difficulties, however, the activists continue to meditate, pray and recite mantras for the people of Burma.

□ Due to increased security around the vicinity of United Nations, the peaceful freedom fighters are no longer permitted to stay in the park after 1:00 in the morning. As a result, they have had to move to Burma Point in Queens for overnight stays. Every day and night, supporters and volunteers from Democratic Forces in New York set up and take down signs, posters and pictures at the Hunger Strike site.

□ Volunteers also carry back the belongings of the activists to Queens every night and return the same belongings to the United Nations site every morning. Moving people and campaign materials back and forth has proven a time consuming task for the volunteers. □ □ □ Nevertheless, all volunteers and supporters are determined to assist the activists in their effort to bring the attention of the world to the plight of the people of Burma.

□ The activists in New York are concerned and worried about their comrades in Burma who are also staging a hunger strike in that country's notorious prisons. These activists in Burma could be tortured -- or even murdered -- for staging such a hunger strike. In Burma, people have no rights and protections from the government. There is no rule of law. As a result, those who support democracy, freedom, and human rights within the country are routinely and systematically harassed, tortured, and killed.

□ Individuals supporting democracy and human rights in Burma have recently come under attack both inside Burma and in neighboring nations. U Ohn Thant, a former political prisoner who is now inside Burma was rearrested again for staging a peaceful protest in front of the office of the United Nations Development Program. In Thailand, 23 people from Burma who are residing in Bangkok were arrested for peacefully protesting in front of the office of United Nations High Commission for Refugees. The seven hunger strike activists in New York salute the commitment and bravery of these individuals.

□ It is time, now, for Mr. Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary General, to take serious action to address the issues facing Burma. Mr. Annan has spoken publicly of his concern for the people of Burma, but has never taken any real action to address ongoing abuses and atrocities being committed by Burma's military regime.

As the campaign has progressed, many people have visited the activists to offer words of encouragement. Concerned citizens from around the world have signed the activists' petitions. News of the Hunger Strike campaign for Burma can be seen in English and Spanish newspapers.

□ As the campaign progresses, the activists share a common resolution: to overcome any challenges that might arise during the course of the campaign and to continue to fight until Burma's issues are taken seriously by the United Nations. The activists received welcome news in the afternoon. The United States Senate began considering a resolution that would seek United Nations Security Council action against Burma, an important step in the effort to bring Burma's issues to the attention of the world.

□ Other events offered encouragement to the activists in the afternoon. Several supporters sent the activists bouquets of flowers. The bouquets were sent by supporters from the Danish Burma Committee (Denmark), the Burma Campaign (UK) and the Swiss-Burma Association (Sweden). Each group sent words of encouragement along with the flowers. These words gave the activists newfound strength.

□ In addition, the activists received a letter of support signed by 352 people who are living on the Thai-Burma border and who are actively working towards human rights, freedom and democracy in Burma. As the activists read the letter and beheld the countless signatures, their faces became as bright as the September sun.

□ With renewed energy and determination, U Han Lin took photos and videos of the people at the Hunger Strike site. These people were signing campaign petitions, observing the mini-photo gallery of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's pictures, and viewing the pictures of innocent and peaceful demonstrators being killed by armed soldiers and pictures of political prisoners.

□ U Maung Maung Tate, who had a fever and was lying down on a foam mat the whole day, got up on his feet to walk around, having gained renewed energy as crowds of passers-by inquired about the Hunger Strike.

□ The activists wore banners on their foreheads that read, "UN Security Council, TAKE ACTION on Burmese Regime".

### 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)  
Ko Aung Kyaw Myint (607-339-7054)  
Ko Yan Myo Aung (585-576-8521)

Visit our websites <http://longmarchandhungerstrike.odfb.org>  
[www.hungerstrike4burma.com](http://www.hungerstrike4burma.com)