Statements made by ASEAN States + China
in regard to Aung San Suu Kyi's trial

Myanmar: 25 May 2009

Myanmar rejects Alternate ASEAN Chairman Thailand’s statement which is not in conformity with ASEAN practices, incorrect in facts, interfering with the internal affairs of Myanmar.

1. The Government of the Union of Myanmar, for ensuring stability of the State and in the interest of the people, had to issue restriction order and place Daw Aung San Suu Kyi under restriction at her house in accord with the Law to Safeguard the State Against the Dangers of Those Desiring to Cause Subversive Acts.

2. Whilst the restriction order was in effect, in May 2009 an intruder Mr. John William Yettaw who is a United States citizen entered the house of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and she permitted him to stay, communicted, gave him food and shelter and thus there was no option but to open legal proceedings in accordance with law.

3. Basing on the action taken against her, Thailand, who is currently the alternate chairman of ASEAN, issued the Chairman’s Press Statement dated 18-5-2009.

4. Action against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is taken in accordance with the normal practice in every state and it is merely the internal affairs of Myanmar. Therefore, the statement of Thailand issued as the alternate chairman of ASEAN deviates from the principles of the ASEAN Charter and is tantamount to interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar.

5. To issue statements including the chairman’s statement, ASEAN needs to prepare a draft at the level of Senior Officials Meeting and then submit it to the Foreign Ministers level to seek approval. The statement is to be issued only after consensus. Although the issuing of the statement coincides with the Senior Officials Meeting, Thailand did not allow it to be discussed. It informed the Foreign Ministers only after the issue of the statement and thus it unilaterally deviated from the ASEAN practice having issued not in good faith but in accord with its own wishes. Such an act may cause an undesirable tradition in ASEAN. Moreover, the statement expression of “concerned about the health of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi due to action against her” is incorrect. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is provided with adequate health care and she is in good health. Thus, it is sadly noted that the Alternate ASEAN Chairman failed to preserve the dignity of ASEAN, the dignity of Myanmar and the dignity of Thailand.

6. Whatsoever it may be, this statement issued by the Alternate ASEAN Chairman, which is not in conformity with ASEAN practice, incorrect in facts, interfering in the internal affairs of Myanmar is strongly rejected by Myanmar, it is learnt.
Singapore: 15 May 2009
MFA Spokesman Statement on reports of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi being charged

Singapore is dismayed by this latest development. This is a setback for the national reconciliation process. We reiterate the call for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from detention. We are also concerned about recent reports on her poor health, and that the arrest may exacerbate her condition.

Philippines: 17 May 2009
Statement of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo on the Detention of Aung San Suu Kyi at Insein Prison

The Philippine Government is deeply troubled and outraged over the filing of trumped up charges against Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her transfer to Insein prison, particularly when concerns have been raised regarding her health condition.

These recent incidents will surely impede the process of national reconciliation and the Roadmap to Democracy in Myanmar.

We urge the government of Myanmar to resolve the matter speedily, and to release Aung San Suu Kyi immediately and unconditionally.

The Myanmar Government need not be sidetracked by the recent trumped up charges. As we have conveyed earlier, it is high time for the Myanmar Government to carry out its own “Roadmap for Democracy”: its avowed program of releasing political detainees, including unfettering the National League for Democracy, and allowing its unconditional participation in free elections.

Fulfilling these commitments is long overdue.

Philippines: 16 May 2009
FREE AUNG SAN SUU KYI: A RENEWED CALL TO THE RULING MILITARY JUNTA OF MYANMAR TO AFFIRM DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines joins the international appeal to Senior General Than Shwe and the ruling military junta of Myanmar for the release of democratic icon Aung San Suu Kyi and to fulfill their promise of free and democratic governance of the Burmese people.
With the impending elections next year, billed by the junta as the first of the "12 Steps to Democracy", the looming extension on Suu Kyi's detention sends a dismaying signal to the ASEAN and the global international community, indicating a lack of sincerity of its leadership to completely fulfill democratic reforms in Myanmar.

With the end of Suu Kyi's house arrest on May 27 so agonizingly close, the decision to detain her further at the notorious Insein prison facility speaks of a heavy-handed junta policy aimed at squelching the very people who could help pave the way to a fully functioning democracy in Myanmar. This latest development is a step backwards and incongruous with the junta's 12 Steps to Democracy.

With a Constitution set in place, ratified by the Burmese people by referendum, and elections scheduled for next year, now is not the time for the Burmese leadership to tread backwards into a long history notorious for human rights violations. Now is not the time to retain a policy of such profoundly inequitable treatment of pro-democracy advocates, especially when democratic reform is so impossibly close to fruition.

