

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT:
Nyunt Than (510) 220-1323
nyuntthan@gmail.com
Gregg Butensky (415) 867-0377
gregg@madnomad.com

MEDIA ADVISORY

FREE BURMA SUPPORTERS PLEAD FOR UNITED NATIONS HELP ON UN DAY
Bay Area recognizes United Nations Day with a Freedom March & Candlelight Vigil

WHEN: Wednesday, October 24th - 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

WHERE: San Francisco, CA

4:00 pm - 5:00 pm Protest at Chinese Consulate, 1450 Laguna Street, San Francisco

5:00 pm - 5:40 pm March to United Nations Plaza, Market Street between 7th & 8th Streets

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Multi-faith prayer vigil at the UN Plaza with religious and political presenters

WHAT: The Burmese American Democratic Alliance (BADA) and its supporters will march through the streets of San Francisco to plead for immediate United Nations intervention in Burma. The event will begin at 4:00 pm with a protest at the Chinese Consulate urging the Chinese Government to allow the United Nations to fulfill its responsibility to protect the Burmese people from crimes against humanity committed by the Burmese military. Led by local monks, clergy from different religions, and a coalition of BADA's allies, the group will march to the United Nations Plaza for a prayer vigil in honor of all the peaceful protesters in Burma.

"We recognize that the United Nations has many accomplishments, but it has consistently failed the people of Burma. The UN Security Council issued a presidential statement deploring the use of violence against protesters, urging the early release of prisoners, and calling for genuine dialogue. In response, the junta raided residences in an all-out hunt for protest leaders. People are still being arrested, tortured, and killed everyday." said Nyunt Than, president of BADA.

U.S. Secretary of State has called for international presence in Burma. Three prominent protest leaders, who are now in hiding in Burma, recently sent a letter to the United Nations pleading for help. But alas, no help will come. The UN special envoy to Burma is not expected to return to Burma any time soon, and there are no plans by the UN to compel the junta to fulfill demands made in the UN Security Council's presidential statement.

"The world must intensify pressure on China and Russia to not block stronger actions by the UN," says Than. We need swift, immediate, concrete actions now; we need collective sanctions; we need a multilateral arms embargo; we need intervention by the UN peacekeeping force before it is too late."

More than ten thousand people were killed as a result of the 1988 protests. The numbers are even higher in the years that follow. Satellite pictures confirm the destruction of over 300 villages.

As the world celebrates United Nations Day, let us also remember that the torture and killings in Burma have been going on for almost a month. Many monks in Burma were arrested for their leadership in the peaceful August/September protests against the junta's inhumane treatment of the people of Burma; many more monks are still on the run or in hiding. The world is now wondering, "Where are all the monks?" Perhaps next month the world will wonder, "Where are the people of Burma?"

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BADA is a San Francisco Bay Area based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that has been advocating democracy and freedom for the people of Burma.