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[Below are excerpts from a Memorandum of Understanding signed on April 7, 2008, between the Burma Lawyers Council and the Network for Human Rights Documentation – Burma, to collaborate on the collection of evidence of heinous crimes and human rights violations committed in Burma.]



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Burma Lawyers' Council



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between The Burma Lawyers' Council & Network for Human Rights Documentation - Burma

I. INTRODUCTION

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made through the cooperation of two organizations, the Burma Lawyers' Council (BLC) and Network for Human Rights Documentation - Burma (ND-Burma). Our objective is to prevent human rights abuses, promote human rights and justice, and eliminate impunity for the crimes committed against the people of Burma, in particular children, women, and ethnic groups. We would also like to educate people on how to collect accurate and high-quality information. Furthermore, the people should understand how legal analysis is important when collecting data about human rights abuses. This MOU also aims to help the BLC and ND-Burma understand each other, the benefits of cooperation, and how to collaborate at individual and organizational levels.

Both Parties agree to do their best to increase their cooperative activities and projects in the future.



III. PURPOSE OF COLLABORATION

1. To facilitate the emergence of networks which promote meaningful cooperation within the civil society organizations.
2. To support continuing improvement in the quality of information collected.
3. To promote standards of information legally admissible in courts.
4. To build capacity of people on how to collect information about human rights violations by using legal knowledge.
5. To deter repeated crimes and human rights abuses making perpetrators aware that people are collecting evidence, based on legal knowledge, and thus increase accountability and eliminate impunity.

IV. GENERAL AREA OF COOPERATION

The Parties will cooperate to gather evidence and documentation of human rights violations and heinous crimes that have occurred in Burma, such as crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide.

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On behalf of the organization I represent, I wish to sign this MOU and contribute to its further development.

For the Burma Lawyers' Council

For the Network for Human Rights
Documentation-Burma

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