

BURMA BULLETIN

A month-in-review of events in Burma

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- The SPDC's crackdown on demonstrators in anti-junta protests continues. Up to 6,000 people, including 1,400 monks, about 280 NLD members, and 15 elected MPs have been detained, including 2 men in their 80s. Up to 110 people have been killed.
- Public acts of peaceful dissent continue. On 31 October, monks protest again in Pakokku, Magwe Division.
- Daw Suu marks 12 years in detention. The SPDC allows her to meet with UN envoy Ibrahim Gambari and sets up a meeting with newly appointed SPDC liaison minister, Major-General Aung Kyi. Both meetings are widely regarded as insincere junta efforts to appease the international community.
- The violent handling of the demonstrations causes increased tensions and conflicts within the SPDC. PM Soe Win's death triggers a series of reshuffles among the SPDC hierarchy.
- Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) ranks Burma 164th out of the 169 countries listed in the 2007 World Press Freedom Index. In the days following the crackdown, the SPDC restricts internet access, jails journalists, harasses photographers, censors writers, and bans publications.
- The SPDC draws international condemnation over its brutal and ruthless repression of peaceful demonstrations. UN Security Council and UN Human Rights Council deplore the SPDC's crackdown.
- US, EU, Australia enact sanctions against SPDC; Japan cancels aid.
- New reports document continued SPDC violence against ethnic minorities, continued recruitment of child soldiers, and an unexpected rise in opium cultivation and production.

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KEY STORY

"Situation of fear"

The UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro said that a "situation of fear prevails" in Burma following the SPDC's brutal crackdown on monks and protesters who demonstrated against the regime.¹

- In October, SPDC security forces continued their house by house search for people who participated in anti-junta demonstrations. Relatives of suspects who could not be found were taken

¹ Bloomberg (25 Oct 07) Myanmar junta may have killed 110 protesters, UN says

hostage as a form of pressure.² SPDC authorities hunted down those who provided water or food to the monks and even arrested bystanders who simply applauded protesters.³

- Diplomats and dissident groups say up to 6,000 people, including thousands of monks, were detained in the crackdown.⁴
- On 19 October, the state-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar reported that 2,927 people had been arrested, 2,550 conditionally released, and 377 remained detained.⁵
- The military regime is still holding around 2,500 people in prisons and labor camps around the country.⁶

Protests' death toll

Based on personal accounts of the SPDC's brutal crackdown on monks and demonstrators, it became obvious that the death toll was much higher than the 10 people the SPDC was admitting.

- UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Burma, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, estimated that as many as 110 people, including 30 to 40 monks, were killed during the crackdown.⁷
- According to a list of victims compiled by the 88 Generation Students group, SPDC security forces killed 138 demonstrators.⁸
- Residents near the Yeywey crematorium in Rangoon reported seeing military personnel burning 71 bodies of demonstrators on the night of 26 September.⁹

Monks

In October, SPDC authorities continued to arrest and imprison monks throughout Burma.¹⁰ Monks have been barred from collecting alms, and ordered to leave monasteries and return to their home towns.¹¹

- At least 1,400 monks have been detained.¹²

² For more details on detention cases, see: AP (04 Oct 07) Myanmar media lashes out at foreigners; AP (04 Oct 07) Myanmar junta steps up propaganda machine; U.N. chief says envoy's trip was not a success; Reuters (04 Oct 07) Myanmar junta sets Suu Kyi talks conditions; AFP (04 Oct 07) Myanmar junta chief willing to meet Suu Kyi if she drops demands; AP (04 Oct 07) Myanmar junta chief willing to meet opposition leader Suu Kyi - but with conditions; DVB (04 Oct 07) UN staff member arrested; Nation (04 Oct 07) Burma cracks down on clappers, citizen journalists; New York Times (05 Oct 07) Myanmar Junta Admits Mass Arrests; DVB (04 Oct 07) Civilians and monks arrested in Arakan state and Magwe division; DVB (09 Oct 07) ABFSU leaders arrested in Rangoon; AP (10 Oct 07) Myanmar rulers lash out at West, foreign media for stoking recent protests; DVB (18 Oct 07) Head monk held in exchange for brother; Reuters (19 Oct 07) Myanmar prisoners rising before crackdown: U.N. expert; DVB (19 Oct 07) Family members of monk leader arrested; Irrawaddy (19 Oct 07) Fears for health of detainees; Guardian (20 Oct 07) Burma holding 2,500 in prison and arrests continue, UK says; DVB (21 Oct 07) Family of exiled 88 generation student arrested; Mizzima News (23 Oct 07) Two locals arrested in place of key activist; Bloomberg (25 Oct 07) Myanmar junta may have killed 110 protesters, UN says

³ Reuters (04 Oct 07) Myanmar junta sets Suu Kyi talks conditions; Reuters (05 Oct 07) Myanmar junta talks offer unreal - opposition; BBC (08 Oct 07) Burmese junta appoints go-between; DVB (09 Oct 07) Detainees categorised according to protest involvement

⁴ Irrawaddy (02 Oct 07) Information on Dead, Arrested, Missing is Hard to Find; Globe and Mail (02 Oct 07) Where are Myanmar's monks?; AP (03 Oct 07) U.S. diplomat: Burma's junta hunting protesters; AP (04 Oct 07) Myanmar media lashes out at foreigners; AP (04 Oct 07) Myanmar junta steps up propaganda machine; U.N. chief says envoy's trip was not a success; AP (04 Oct 07) French ambassador says Myanmar stepping up arrests, raiding monasteries; Irrawaddy (04 Oct 07) Rangoon Is Still a Battleground; Gulf News (07 Oct 07) Myanmar's monks plan next stage of protests; AP (12 Oct 07) Myanmar Rejects UN Call for Negotiations; AP (10 Oct 07) Myanmar rulers lash out at West, foreign media for stoking recent protests; AP (24 Oct 07) Myanmar government says 'bogus monks' connived with activists to stage protests; DVB (05 Oct 07) Monasteries again targeted in raids

⁵ NLM (19 Oct 07) 2,550 released on pledge up to date; AP (17 Oct 07) Crackdown to continue says Myanmar junta; Reuters (24 Oct 07) U.N.'s Pinheiro vows to go where he wants in Myanmar

⁶ Guardian (20 Oct 07) Burma holding 2,500 in prison and arrests continue, UK says

⁷ Bloomberg (25 Oct 07) Myanmar junta may have killed 110 protesters, UN says

⁸ Irrawaddy (02 Oct 07) Information on Dead, Arrested, Missing is Hard to Find; Globe and Mail (02 Oct 07) Where are Myanmar's monks?

⁹ DPA (06 Oct 07) Burma releases detained monks but diplomats not hopeful; Sunday Times (07 Oct 07) Secret cremations hide Burma killings; BBC (08 Oct 07) Burmese junta appoints go-between

¹⁰ Reuters (04 Oct 07) Myanmar junta sets Suu Kyi talks conditions; Irrawaddy (04 Oct 07) Overnight arrests of monks continue in Rangoon; Telegraph (06 Oct 07) Burma's monks plan next stage of protests; SHAN (15 Oct 07) Shan monk nabbed for rapping regime; Narinjara News (15 Oct 07) Prominent Arakanese monk arrested in Rangoon ; DVB (18 Oct 07) Head monk held in exchange for brother

¹¹ AAPP-B (06 Oct 07) Monasteries Raided Since September 26; IMNA (05 Oct 07) Monasteries in Rangoon ordered not to accommodate guests; AP (03 Oct 07) Myanmar junta turns to terror tactics; Buddhist monks ordered to hometowns; Kaowao News (19 Oct 07) Traveling monks face difficulties; Irrawaddy (16 Oct 07) Where have all the monks gone? - Shah Paung

