

**HUMAN RIGHTS
YEAR BOOK
1995
BURMA**

This book is dedicated to the countless citizens of Burma who have sacrificed their homes, their freedom, and their lives to lifting the veil of terror that shrouds the truth in Burma today.

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Views expressed in this book are not necessarily those of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma.

PREFACE

BY

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Prime Minister

THE NATIONAL COALITION GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF BURMA

A year has passed since the publication of the **“HUMAN RIGHTS YEAR BOOK 1994.”** This book, which records known cases of human rights abuses in 1995 and published this year, once again confirms a continuing sad state of affairs in Burma. It shows that human rights abuses are on the rise and that the military-run State Law and Order Restoration Council has no qualms about breaking the law as long as the result serves its purpose.

Following the release in July 1995 of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of Burma's democracy movement and general secretary of the election winning party, the National League for Democracy, the SLORC suddenly gained respectability and raised hopes in the international community that perhaps everything was going to work out after all. SLORC rode high on that sentiment, seeking financial assistance and investment from world countries and did, in fact, won some over to its side.

Today, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi continues to be restricted in her movements and people rallying around her, particularly the members of the National League for Democracy, are being persecuted and bullied into staying away from her. The reason behind the release of Daw Aung San Kyi has become obvious today. It was simply a move necessitated by international pressure and, most importantly, it served SLORC's purpose at the time.

Is there a lesson to be learned here? It's plain for all to see. The SLORC never intends to restore democracy or human rights in the country and that its main agenda is to impose military rule through a constitution being drafted by its own agents.

Since this is a process that goes against the will of the people, it is bound to be opposed by the masses. SLORC will then continue resorting to brute force to maintain control. It is therefore glaringly evident that unless SLORC is removed or is forced to enter dialogue for national reconciliation with the pro-democracy forces led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the leaders of the ethnic nationalities, atrocities against the people will continue unabated.

With this in mind, the international community that wishes to see justice done in Burma should chart a correct course of action and not be misled by strategems that SLORC will come up with from time to time to preserve itself.