

Day 6 of Hunger Strike

Sept. 26, 2004

Activist U Maung Maung Tate is still on hunger strike despite his deteriorating health situation

□ On the fourth day of the Hunger Strike campaign, U Maung Maung Tate, who had just finished the 180-mile Freedom Long March, showed signs of having a fever. During the course of the day, U Maung Maung Tate experienced regular vomiting and spells of dizziness. That evening, the activist started having severe diarrhea. The frequency of his vomiting also escalated. Weakened by these symptoms of voluntary food deprivation, U Maung Maung Tate was so weak by the start of day five that he had to be rushed to a physician for a medical evaluation. Dr. Thaung Htun and the Democratic Forces from New York took U Maung Maung Tate to a clinic operated by a doctor from Burma.

□ The physician advised U Maung Maung Tate to eat semi-solid food and to not participate further in the Hunger Strike campaign. After giving full consideration to the physician's recommendations, U Maung Maung Tate, resolute and refusing to yield to the biological signals of his body, decided nonetheless to continue the hunger strike.

□ Since the 1988 pro-democracy movement, U Maung Maung Tate has been very active in fighting for human rights, freedom and democracy in Burma. While inside Burma, the activist worked with an array of organizations. U Maung Maung Tate was a leader of the Democracy and Peace Alliance Force, a member of People's Democratic Front, and a coordinator for the National League for Democracy.

□ Like so many supporters of freedom, democracy, and human rights in Burma, U Maung Maung Tate had to leave Burma to avoid certain prosecution by the country's military regime. Had the activist remained in Burma, he would have been arrested and no longer able to fight for democracy and human rights in Burma.

□ Seeking refuge along the Thai-Burma border, U Maung Maung Tate continued to work for Burma's freedom as a member of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front and as a treasurer of the Overseas National Students Organization of Burma. In 1998 he founded the Music League for Democracy by gathering and uniting musicians from Burma who support democracy, freedom, and human rights for all of the people of Burma.

□ Arriving in the United States in 2004, U Maung Maung Tate has continued his involvement in the Music League for Democracy. Today he holds the responsibility of chairman for that organization.

□ Even though many people are concerned about U Maung Maung Tate's current health, the activist has refused to give up participation in the Hunger Strike campaign. With firm words, he said that he would continue the peaceful fight. As of today, the rest of the five activists remain in relatively good health and continue to endure the physical challenges of the campaign. Their spirits are as strong as ever because they are fighting for the rights and future of the people of Burma.

□ On the fifth day of the Hunger Strike campaign, thirty supporters and friends from New York and Washington D.C came to offer encouragement to the activists. The wife of Dr. Sein Win (Prime Minister of National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma) was present, as was Daw Si Si and Moethee Zun (Chairman of Democratic Federation of Burma).

□ The activists would like to express deep appreciation to all of those who have supported the campaign. All of the e-mails, flowers, statements of support, and personal visits have been very much appreciated by the activists.

Members of the General Workers' Union of Burma - Japan sent a letter of encouragement and support to the hunger strike activists expressing solidarity with their action. The activists are very happy to receive this important support from their comrades.

□ The Communication and Media Operators Committee will continue to update the encouragement and support statements sent to the activists at <http://longmarchandhungerstrike.odfb.org>

---Communications & Media Operators Committee---

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