¹² Irrawaddy (01 Oct 07) Rangoon quiet but raids on monasteries continue

- In Rangoon alone, as many as 1,000 monks were detained in Insein Prison.¹³
- At least 53 monasteries were raided.¹⁴ Officials cut phone lines, seized mobile telephones, computers, and other donations during raids.¹⁵
- The SPDC raided Maggin Monastery in Rangoon's Thingangyun Township at least four times. The monastery is known for providing assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS. Monks and lay people were arrested.¹⁶ Other Rangoon monasteries were ordered not to accommodate rural people seeking medical treatment in the city.¹⁷
- In Kachin State, SPDC authorities locked down monasteries, ordered monks to stay in their rooms, and barred them from receiving food offerings.¹⁸
- A district court in Akyab, Arakan State, sentenced 26-year-old monk Eik Darea, to seven and a half years in jail for taking part in anti-junta protests.¹⁹
- On 17 October, U Indriya, a monk from the Sait-Ta-Thuka Monastery, was sentenced to seven years and six months in jail for taking part in a demonstration in Akyab.²⁰

Arrests of political activists

Arrests of political activists also continued throughout October:

- SPDC authorities arrested about 280 NLD members, including 15 elected MPs, in the aftermath of the crackdown.²¹
- At least 25 members of the 88 Generation Students group have been detained since mid-August. On 10 October, SPDC authorities arrested Hla Myo Naung and Tharaphee.²² On 13 October, SPDC authorities arrested Htay Kywe, Mie Mie (aka Thin Thin Aye), and Aung Thu, in Rangoon.²³ On 23 October, SPDC authorities arrested Aung Naing.²⁴ On 19 October, SPDC authorities arrested San San Tin, the mother of Nyi Nyi, an 88 Generation Students group member who lives in exile in the United States.²⁵
- On 9 October, SPDC authorities in Rangoon arrested Sithu Maung (aka Yar Pyit) and Han Ni Oo, two leaders of the All-Burmese Federation of Students' Unions (ABFSU), in Rangoon.²⁶

Imprisonment

In October, at least 18 activists were sentenced to prison terms for their involvement in the demonstrations:

¹³ Irrawaddy (02 Oct 07) Information on Dead, Arrested, Missing is Hard to Find

¹⁴ AAPP-B (06 Oct 07) Monasteries Raided Since September 26; DVB (03 Oct 07) Monks fear government raids on monasteries

¹⁵ DVB (05 Oct 07) Monasteries again targeted in raids; MNA (10 Oct 07) Hundreds of monks flee Rangoon, arrive in Mon state

¹⁶ Irrawaddy (09 Oct 07) Monastery raided for fourth time in Rangoon - Shah Paung

¹⁷ IMNA (05 Oct 07) Monasteries in Rangoon ordered not to accommodate guests

¹⁸ Kachin News Group (17 Oct 07) Junta puts monks under intense scrutiny in Kachin State

¹⁹ Reuters (17 Oct 07) Myanmar protest monk jailed for seven years

²⁰ Irrawaddy (18 Oct 07) Five NLD members, one monk sentenced to prison

²¹ DVB (02 Oct 07) NLD representatives and party members arrested in protests; Mizzima News (03 Oct 07) NLD leaders and members interrogated, several arrested; Mizzima News (03 Oct 07) NLD leaders and members interrogated, several arrested; DVB (04 Oct 07) Civilians and monks arrested in Arakan state and Magwe division; Irrawaddy (04 Oct 07) Overnight arrests of monks continue in Rangoon; Mizzima News (09 Oct 07) Over 30 Mandalay NLD members arrested; DVB (10 Oct 07) Pakokku residents jailed for property damage; DVB (11 Oct 07) Families concerned about detained opposition leaders; Mizzima News (13 Oct 07) Student leader Htay Kywe arrested; Kaladan News (14 Oct 07) NLD functionary arrested in Taungup; DVB (16 Oct 07) Three Mandalay NLD members arrested; DVB (17 Oct 07) Arakan NLD members jailed; AFP (17 Oct 07) Four activists sentenced in secret trials: Myanmar opposition; Narinjara News (17 Oct 07) Nearly One Dozen NLD Leaders Arrested in Arakan; Irrawaddy (18 Oct 07) Five NLD members, one monk sentenced to prison; DVB (24 Oct 07) NLD members released and charged, but arrests continue; Mizzima News (27 Oct 07) Junta releases a few detainees, several missing

²² DVB (10 Oct 07) 88 generation student leader arrested; Mizzima News (10 Oct 07) More arrests in Burma, detainee dies during interrogation

²³ BBC (13 Oct 07) Key activists arrested in Burma; Irrawaddy (13 Oct 07) Prominent student leaders arrested; Mizzima News (13 Oct 07) Student leader Htay Kywe arrested; FT (14 Oct 07) Burma seizes top democracy activist; Hindu (14 Oct 07) Myanmar junta arrests more activists; Taipei Times (15 Oct 07) Seventy Myanmar forces raid house, seize activists; Sydney Morning Herald (14 Oct 07) Burma's military maintains hard line

²⁴ Mizzima News (25 Oct 07) Junta arrest more activists

²⁵ DVB (21 Oct 07) Family of exiled 88 generation student arrested

²⁶ DVB (09 Oct 07) ABFSU leaders arrested in Rangoon; Mizzima News (10 Oct 07) More arrests in Burma, detainee dies during interrogation; DVB (16 Oct 07) ABFSU leader Kyaw Ko Ko not arrested; Irrawaddy (10 Oct 07) Authorities Root Out Fugitive Student Leaders

- Four Sagaing Division NLD members, including MP Myint Kyi, were sentenced to two years in jail.²⁷
- On 11 October, a court in Akyab, Arakan State, sentenced former student leader Than Kyaw, to six months in prison.²⁸
- In mid-October, five NLD members in Arakan State were sentenced to prison terms ranging from four and half years to nine and half years in closed-door trials. Eighty-two-year-old Gwa Township NLD Chairman, Sein Kyaw, was sentenced, to five years in prison.²⁹ Eighty-five-year-old Tounggoat Township NLD Chairman, Kyaw Khine, received a seven and a half years sentence. They were both released on 24 October, along with Than Pe and Htun Kyi, two other Tounggoat NLD members.³⁰
- Five students from the Mandalay Institute of Medicine were sentenced to five years in prison. They were sent to labor camp in Kabbaw valley in Sagaing Division.³¹
- Kyauk Khe, a man arrested on 30 September for shouting slogans in support of the monks, was sentenced to two years in jail.³²
- On 17 October, activist Win Maung and another youth were sentenced to prison for their involvement in a demonstrations in Kyaukpyu, Arakan State.³³

Releases

When the SPDC announced it had invited UN Special Rapporteur on human rights on Burma, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, to visit Burma [See *International Relations*], the regime began releasing some of the demonstrators detained during the crackdown.³⁴ Those released included about 80 NLD members.³⁵

INSIDE BURMA

Peaceful resistance continues

Burma's people continue to defy the regime with creative acts of dissent, despite the SPDC's brutal crackdown on peaceful demonstrations and continued heavy military presence in the streets of Burma's main cities.