While the full details of the latest charge leveled against Suu Kyi remain sketchy, it is almost certain that a renewed detention that could extend to beyond the elections of 2010 will work to the detriment of free and unimpeded suffrage. The continued, politically-motivated imprisonment of pro-democracy advocates such as Aung San Suu Kyi is incompatible with democratic elections, and casts doubts on the freedom of next year's elections.

In behalf of the human rights community of the Philippines, and as a member of the alliance of National Human Rights Institutions among the free and democratic nations of the ASEAN, we urge the Burmese leadership to heed the call of their Southeast Asian neighbors, and the international community, to take the necessary steps in transforming Myanmar into the latest, free and democratic nation in the international community, beginning with release of Aung San Suu Kyi.

Thailand: 22 May 2009

Foreign Ministry Spokesperson responds to the media’s questions on Ambassador to Myanmar and Foreign Minister of Myanmar’s meeting

On 22 May 2009, Mr. Tharit Charungvat, Director-General of the Information Department and Spokesperson of the Foreign Ministry, responded to the media’s questions on the recent meeting on 21 May between Mr. Bansarn Bunnag, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar, and U Nyan Win, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, in Naypyidaw, as follows:

Ambassador Bansarn was on a visit to Myanmar’s capital for several reasons, among which is to accompany the Commander in Chief of the Royal Thai Air Force and his delegation.
The ambassador met with Myanmar’s Foreign Minister and discussed issues such as Myanmar’s request for Thai cooperation in curbing the spread of counterfeit Kyat currency in the border town of Tachilek. Ambassador Bansarn responded that Thailand would render its cooperation.

On Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Mr. Tharit said that Naypyidaw was informed of ASEAN Chairman’s position, which was put together from the positions of the ASEAN member countries. Further consultations may be held when the foreign ministers of Thailand and Myanmar meet during the upcoming 9th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in Hanoi on 25-26 May 2009. Discussions on the issue of Myanmar may also be held between ASEAN and its dialogue partners, including during the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in July.

Thailand: 21 May 2009
Foreign Minister gave interview on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s trial

On 20 May 2009 at 19.30 hours, Mr. Kasit Piromya, Minister of Foreign Affairs gave a press interview concerning Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s trial. Gist as follows:

First, the Foreign Minister commended the Government of Myanmar for inviting members of the diplomatic corps as well as the media to attend the trial of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi today (20 May).

Second, the Foreign Minister further added that three representatives from the embassies of Thailand, as Chair of the ASEAN; Singapore, as dean of the diplomatic corps to Myanmar; and Russia, as a member of the United Nations Security Council; were invited to visit Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at her accommodation inside the Insein compound following the proceedings. The representative from the Thai embassy conveyed Foreign Minister Kasit’s concern over her health, of which the Foreign Minister is pleased to learn that she was well. Moreover, the Thai representative reiterated Thailand’s wish to see peace, reconciliation, and democracy in Myanmar including the release of all political detainees, as reflected in interviews given by both the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister as well as the statement recently issued by Thailand as Chair of the ASEAN.

The Foreign Minister noted that the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar will meet with Myanmar’s Foreign Minister tomorrow (21 May) and that the Foreign Minister himself will have several opportunities to meet with his Myanmar counterpart during the 9th Asia-Europe Foreign Ministerial Meeting (FMM9) in Hanoi as well as the 17th ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting in Phnom Penh to further discuss the situation in Myanmar.
While it is encouraging that the Myanmar Government had allowed members of the diplomatic corps and the media to attend the hearings as well as arranged for the meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Thailand hoped that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all political detainees would be released, thus contributing towards the process of national reconciliation and democratization in Myanmar.

Thailand: 19 May 2009
ASEAN Chairman’s Statement on Myanmar

Thailand, as the ASEAN Chair, expresses grave concern about recent developments relating to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, given her fragile health. In this connection, the Government of the Union of Myanmar is reminded that the ASEAN Leaders had called for the immediate release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Furthermore, the Government of the Union of Myanmar, as a responsible member of ASEAN, has the responsibility to protect and promote human rights. It is therefore called upon to provide timely and adequate medical care to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as well as to accord her humane treatment with dignity. With the eyes of the international community on Myanmar at present, the honour and the credibility of the Government of the Union of Myanmar are at stake. Thailand, as the ASEAN Chair, reaffirms ASEAN’s readiness to contribute constructively to the national reconciliation process and the peaceful transition of democracy in Myanmar.

China: 19 May 2009
Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Ma Zhaoxu's Regular Press Conference

Q: The EU and the U.S. have strongly condemned Myanmar for the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi. Will the Chinese Government exert pressure on the Government of Myanmar to get Aung San Suu Kyi released?

A: I'd like to point out that internal affairs of Myanmar should be left to its own people to decide. As a neighbour of Myanmar, we hope relevant parties in Myanmar could realize reconciliation, stability and development through dialogue.