

Long March & Hunger Strike  
for Freedom and Democracy in

# BURMA

# Day 7 of Hunger Strike

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## *NLD expresses their concern for the activists health*

□ "We have been on a hunger strike campaign for [ ] hours for freedom and democracy in Burma," read the sign posted on iron rail barriers separating First Avenue from the Dag Hammerjorkld Plaza across from the United Nations. As the hours have passed, the hunger strike activists have updated the numbers on the sign to reflect the duration of the campaign. Volunteers have at times been so busy that they forgot to change the number of hours on the board. Accustomed to the activists' presence at the United Nations, some local security officers at times remind the hunger strike volunteers to update the board.

□ One of the activists, Daw Khin San Nwe, said jokingly, "As we are trying to overcome the pain of hunger, we didn't realize that the hours has passed until the security officer came to remind us to update the board. I guess on top of their security responsibilities, we should give them the responsibility of updating the time on the board."

□ Everyday passers-by that are headed to United Nations meetings and events stop at the Plaza to check on the well being of the hunger strike participants. They show a genuine concern for the activists and for the ongoing efforts to bring freedom, democracy, and human rights to the people of Burma.

□ As the campaign has progressed, the activists' physical strength has weakened. As was reported earlier, one activist, Ko Maung Maung Tate, was taken to hospital after suffering from symptoms related to food deprivation (e.g., dizziness, fever, and vomiting). Today Ko Maung Maung Tate is feeling much better and no longer has a fever.

□ Although the activists have been staging a hunger strike for the past seven days, it appears as though Secretary General Mr. Annan is still unwilling to tackle the urgent issues facing Burma at the Security Council meetings. To date, the activists have not received any communication from Mr. Annan's office.

□ The supporting letters, flowers, poems and well wishes that have been sent by organizations and individuals from around the globe have given the hunger strike activists renewed strength and perseverance to continue their peaceful fight. With every passing day, the activists are more and more determined to help the people of Burma obtain the freedom, democracy, and human rights that they so deserve.

□ The activists learned that members of the National League for Democracy who were in Rangoon, Burma attending the 16th Anniversary of NLD founding, went to the office of United Nations Development Program in Rangoon to show their concern for the activists in New York. The NLD members expresses their concern for the activists health and showed solidarity with the activists effort to encourage the United Nations to take Burma's issues seriously.

□ In unison, the six activists who are still on the hunger strike expressed their joy upon hearing the news. "We are very much happy that the NLD inside Burma is concerned about us and that they risked being arrested for going to speak to representatives from the UNDP. We would like to reiterate that we will continue this peaceful fight for human rights, freedom and democracy in Burma."

□ Note: We would like to express our thanks to the DPNS and NLD-LA (Korea) for sending letters of encouragement and solidarity to the hunger strike activists and commending them for their selfless acts and sacrifices.

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