- In several townships in Rangoon, dogs were seen roaming with pictures of Than Shwe and other regime leaders strung around their necks. Associating anybody with a dog is a very serious insult in Burma.³⁶
- Trains were painted with anti-junta slogans.³⁷
- Anti-junta leaflets denouncing the SPDC's brutal crackdown and calling for renewed struggle were secretly distributed in Akyab, Arakan State.³⁸

²⁷ DVB (23 Oct 07) NLD members face two years' imprisonment

²⁸ Narinjara News (15 Oct 07) Former Arakanese student leader jailed

²⁹ AFP (17 Oct 07) Four activists sentenced in secret trials: Myanmar opposition; Reuters (17 Oct 07) Myanmar protest monk jailed for seven years; DVB (17 Oct 07) Arakan NLD members jailed; Narinjara News (17 Oct 07) Nearly One Dozen NLD Leaders Arrested in Arakan; Irrawaddy (18 Oct 07) Five NLD members, one monk sentenced to prison; Narinjara News (25 Oct 07) NLD Members Released by Burmese Authority in Arakan; Mizzima News (25 Oct 07) Junta arrest more activists

³⁰ Mizzima News (24 Oct 07) Junta showcases release of protesters, activists; Narinjara News (25 Oct 07) NLD Members Released by Burmese Authority in Arakan

DVB (26 Oct 07) Arakan NLD members sentenced but released; DVB (29 Oct 07) Missing NLD member found dead

³¹ Mizzima News (13 Oct 07) Student leader Htay Kywe arrested

³² DVB (11 Oct 07) Man given two-year sentence for shouting religious slogan

³³ Narinjara News (25 Oct 07) NLD Members Released by Burmese Authority in Arakan

³⁴ DVB (19 Oct 07) Three elderly people released from detention; DVB (23 Oct 07) Songwriter Ko Ye Lwin released; Mizzima News (23 Oct 07) Two locals arrested in place of key activist; Mizzima News (24 Oct 07) Junta showcases release of protesters, activists

³⁵ Mizzima News (23 Oct 07) Detained NLD spokesperson's health deteriorates; Narinjara News (25 Oct 07) NLD Members Released by Burmese Authority in Arakan; DVB (24 Oct 07) NLD members released and charged, but arrests continue; Mizzima News (24 Oct 07) Junta showcases release of protesters, activists; DVB (29 Oct 07) 73 freed from Insein prison; AP (26 Oct 07) Myanmar frees 70 democracy protesters; BBC (26 Oct 07) Burma regime 'frees 70 detainees'; AP (26 Oct 07) Detainees Freed in Myanmar; Mizzima News (27 Oct 07) Junta releases a few detainees, several missing; Al Jazeera (27 Oct 07) Myanmar frees more detainees; Reuters (30 Oct 07) Myanmar junta frees six more politicians; AP (30 Oct 07) Myanmar Releases Detainees

³⁶ Irrawaddy (12 Oct 07) Protesting dogs are now on the regime's wanted list

³⁷ Irrawaddy (12 Oct 07) Protesting dogs are now on the regime's wanted list

³⁸ Narinjara News (09 Oct 07) Secret distribution of anti-regime leaflets in Sittwe

- In early October, anti-junta posters criticizing the National Convention appeared in many key public places in Akyab.³⁹
- A growing number of citizens switched off the state-run nightly newscast, while some also shut off all the lights in their homes during the broadcast.⁴⁰
- On 4 October, thousands of Christians began a fast throughout Burma to pray for the release of detained protesters. Fasts were held in towns in Kachin and Shan States, as well as in Rangoon and Mandalay Divisions.⁴¹
- In Myitkyina, Kachin State, during a pro-regime mass rally, some of the participants shouted anti-SPDC slogans.⁴²

Public demonstrations continue to defy the regime:

- **1 October:** Over 300 people held a two-hour demonstration in Man Aung, Arakan State, demanding the release of all political prisoners, a reduction in essential commodity prices, and national reconciliation.⁴³ Another anti-junta demonstration was held the next day.⁴⁴
- **26 October:** Exactly a month after the SPDC's violent crackdown on monks and protesters, several groups of people dressed in yellow clothes and carrying yellow candles and flowers held prayers at Rangoon's Shwedagon pagoda.⁴⁵
- **31 October:** About 200 monks from several monasteries in Pakokku, Magwe Division, demonstrated for about an hour marching in the streets and chanting *metta*.⁴⁶

In October, demonstrations supporting the "Saffron Revolution" were also held in at least 21 other countries.⁴⁷

SPDC propaganda rallies

In October, the SPDC forced thousands of citizens across Burma to take part in mass rallies in support of the junta-sponsored National Convention.⁴⁸ Those who failed to take part in the rallies received fines ranging from 1,000 to 20,000 kyat.⁴⁹

³⁹ Kaladan News (10 Oct 07) Anti-junta posters all over key areas in Akyab

⁴⁰ AP (02 Oct 07) Myanmar citizens expressing their anger by shutting off government news

⁴¹ Irrawaddy (04 Oct 07) Christians in Burma pray for peace and release of detainees

⁴² Irrawaddy (17 Oct 07) People oppose junta in staged rallies to support National Convention

⁴³ Narinjara News (01 Oct 07) Fresh protests in Arakan

⁴⁴ Narinjara News (05 Oct 07) Troops despatched to Man Aung to quell demonstrations; DVB (03 Oct 07) Arakan protests continue despite threats from authorities

⁴⁵ Mizzima News (26 Oct 07) 'Yellow colour' worshippers in Shwedagon

⁴⁶ AP (31 Oct 07) More than 100 Buddhist monks march for first time since last month's crackdown; DVB (31 Oct 07) 200 monks protest in Pakokku

⁴⁷ For more details on the demonstrations, see: DVB (01 Oct 07) Solidarity protests held around the world; Mizzima News (01 Oct 07) Gujral, Fernandes condemn Burmese junta for brutal crackdown; Khonumthung News (01 Oct 07) Chins in India support protests in Burma; Hindu (02 Oct 07) Peace rally for democracy in Myanmar; IMNA (02 Oct 07) Ethnic Burmese protest outside Chinese and Russian embassies; Mizzima News (04 Oct 07) Junta accused of destroying Buddhist religion by 300 monks in Bodhgaya; AFP (06 Oct 07) Suu Kyi appears on state TV as under-fire Myanmar frees monks; ANI (23 Oct 07) Protestors demand India to shun 'non-intervention' policy towards Myanmar; Irrawaddy (24 Oct 07) Chinese embassies targeted by "Free Burma" demonstrations; AFP (24 Oct 07) Myanmar activists launch day of demos; New York Times (09 Oct 07) Myanmar appoints liaison to dissident; Mizzima News (12 Oct 07) Over 5,000 Indians condemn junta, appeal for Indian intervention; Hindustan Times (11 Oct 07) Manipuris protest against military junta in Myanmar; SHAN (14 Oct 07) Honoring the Monks in Burma SHAN; Mizzima News (19 Oct 07) Burmese women activists demand Sonia Gandhi intervene; Epoch Times (21 Oct 07) Human Rights Activists Protest Myanmar Violence at Chinese Embassy in Israel; Toronto Star (07 Oct 07) Global rallies back Burma's monks; IMNA (02 Oct 07) Ethnic Burmese protest outside Chinese and Russian embassies; Mizzima News (02 Oct 07) Burmese in Bangladesh protest against Junta; DVB (01 Oct 07) Solidarity protests held around the world; Narinjara News (07 Oct 07) Monks Protest at Embassy in Dhaka; Hindu (02 Oct 07) Peace rally for democracy in Myanmar; Reuters (04 Oct 07) Myanmar junta sets Suu Kyi talks conditions; Times of India (07 Oct 07) Protests against Myanmar junta go global; DVB (01 Oct 07) Solidarity protests held around the world; DVB (01 Oct 07) Solidarity protests held around the world; Bloomberg (25 Oct 07) Myanmar junta may have killed 110 protesters, UN says; BBC Monitoring (06 Oct 07) Indians form group to show solidarity for Burmese people; Times of India (03 Oct 07) Call for global day of protest over Myanmar crisis; Kachin News Group (04 Oct 07) Demonstration against China in Chiang Mai; Mizzima News (02 Oct 07) Burmese in Bangladesh protest against Junta; Mizzima News (02 Oct 07) Thousands rally in Northeast India in solidarity with monks in Burma;

⁴⁸ For more details on the mass rallies, see: DVB (02 Oct 07) Counter-protest staged by government supporters; SHAN (02 Oct 07) Civilians forced to attend rally to support NC in Langkhur; DVB (03 Oct 07) Meikhtila USDA holds pro-government rally; IMNA (04 Oct 07) Residents and regime officers forced to attend NC rally; IMNA (05 Oct 07) Teachers not to wear uniforms for tomorrow's rally; Khonumthung News (05 Oct 07) Hakha people being forced to attend rally to support NC; Mizzima News (08 Oct 07) Junta on 'NC mass rally' spree; Mizzima News (09 Oct 07) Junta appoints 'liaison minister'; a conciliatory move; Khonumthung News (09 Oct 07) Junta's rally for NC held in Chin state today; IMNA (10 Oct 07) Rally supporting NC in Mon state

- **1 October:** SPDC authorities in Eastern Shan State rounded up vendors and farmers to force them to participate in a mass rally.⁵⁰
- **16 October:** Two former schoolteachers from Pegu Division were arrested after they spoke out against a pro-junta rally in Paung Tal Township.⁵¹
- **14 October:** The SPDC ordered residents of Maungdaw, Arakan State, to attend a pro-junta rally on the day that Muslim residents would observe the holy Muslim festival of Eid.⁵²

Daw Suu: 12 years under detention, two more honors

- On 24 October, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, marked her 12th year under detention.⁵³
- In October, she was awarded two more honors. On 13 October, the Canadian government announced it would confer honorary citizenship on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.⁵⁴ The City of Glasgow, UK, announced it would bestow the Freedom of Glasgow honor on Daw Suu.⁵⁵

Talks with Daw Suu: the SPDC's latest gimmick?

