

**CALL TO ACTION\*\*\*CALL TO ACTION\*\*\*CALL TO ACTION**

## **Help Save Burma Cyclone Victims**

**May 17th: A Global Day of Action for Burma**

The Burmese military regime is continuing to shock the core of humanity by restricting aid and refusing to allow expert disaster relief teams to assist in rescue and recovery efforts. In fact, the junta is hindering relief efforts by neighboring villages in Burma. Never before has a government done so much to reduce aid to its own people. The Burma Nargis victims are now running out of time and hope.

Close to two million people's lives in Burma hang by a thread after just the first cyclone to hit Burma in 2008. Recent reports say that another cyclone is developing right off the coast of Burma, and others are sure to develop in the coming months. We must act now to get enough aid into Burma and to get the aid to the most vulnerable areas.

### **Come Support the Cyclone Victims of Burma**

Urge the UN to protect the people of Burma from its military.  
Learn what you can do to really make a difference in their lives right now.  
Place some flowers or a picture on our memorial board.  
Let the victims know that even though their dictators are neglecting them,  
we are with them.

**Saturday, May 17, 2008**

**3 pm to 6 pm**

**Rally, march, memorial**

**(keynote speaker: Dr. Sein Win, nobel-laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's cousin)**

**United Nations Plaza, Market Street between 7th & 8th Streets  
San Francisco, CA**

**Contacts/websites/co-sponsors:** [burmarelief.blogspot.com](http://burmarelief.blogspot.com); [www.badasf.org](http://www.badasf.org);  
[www.bawasf.org](http://www.bawasf.org); [www.burma-network.org](http://www.burma-network.org); [www.uscampaignforburma.org](http://www.uscampaignforburma.org);  
[www.sasanamoli.org](http://www.sasanamoli.org); [info@badasf.org](mailto:info@badasf.org); 510 593 4388; 510 220 1323; Committee for  
Responsibility to Protect Burma; Burmese American Democratic Alliance (BADA), Burmese  
American Women's Alliance (BAWA); Sasana Moli (International Burmese Monks  
Organization), Association of Burmese Students San Francisco (ABSSF) Buddhist Peace  
Fellowship (BPF), US Campaign for Burma (USCB); Burma Global Action Network, 88  
Generation Students (Exile), Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS),  
kokophoto@yahoo.com, <http://88gse.blogspot.com>

### **Why the UN Plaza?**

As death toll has risen from 500 to 10,000 to 100,000 in just 10 days, and now to a potential 2 million, the United Nations is still ineffective in pressuring the Burmese military to allow the unfettered distribution of aid that is necessary to save the cyclone victims of Burma. The UN has not used all instruments available to it to help Burma. The UN Charter gives the United Nations the authority to enter a country to protect the people under the doctrine of “**responsibility to protect.**” The provision was enacted to protect against genocide, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. If this doctrine does not apply in the case of Burma, then it really has no application whatsoever. The Burmese military has destroyed and likely massacred many villages, most of which were in the areas near the current cyclone destruction. It is clear that the regime is letting “nature” carry out its ethnic cleansing agenda, and would rather not save the cyclone survivors. By letting the junta slow down aid, the UN is allowing possible genocide and very likely ethnic cleansing. And if watching close to two million people suffer and quite likely die, while aid is sitting just outside the borders, at the airport, or in military storage, is not a crime against humanity, then the world needs to redefine that phrase as well. While the regime may not have caused the natural disaster, it is certainly causing the humanitarian disaster, the consequences of which will outstrip the cyclone tenfold. The UN must live up to its responsibilities.

### **Why May 17, 2008?**

This day has been named a Global Day of Action for a critical response to the Burmese humanitarian disaster. Called for by the Burma Global Action Network, the Burma Campaign UK, Burmese American Democratic Alliance and other organizations, demonstrations and vigils are scheduled in the US, Australia, the UK, Chile and other countries around the world to urge world governments and the United Nations to take action now and save countless lives at this crucial time for the people affected by Cyclone Nargis.

### **More about the current situation in Burma:**

The death toll in Burma is estimated to surpass 100,000. Burma’s military regime continues to restrict international aid efforts to such an extent that another 2 million people are at risk of dying from starvation, dehydration and communicable diseases. Cyclone Nargis was just the first cyclone in what is expected to be a rough cyclone season for Burma. More bad weather will add another level of complication to rescue efforts in the region. Also, still unclear and worrisome is the status of Aung San Suu Kyi’s welfare. Aung San Suu Kyi is the democratically elected leader of Burma who has been under house arrest for more than 12 years and is still under house arrest.