U.N. Hears Case against Burma

Former Czech President Vaclav Havel and Nobel Laureate Desmond Tu Tu international notables have in their Report appealed to the UN Security Council (UNSC) for taking immediate action against Burma’s Junta. The report captioned “Threat to Peace. A Call for the UN Security Council to Act in Burma.” The report says the ongoing military dictatorship in Burma constitutes a potential threat to Southeast Asian Solidarity.

The Junta has reacted and dismissed it as an attempt to discredit the government. The opposition and the international community have welcomed it. The question whether the move to put Burma on the UNSC agenda will succeed or not is not relevant. What is of importance is the legal issue raised by such move. UN General Secretary himself said that democracy should be restored in Burma by 2006. Overtime continued detention of Daw Aung San Su Kyi and other NLD & SLD leaders, imprisonment of hundreds of political prisoners and massive repression against people and ethnics nationalities are indeed signs of democracy coming!

The issues raised in the Report basically are whether a member State of UN can go on flouting the founding charter without any restraint reprimand from its highest organ, the Security Council. If UN is toothless, it is time that reforms are initiated to meet the demands of time. A State which has no constitution, no Parliament, no rule of law should be disqualified to be member of UN or having entered into UN as a Constitution Governed State, subsequently overthrows the Constitution, it will be regarded a pariah isolated state and international Community will know how to deal with it.

The Report called on UNSC for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi reminding the UN of its past record against outrageous regimes in 7 Countries. Burma they say is worst than the 7 Countries, “far worse”. The response a from UNSC came early and become primarily a question of rule of law and human rights.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has come to a decision to attend a formal briefing on Burma. This is by far the biggest step the world body ever has
taken against military junta ruling Burma for over 4 decades. The decision puts Burma on notice that a new chapter to deal with dictators is opening for regime change.

The case against the regime is long and clear. Military rule has eroded rule of law impoverished the innocent people and enriched the generals. Their own Prime Minister Khin Nyunt is a recent case. The generals have set up an alternative economy with drug and human traffickers. All fundamental freedoms have been suppressed. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi: house arrest has been arbitrarily extended and the NLD which had a landslide victory in 1990 Election has been denied elementary rules of politics. The shifting of the Capital to Pyinmana, a remote Central area almost, coincides with the coming of the briefing of UNSC. This shifting has been done without consultation with people who are most of affected. Nuclear research reactor is also on the agenda of the Junta. The outrageous regime shamelessly rebuffed the UN saying it will not be bullied into making a faster transition to democracy. Its attempt to push on with the National Convention is to pre-empt any UN Action. The generals have not only defied people’s will but are challenging the wishes of the world Community.