In an effort to appease world opinion and prevent closer scrutiny from the UN Security Council action, the SPDC made the following concessions to the UN:

- **4 October:** Senior General Than Shwe said he would be willing to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi under certain conditions. Demands included that Daw Suu abandon confrontation with the junta and calls for the imposition of sanctions.⁵⁸ The NLD cautiously welcomed the SPDC's moves towards dialogue, but insisted that talks proceed without any conditions.⁵⁹
- **8 October:** The SPDC appointed Major General Aung Kyi as the

Who is Aung Kyi?⁵⁶

A retired Major General and former Deputy Chief of the Armed Forces Training, Aung Kyi is believed to be closer to the SPDC number 2, Senior-General Maung Aye. Aung Kyi has acquired a reputation of troubleshooter for his dealings with international organizations during his tenure as SPDC cabinet member.

- **May 2006:** Appointed Deputy Ministry of Immigration and Population. He negotiated with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) over Rohingya refugee issues and helped ease border tensions with Thailand by creating a joint committee to resolve disputes.
- **November 2006:** Appointed deputy Labor Minister. He helped defuse tensions with the International Labor Organization over the issue of forced labor, when the Geneva-based body threatened to refer the situation to the International Court of Justice.
- **October 2007:** Appointed Minister for Relations to act as liaison officer in negotiations with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.⁵⁷ Promoted to Labor Minister.

today; Kantarawaddy Times (10 Oct 07) Karenni people forced to attend rally to support NC; Mizzima News (13 Oct 07) Junta holds mass rally in Rangoon; Narinjara News (13 Oct 07) Soldiers Attend Rally in Fire Service Uniforms; Irrawaddy (17 Oct 07) People oppose junta in staged rallies to support National Convention; Kaladan News (17 Oct 07) Forced pro government rallies in every town in Arakan; DVB (19 Oct 07) Bago couple arrested for challenging government protests; IMNA (23 Oct 07) Junta continues to denounce monk-led protests, people refused to join in; Irrawaddy (29 Oct 07) Rangoon residents forced onto the streets; DVB (30 Oct 07) Teacher jailed for wearing uniform

⁴⁹ Mizzima News (03 Oct 07) Junta organizes mass rallies in support of National Convention; Mizzima News (04 Oct 07) People forced to attend rallies in central Burma in support of NC; Khonumthung News (09 Oct 07) Junta's rally for NC held in Chin state today; SHAN (16 Oct 07) Rally to support Snr. Gen Than Shwe's four pre-conditions; IMNA (22 Oct 07) Residents refuse to attend rally denouncing protests; BBC (23 Oct 07) Burma minority 'fleeing to India'

⁵⁰ SHAN (05 October 07) Civilians rounded up for rally to support NC in Kengtung

⁵¹ DVB (19 Oct 07) Bago couple arrested for challenging government protests

⁵² Narinjara (13 Oct 07) Muslim Community Unhappy with Maungdaw Rally

⁵³ PR Newswire (24 Oct 07) Amnesty International demands release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as she marks 12th year under house arrest

⁵⁴ Mizzima News (17 Oct 07) Honorary citizenship for Suu Kyi

⁵⁵ Herald (29 Oct 07) Nobel Prize winner to be awarded Freedom of Glasgow

⁵⁶ Reuters (08 Oct 07) Myanmar names trusted fixer as Suu Kyi go-between; AFP (09 Oct 07) General tasked with Suu Kyi contacts is a moderate—analysts; Irrawaddy (09 Oct 07) Aung Kyi: The Junta's New Liaison Officer; Xinhua (16 Oct 07) Myanmar makes first government cabinet reshuffle since move of capital; AP (24 Oct 07) Thein Sein appointed Myanmar's prime minister; AP (25 Oct 07) Suu Kyi Meets Junta's Official; Council of the European Union (27 Apr 06) Common position 2006/318/CFSP of 27 April 2006 renewing restrictive measures against Burma/Myanmar;

⁵⁷ Irrawaddy (09 Oct 07) Aung Kyi: The Junta's New Liaison Officer; AP (25 Oct 07) Suu Kyi Meets Junta's Official

⁵⁸ AP (04 Oct 07) Myanmar junta chief willing to meet opposition leader Suu Kyi - but with conditions; AP (05 Oct 07) Myanmar leader willing to meet Suu Kyi; Reuters (04 Oct 07) Myanmar junta sets Suu Kyi talks conditions; AFP (04 Oct 07) Myanmar junta chief willing to meet Suu Kyi if she drops demands; AFP (06 Oct 07) Suu Kyi appears on state TV as under-fire Myanmar frees monks

⁵⁹ AP (09 Oct 07) NLD resists preconditions for talks with junta; DVB (10 Oct 07) NLD responds to Burmese government's offer of meeting; AFP (09 Oct 07) Myanmar opposition cautiously welcomes Suu Kyi dialogue move; AFP (10 Oct 07) Burma Opposition Says No Word From Junta on Talks; AP (10 Oct 07) Military and democracy party take steps toward talks in Myanmar

junta's liaison officer to hold talks with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.⁶⁰ He is the fourth official designated to liaise with Daw Suu since 1994.⁶¹

- **25 October:** Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met for more than an hour at a government guesthouse in Rangoon with the SPDC's newly appointed liaison minister Aung Kyi.⁶² The meeting provided the junta with a much-needed photo opportunity but no details about the meeting were available.

Roadmap to nowhere

On 18 October, in a separate bid to ease international pressure and show progress on its so-called "roadmap to democracy", the SPDC announced the formation of a 54-member committee tasked with drafting Burma's new constitution. The announcement did not say when the committee would start drafting the constitution or how long the task will take.⁶³ The committee is composed of regime officials, retired doctors, and professors. Pro-democracy organizations, ethnic groups, and women are not represented on the committee.⁶⁴

The news of the setting up of the committee was promptly dismissed by several ethnic groups, including the Mon Unity League, the Karen National Union, and the New Mon State Party.⁶⁵

SPDC: more internal conflicts and reshuffles

The violent handling of the anti-junta demonstrations resulted in increased tensions and conflicts within the regime.

- On 1 October, SPDC Army's Rangoon Commander Major General Hla Htay Win was "permitted to retire". He had reportedly refused to give orders to fire on protesters in Rangoon.⁶⁶
- According to a high-ranking junta official, the SPDC detained five generals and more than 400 soldiers for refusing to fire on monks and protesters in Rangoon.⁶⁷
- Ye Min Tun, an SPDC foreign ministry official for 10 years, sent a letter of resignation to the Burmese embassy in London over the "horrible" treatment of Buddhist monks during the protests.⁶⁸

On 12 October, SPDC Prime Minister, General Soe Win, died at Rangoon's Mingaladon military hospital. The 59-year-old general leader was reported to be suffering from leukemia, and had returned to Rangoon from Singapore on 1 October, after spending several months in the city state for medical treatment.⁶⁹

Soe Win's death triggered a reshuffle in the SPDC cabinet on 24 October:

- The SPDC appointed 62-year-old Lieutenant General Thein Sein as the junta's new Prime Minister.⁷⁰ Thein Sein had been serving as acting Prime Minister since May. [See *May 2007 Burma Bulletin*]
- Lieutenant-General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, 57, current SPDC member and Quartermaster-General, replaced Thein Sein as the junta's Secretary-1.⁷¹

⁶⁰ AFP (08 Oct 07) Myanmar junta names point man for relations with Suu Kyi; BBC (08 Oct 07) Burmese junta appoints go-between; New York Times (09 Oct 07) Myanmar appoints liaison to dissident; AP (25 Oct 07) Suu Kyi Meets Junta's Official

⁶¹ Irrawaddy (09 Oct 07) Junta Appoints Liaison Officer for Suu Kyi

⁶² Reuters (25 Oct 07) Myanmar's detained Suu Kyi has talks with junta; AP (25 Oct 07) Suu Kyi Meets Junta's Official; AP (26 Oct 07) Show of Force in Myanmar on Anniversary; DVB (26 Oct 07) Daw Suu meets liaison minister

⁶³ AP (18 Oct 07) Myanmar junta forms committee to draft new constitution; Mizzima News (19 Oct 07) Junta rebuffs int'l efforts, sets up constitution drafting commission; AFP (19 Oct 07) Myanmar vows to go ahead with 'road map' to democracy

⁶⁴ BBC (18 Oct 07) Burma junta in constitution move

⁶⁵ IMNA (19 Oct 07) Constitution drafting commission has to toe junta line: MUL; Irrawaddy (19 Oct 07) Junta presses on with "Exclusive" constitution drafting

⁶⁶ Mizzima News (01 Oct 07) Ailing Prime Minister to go back to Burma, Rangoon commander ousted

⁶⁷ AP (10 Oct 07) Generals, soldiers detained for refusing to shoot monks in Myanmar; AGI (10 Oct 07) Burma: 5 generals arrested for not shooting at monks

⁶⁸ BBC (09 Oct 07) Diplomat resigns over Burma monks

⁶⁹ AP (12 Oct 07) Myanmar Rejects UN Call for Negotiations; Mizzima News (12 Oct 07) Burmese Premier Soe Win dies; IMNA (12 Oct 07) Myanmar PM, Gen. Soe Win dies at 5: 30 p.m.

⁷⁰ AP (24 Oct 07) Thein Sein appointed Myanmar's prime minister; DVB (24 Oct 07) Junta announces new appointments; Mizzima News (25 Oct 07) Reshuffles in Burmese top posts; Mizzima News (25 Oct 07) Reshuffles in Burmese top posts

- Deputy Labor Minister, Major General Aung Kyi, believed to be close to Snr Gen Maung Aye, was promoted to Minister of Labor.⁷² He replaced Than Shwe's loyalist, U Thaug.⁷³
- Three new deputy ministers were also appointed. General Thein Htay became deputy Defense Minister. General Kyaw Saw Khine took the post of deputy Minister of Industry-2. General Thein Htun was appointed deputy Minister of Communications, Post and Telegraph.⁷⁴

Arms shopping in Moscow

On 12 October, an SPDC delegation headed by Lieutenant-General Myint Hlaing, commander of the regime's air defense forces, went to Russia to strengthen military ties with Moscow. The regime was reportedly interested in acquiring remotely piloted planes as well as BUK-M1 and TOR-M1 missile systems.⁷⁵ The SPDC also wants to have its officers trained in Russian military facilities.⁷⁶ Russia is the SPDC's second biggest arms supplier after China, with US\$396 million in military aid provided to the regime between 1988 and 2006.⁷⁷

Opium and amphetamine production up in Burma

A United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report released on 10 October claimed that opium cultivation in Burma rose by 29% and production by 46% making the country the world's second largest opium producer after Afghanistan.⁷⁸ UNODC said that opium poppy cultivation had experienced an "extremely alarming" increase in Burma after six straight years of dramatic declines, driven in part by corruption and the lack of SPDC control over insurgent groups in remote areas.⁷⁹ In addition, there has been a "dangerous switch" in drug production away from opium to a significant increase in methamphetamines.⁸⁰

HUMAN RIGHTS

Detention conditions

On 16 October, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said it was "deeply worried" about the fate of thousands of demonstrators arrested in the crackdown. The ICRC said that it had not yet been able to re-establish a meaningful dialogue with the SPDC over resumption of prison visits.⁸¹ Detained demonstrators and monks have been subjected to appalling conditions:

- **Overcrowding:** A junta official said that up to 1,700 people, including monks, nuns, students, and civilians were detained at the campus of the Government Technical Institute (GTI).⁸² At least 1,000 detainees, including 600 monks, were locked up in crowded cells at the Mingaladon military prison outside Rangoon.⁸³ At least 900 detainees were held in Mohbyee police compound in Rangoon.⁸⁴ Released detainees reported being kept in cramped conditions in small rooms, with some standing shoulder to shoulder, unable to lie down.⁸⁵

⁷¹ Reuters (24 Oct 07) Myanmar junta names new senior official; AP (24 Oct 07) Thein Sein appointed Myanmar's prime minister; DVB (24 Oct 07) Junta announces new appointments; Mizzima News (25 Oct 07) Reshuffles in Burmese top posts

⁷² AP (24 Oct 07) Thein Sein appointed Myanmar's prime minister; DVB (24 Oct 07) Junta announces new appointments; Mizzima News (25 Oct 07) Reshuffles in Burmese top posts; Irrawaddy (09 Oct 07) Aung Kyi: The Junta's New Liaison Officer

⁷³ Irrawaddy (09 Oct 07) Aung Kyi: The Junta's New Liaison Officer

⁷⁴ AP (24 Oct 07) Thein Sein appointed Myanmar's prime minister; DVB (24 Oct 07) Junta announces new appointments; Mizzima News (25 Oct 07) Reshuffles in Burmese top posts

⁷⁵ Reuters (12 Oct 07) Myanmar generals visit arms maker in Russia

⁷⁶ DPA (28 Oct 07) Myanmar regime officials in Moscow for military cooperation talks

⁷⁷ AP (13 Oct 07) Despite poor human rights record, Myanmar easily finds foreign suppliers for its military

⁷⁸ AHN (10 Oct 07) Burma Ups Opium Production, Diversifies To Methamphetamine

⁷⁹ AP (10 Oct 07) UN: Myanmar sees 'alarming' increase in opium poppy cultivation after years of declines

⁸⁰ UN News Center (10 Oct 07) New UN survey reveals surge in Myanmar's opium production

⁸¹ Reuters (16 Oct 07) Red Cross seeks access to Myanmar protest detainees; Irrawaddy (19 Oct 07) Fears for health of detainees

⁸² AFP (02 Oct 07) Myanmar holding 1,000 people at Yangon campus – officials; IPS (04 Oct 07) Burma - Fear Over the Country; DVB (02 Oct 07) Detained monks could be sent to hard labour camps

⁸³ SHAN (10 Oct 07) Hundreds of Shan monks pinched in crackdown

⁸⁴ CNN (13 Oct 07) Myanmar captives 'kept in squalor'

⁸⁵ Telegraph (07 Oct 07) Burmese monk speaks of interrogation horror; Sydney Morning Herald (08 Oct 07) Untold story: how Burma brutalised its monks; DVB (11 Oct 07) Detainees transferred due to prison overcrowding; Irrawaddy (11 Oct 07) Monks in

- **Torture and ill-treatment:** Released prisoners reported being severely and repeatedly beaten, kicked, verbally abused, and deprived of sleep by prison authorities during interrogation sessions.⁸⁶ Monks were forcibly disrobed.⁸⁷ It was reported that two university students died while being interrogated in Rangoon's Kyaikkasan interrogation center.⁸⁸ It was reported that Win Shwe, a 42-year-old NLD member from Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Division, died as a result of being tortured during an interrogation session at the Plate Myot Police Center near Mandalay.⁸⁹
- **Poor sanitary conditions:** Prisoners reported a lack of toilets, clean water, and adequate supply of food and drinking water.⁹⁰
- **Lack of adequate medical attention:** Prisoners reported being denied adequate medical attention by prison staff.⁹¹ Released prisoner Zaw Myint reported that a physician at Rangoon's Insein prison used the same hypodermic needle to treat multiple detainees.⁹² Denial of medical care resulted in the death of several detainees.⁹³ A layman released on 5 October claimed that more than a dozen monks and other people had died during their detention at Rangoon's GTI.⁹⁴

Freedom of information

In October, Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) released the 2007 World Press Freedom Index. Burma ranked 164th out of the 169 countries listed in the survey. RSF said journalists in Burma continue to work under heavy censorship. Private broadcasting is not allowed and most websites carrying news about the country are blocked. Journalists and writers continue to be jailed.⁹⁵ RSF findings were underscored by the harsh restrictions imposed in the aftermath of the crackdown.

- On 6 October, the SPDC partially restored Internet connection across the country. Internet was initially available again only during the curfew hours and the connection was slow and irregular.⁹⁶ The G-mail website was reportedly blocked.⁹⁷ Most internet shops in Rangoon remained closed.⁹⁸

hell; CNN (13 Oct 07) Myanmar captives 'kept in squalor'; AP (19 Oct 07) World may never learn death toll in Myanmar protests, British official says; Irrawaddy (25 Oct 07) Women recall life in prisons, interrogation centers

⁸⁶ Irish Times (05 Oct 07) Burma says no UN action warranted; Telegraph (07 Oct 07) Burmese monk speaks of interrogation horror; Sydney Morning Herald (08 Oct 07) Untold story: how Burma brutalised its monks; Irrawaddy (11 Oct 07) Monks in hell; Irrawaddy (11 Oct 07) 88 Generation Students, Other Detainees Tortured in Interrogation Centers; AP (12 Oct 07) Burma's junta of beating, killing detainees, Norway-based radio says; AP (12 Oct 07) Dissident group: Myanmar guards brutalized pro-democracy detainees; DVB (22 Oct 07) NLD members allege torture during interrogation; Irrawaddy (25 Oct 07) Women recall life in prisons, interrogation centers; DVB (26 Oct 07) Arakan NLD members sentenced but released; DVB (29 Oct 07) Women pressured to denounce monks

⁸⁷ AFP (02 Oct 07) Myanmar holding 1,000 people at Yangon campus – officials; Sydney Morning Herald (08 Oct 07) Untold story: how Burma brutalised its monks; Irrawaddy (11 Oct 07) Monks in hell

⁸⁸ DVB (08 Oct 07) Two detainees die in custody; Irrawaddy (11 Oct 07) 88 Generation Students, Other Detainees Tortured in Interrogation Centers

⁸⁹ DVB (08 Oct 07) Two detainees die in custody; AP (10 Oct 07) Myanmar rulers lash out at West, foreign media for stoking recent protests; Mizzima News (10 Oct 07) More arrests in Burma, detainee dies during interrogation; Irrawaddy (11 Oct 07) 88 Generation Students, Other Detainees Tortured in Interrogation Centers; DVB (11 Oct 07) NLD member dies during interrogation; Bangkok Post (11 Oct 07) Burmese dissident 'tortured to death'; DVB (12 Oct 07) NLD suspicious over party member's death in detention; AP (15 Oct 07) International pressure on Myanmar junta to release political prisoners

⁹⁰ AFP (03 Oct 07) Myanmar soldiers warn of new arrests; Reuters (04 Oct 07) Myanmar junta sets Suu Kyi talks conditions; Telegraph (07 Oct 07) Burmese monk speaks of interrogation horror; Sydney Morning Herald (08 Oct 07) Untold story: how Burma brutalised its monks; Irrawaddy (11 Oct 07) Monks in hell; CNN (13 Oct 07) Myanmar captives 'kept in squalor'; AP (19 Oct 07) World may never learn death toll in Myanmar protests, British official says; Irrawaddy (25 Oct 07) Women recall life in prisons, interrogation centers; DVB (26 Oct 07) Arakan NLD members sentenced but released; DVB (29 Oct 07) Women pressured to denounce monks

⁹¹ Telegraph (07 Oct 07) Burmese monk speaks of interrogation horror; Sydney Morning Herald (08 Oct 07) Untold story: how Burma brutalised its monks; Irrawaddy (11 Oct 07) Monks in hell; AP (12 Oct 07) Burma's junta of beating, killing detainees, Norway-based radio says; AP (12 Oct 07) Dissident group: Myanmar guards brutalized pro-democracy detainees; DVB (29 Oct 07) Women pressured to denounce monks

⁹² Irrawaddy (11 Oct 07) Monks in hell; AP (12 Oct 07) Myanmar opposition endorses UN push for talks with govt; AP (12 Oct 07) Myanmar Rejects UN Call for Negotiations

⁹³ Telegraph (07 Oct 07) Burmese monk speaks of interrogation horror; Sydney Morning Herald (08 Oct 07) Untold story: how Burma brutalised its monks; Irrawaddy (11 Oct 07) Monks in hell; AP (12 Oct 07) Dissident group: Myanmar guards brutalized pro-democracy detainees

⁹⁴ Irrawaddy (11 Oct 07) Monks in hell

⁹⁵ AFP (17 Oct 07) Asian journalists face coups, wars, military regimes; RSF (16 Oct 07) Worldwide Press Freedom Index 2007

⁹⁶ AFP (06 Oct 07) Myanmar Internet down again after curfew, say residents; Mizzima News (08 Oct 07) Junta restarts Internet lines, only at night; Mizzima News (09 Oct 07) Junta appoints 'liaison minister'; a conciliatory move; Mizzima News (10 Oct 07) Internet back in Burma, but lines fluctuate; RSF (12 Oct 07) Burma - Eight Burmese journalists and two "comedian-columnists" in prison as police round-up goes on; Mizzima News (15 Oct 07) Junta restarts internet for 24 hours, reduces security

⁹⁷ IMNA (17 Oct 07) G mail banned in Mon State

⁹⁸ Mizzima News (08 Oct 07) Junta restarts Internet lines, only at night

- On 8 October, the SPDC's censorship board denied the permission to release "Ahkyuanmeh Hlonegyoneyar" (Total Security), a 45-minute HIV awareness video.⁹⁹
- The SPDC's censorship board issued a ban on 22 writers and cartoonists who were involved in food offerings to monks during the anti-junta protests.¹⁰⁰
- The SPDC banned the sale of foreign publications that covered the violent crackdown on the anti-junta demonstrations.¹⁰¹
- On 10 October, SPDC authorities arrested film actor and social activist, Kyaw Thu, and his wife, Myint Myint Pe Khin. Kyaw Thu had openly supported the protests and set up a support committee offering food, water, and medical treatment to the monks who participated in the demonstrations.¹⁰² They were released on 17 October, along with comedian Zaganar.¹⁰³ Zaganar was again taken into custody on 29 October and released the following day.¹⁰⁴
- On 1 October, SPDC security forces in Mandalay arrested Khin Mar Lar, the wife of a politically-active poet Nyein Thit (aka Thaug Tun), who evaded arrest by security forces.¹⁰⁵ She was released on 21 October.¹⁰⁶
- NLD member Pike Ko and four other residents of Pakokku, Magwe Division, were given long-term prison sentences for passing information to foreign media on the crackdown on a monk-led protest.¹⁰⁷
- On 19 October, SPDC authorities arrested three residents of Akyab, Arakan State, for allegedly passing information on the anti-junta demonstrations to foreign media.¹⁰⁸
- Win Saing, photo-journalist, and Saw Thura Soe, photographer for the European Pressphoto Agency (EPA), have been missing since the beginning of the crackdown.¹⁰⁹
- On 25 October, a local reporter who tried to take a photo of pilgrims at Rangoon's Shwedagon pagoda was immediately surrounded by about a dozen riot police. One officer confiscated the memory card from his camera.¹¹⁰
- On 21 October, two individuals, allegedly linked to the USDA, beat Aung Khine Nyunt, a reporter at The Myanmar Nation who was taking photographs at Hledan Market in Rangoon's Kamaryut Township.¹¹¹
- On 21 October, SPDC authorities in Rangoon took into custody prominent writer Than Myint Aung. She was released on the same day. She was taken from her home for questioning again on 22 October.¹¹²

DISPLACEMENT

Safety outside Burma?

A small number of protesters fleeing SPDC repression reached the Thai-Burma border seeking asylum. They included monks, 88 Generation Students, and a witness to the shooting of a Japanese journalist.¹¹³ As a result of the political upheaval in Burma, Thai authorities cautioned Burmese pro-democracy

⁹⁹ Mizzima News (11 Oct 07) Burmese actor Kyaw Thu's HIV awareness video blocked

¹⁰⁰ Mizzima News (12 Oct 07) Censor board bans Awpikey's cartoons; Mizzima News (15 Oct 07) Burma bans write ups of several writers using pseudonyms; DVB (18 Oct 07) Government bans writers for supporting protests

¹⁰¹ Irrawaddy (17 Oct 07) Junta bans foreign media from book stores

¹⁰² Irrawaddy (11 Oct 07) Burmese film actor and his wife arrested; AP (12 Oct 07) Dissident group: Myanmar guards brutalized pro-democracy detainees

¹⁰³ UPI (17 Oct 07) 3 Myanmar dissidents reportedly freed; UPI (17 Oct 07) 3 Myanmar dissidents reportedly freed; AFP (18 Oct 07) Myanmar frees celebrities held over protests; DVB (18 Oct 07) High-profile celebrity activists released; Mizzima News (18 Oct 07) Burmese actor and critic Zaganar released; RSF (22 Oct 07) Burma - News photographer missing, eight other journalists still detained

¹⁰⁴ AFP (30 Oct 07) Top Burma Comedian Detained for Second Time; Mizzima News (30 Oct 07) Popular comedian detained for a short while; Irrawaddy (30 Oct 07) Zaganar questioned and freed with warning

¹⁰⁵ DVB (09 Oct 07) Wife of politically-active poet arrested

¹⁰⁶ DVB (24 Oct 07) NLD members released and charged, but arrests continue

¹⁰⁷ DVB (10 Oct 07) Pakokku residents jailed for property damage

¹⁰⁸ Kaladan News (29 Oct 07) Burmese intelligence agency arrests three in Akyab

¹⁰⁹ RSF (12 Oct 07) Burma - Eight Burmese journalists and two "comedian-columnists" in prison as police round-up goes on; RSF (22 Oct 07) Burma - News photographer missing, eight other journalists still detained; Mizzima News (30 Oct 07) Karen photojournalist still missing

¹¹⁰ AP (26 Oct 07) Detainees Freed in Myanmar

¹¹¹ Irrawaddy (24 Oct 07) Journalists Describe Dangers of Reporting in Burma

¹¹² DVB (23 Oct 07) Than Myint Aung questioned by police

¹¹³ Irrawaddy (16 Oct 07) More dissidents flee to Thai-Burmese border

groups and agencies providing welfare to Burmese people in Thailand against engaging in political activities.¹¹⁴ Migrant workers were also affected, when Gov Chumporn Ponrak of Tak Province ordered authorities in Mae Sot to restrict the movement of Burmese migrant workers in the area.¹¹⁵

India increased security in Manipur and other bordering states in an effort to prevent an influx of refugees.¹¹⁶ Despite the increased security, hundreds of Chin arrived in Mizoram since the crackdowns.¹¹⁷

Displacement in Eastern Burma

According to the Thai Burma Border Consortium's latest report covering events since 2005, the SPDC Army offensive in Karen State and other SPDC military operations in Eastern Burma have led to increased incidents of torture, military attacks, and random arrests of civilians. Key findings:

- About 76,000 people fled their homes in eastern Burma in the past year due to SPDC actions, including the displacement of at least 167 entire villages.
- The area most affected was concentrated in northern Karen State and Eastern Pegu Division, where SPDC operations displaced 43,000 civilians. While the total number of deaths in the four townships is unknown, the SPDC Army killed at least 38 villagers in Thandaung Township during 2007.
- 273 infantry and light infantry battalions are active in Eastern Burma – representing more than 30% of all the SPDC's battalions.
- Mon villagers continue to be affected by demands for forced labor to maintain the Yadana natural gas pipeline.
- 3,000 acres of farmland was confiscated in Karenni State to make room for an industrial center.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SPDC brutality: The global response

In the aftermath of the SPDC's brutal attacks, torture, and killing of Buddhist monks and civilians engaging in peaceful protests throughout Burma, the UN and countries around the world condemned Burma's military regime shocking and despicable behavior. While it is still too early to assess the overall impact of the global actions on the SPDC, it is safe to say that the political landscape for the SPDC will never be the same. It is also apparent that the SPDC felt the pressure that was brought to bear.

On 2 October, UN Special Advisor on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, met with SPDC Chairman Sr Gen Than Shwe and other SPDC leaders including Vice Sr Gen. Maung Aye, Gen Thura Shwe Mann and the acting PM Thein Sein.¹¹⁸ Gambari delivered a message from UN Sec Gen Ban Ki-moon that called on the junta to cease the repression of peaceful protest, release the detainees, and move more credibly and inclusively in the direction of democratic reform, human rights and national reconciliation.¹¹⁹ As a result of this pressure, the SPDC agreed to allow Gambari to return to Burma in early November, invited UN Special Rapporteur, Sergio Paulo Pinheiro, to Burma for a fact-finding mission on human rights issues, and appointed an SPDC liaison, Maj Gen Aung Kyi, to hold talks with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.¹²⁰

¹¹⁴ Mizzima News (25 Oct 07) Thailand to launch operation against Burmese dissidents

¹¹⁵ Irrawaddy (01 Oct 07) Mae Sot police arrest illegal migrant workers at demonstration against junta - Sai Silp

¹¹⁶ Sangai Express (11 Oct 07) Junta crackdown in Myanmar strict vigil at border area

¹¹⁷ BBC (23 Oct 07) Burma minority 'fleeing to India'

¹¹⁸ Mizzima News (02 Oct 07) Gambari concludes Burma visit, meets Suu Kyi again

¹¹⁹ DPA (02 Oct 07) Talks, no progress in Burma

¹²⁰ AP (23 Oct 07) UN says Myanmar has agreed to earlier visit by UN envoy; Mizzima News (23 Oct 07) Junta invites human rights official to Burma; Reuters (25 Oct 07) Myanmar's detained Suu Kyi has talks with junta

UN Security Council action on Burma

On 5 October, both UN Sec-Gen Ban Ki-moon and UN Special Advisor on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari addressed UN Security Council members on the situation in Burma. Ban Ki-moon said that the use of force to put down peaceful protests in Burma was “abhorrent and unacceptable”. He also urged the SPDC to release detainees and start a dialogue with political opponents.¹²¹

On 11 October, the Security Council issued a statement “strongly” deploring the SPDC’s repression of pro-democracy demonstrators and called for the early release of all political prisoners and remaining detainees. It also called on the SPDC and all other parties concerned to work together towards a de-escalation of the situation and a peaceful solution.¹²² The statement was not blocked by China or Russia, who vetoed a UNSC resolution on Burma in January 2007.

UNHRC to SPDC: Stop the violence

On 2 October, the UN Human Rights Council passed a resolution that “strongly deplored” the violent repression of peaceful protesters in Burma. The 11-point resolution urged the SPDC to cooperate with the international community, desist from further violence, and to lift all restraints on peaceful political activity. The resolution also requested that UN Special Rapporteur, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, be allowed into the Burma to report on the human rights situation.¹²³ On 22 October, Pinheiro said he would visit Burma in November. It will be his first visit to the country in four years.¹²⁴

Gambari tours Asia

On 14 October, Ibrahim Gambari returned to Asia for consultations with key governments on efforts to promote talks between Burma’s military junta and the opposition. Gambari’s itinerary involved discussions with the governments of Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, China and Japan.¹²⁵

The heat is on: new sanctions squeeze SPDC and their cronies

The EU, US, and Australia imposed new and/or additional sanctions on the SPDC. Japan canceled 4.7 million dollars in aid to Burma.¹²⁶

- **15 October:** EU Foreign Ministers agreed to strengthen sanctions against Burma's military regime. Additional sanctions include:
 - visa bans and asset freezes on SPDC generals, officials and their relatives;
 - a ban on imports that target Burma's timber, metals and gemstone sectors; and
 - a study on further measures that could include a ban on all new investment in the country.¹²⁷
- **19 October:** US President George W Bush announced tighter US sanctions on Burma for the second time in just four weeks:
 - the US Treasury Department added 11 more junta leaders - including 10 SPDC ministers - to an existing list of 14 whose US assets have been frozen;
 - Bush issued a new Executive Order that targeted another 12 individuals and entities for sanctions, including two Singaporean companies;
 - Bush ordered the US Commerce Department to tighten controls on exports to Burma; and
 - measures were implemented that aimed at stopping the US import of gemstones from Burma through third countries, and tightening a freeze on the assets of the country's political and military leaders.¹²⁸

¹²¹ NYT (06 Oct 07) U.N. Chief calls crackdown in Myanmar ‘abhorrent’

¹²² Bangkok Post (12 Oct 07) UN issues weak rebuke of Burma violence

¹²³ Bangkok Post (03 Oct 07) Talk, no progress on Burma

¹²⁴ Reuters (23 Oct 07) Human rights expert says will visit Myanmar soon

¹²⁵ AP (11 Oct 07) UN envoy to Myanmar returning to region

¹²⁶ AFP (16 Oct 07) Japan slashes aid to Myanmar over crackdown

¹²⁷ Reuters (17 Oct 07) Brown threatens Myanmar investment sanctions

¹²⁸ AFP (19 Oct 07) Bush slaps new sanctions on Myanmar

- **24 October:** Australia applied a ban on financial dealings with 418 SPDC officials and their families and supporters.¹²⁹

The following is a recap of international actions against the SPDC in October:

2	UNSG	Gambari met with SPDC Sr Gen Than Shwe. ¹³⁰
2	Australia	Refused to accept SPDC nominee for Ambassador. ¹³¹
2	Japan	Issued protest to SPDC over killing of Japanese journalist and called for an end to the repression of peaceful demonstrators. ¹³²
2	UNHRC	Unanimously adopted a resolution that strongly deplores continued violent repression of peaceful demonstrators in Burma. ¹³³
2	US Congress	House of Representatives adopted a resolution calling for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and an immediate halt to attacks against civilians. ¹³⁴
2	AIPMC	Called for Burma's expulsion from ASEAN. ¹³⁵
5	UNSC	Ban Ki-moon told the UN Security Council that the use of force to put down peaceful protests in Burma was "abhorrent and unacceptable" and that the SPDC must release those it had arrested and start a dialogue with political opponents. ¹³⁶
5	International	Former Presidents, Prime Ministers, and Foreign Ministers urged China to press Burma's military regime to engage in peaceful dialogue with the NLD. ¹³⁷
6	South Africa	Deputy FM, Sue van der Merwe, summoned SPDC Ambassador, Ohn Thwin, to condemn SPDC's violent repression of peaceful protests. ¹³⁸
7	Malaysia	FM Syed Hamid Albar urged the SPDC to hold unconditional talks with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. ¹³⁹
9	New Zealand	MPs unanimously passed a motion that condemns SPDC oppression of democracy protesters. ¹⁴⁰
9	Thailand	PM Surayud Chulanont sent a letter to Sr Gen Than Shwe to formally express Thailand's disagreement with the recent violence against public demonstrations. ¹⁴¹
10	IPU	Passed emergency motion that expressed grave concern at the brutal acts of violence by SPDC military and police forces against peaceful protesters. ¹⁴²
10	New Zealand	PM Helen Clark announced that New Zealand had indefinitely postponed talks scheduled with Burma as part of its on-going ASEAN dialogue. ¹⁴³
11	UNSG	Ban Ki-moon said that he will send Ibrahim Gambari, back to the Asia for consultations with key governments on efforts to promote talks between the junta and the NLD. ¹⁴⁴
11	UNSC	Issued Presidential statement that "strongly" deplored the SPDC's repression of pro-democracy demonstrators. ¹⁴⁵
12	ITUC	Wrote a letter to 430 companies worldwide which have or are suspected to have business links with Burma calling on them to end their business ties with the military junta. ¹⁴⁶
15	EU	Imposed new sanctions on SPDC. ¹⁴⁷
15	UNSG	Ibrahim Gambari told the SPDC to stop arresting dissidents. ¹⁴⁸
16	Japan	Canceled 4.7 million dollars in aid to Burma. ¹⁴⁹
16	AIPMC	Supported global arms embargo on Burma. ¹⁵⁰
19	US	President George W. Bush announced tighter sanctions on SPDC. ¹⁵¹

¹²⁹ Sydney Morning Herald (25 Oct 07) Australia places financial bans on Burma's generals

¹³⁰ DPA (02 Oct 07) Talks, no progress in Burma

¹³¹ AP (02 Oct 07) Australia rejects Myanmar's nominee for ambassador because he's a general

¹³² AP (02 Oct 07) Japanese envoy demands Myanmar stop repressive crackdown, release those arrested

¹³³ Bloomberg (02 Oct 07) Myanmar Draws Fire From China, Russia on UN Panel

¹³⁴ AFP (02 Oct 07) US eager for UN envoy report on Myanmar

¹³⁵ Bangkok Post (03 Oct 07) Talk, no progress on Burma

¹³⁶ NYT (06 Oct 07) U.N. Chief calls crackdown in Myanmar 'abhorrent'

¹³⁷ Oslo Center (05 Oct 07) Global leaders call for dialogue on Burma

¹³⁸ Star (05 Oct 07) SA makes U-turn on Myanmar debacle; Many now regret SA's earlier Security Council decision

¹³⁹ IHT (07 Oct 07) Malaysia urges Myanmar junta to hold unconditional talks with Suu Kyi

¹⁴⁰ NZPA (09 Oct 07) Parliament unanimously condemns Myanmar

¹⁴¹ Nation (09 Oct 07) Thailand protest at Burmese crackdown

¹⁴² AP (10 Oct 07) Global lawmakers' assembly condemns Myanmar abuses

¹⁴³ DPA (10 Oct 07) New Zealand postpones ASEAN dialogue with Myanmar

¹⁴⁴ AP (11 Oct 07) UN envoy to Myanmar returning to region

¹⁴⁵ Bangkok Post (12 Oct 07) UN issues weak rebuke of Burma violence

¹⁴⁶ International Trade Union of Confederation Press Release (12 Oct 07) ITUC calls for end of business links with Burma

¹⁴⁷ DPA (03 Oct 07) EU members agree on tougher sanctions on Myanmar

¹⁴⁸ Reuters (15 Oct 07) UN envoy calls for end of Burma crackdown

¹⁴⁹ AFP (16 Oct 07) Japan slashes aid to Myanmar over crackdown

¹⁵⁰ ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus (16 Oct 07) AIPMC Statement supporting a Global Arms Embargo on Myanmar

21	ASEAN	Singapore assured UN Special Advisor on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, that it will do all it can to support national reconciliation and a political solution in Burma. ¹⁵²
23	ITUC	Called for workers across the world to boycott companies that do business with Burma's military regime. ¹⁵³
24	Australia	Applied financial sanctions on SPDC officials and their families. ¹⁵⁴
25	ASEAN	Foreign Affairs Minister, George Yeo went to China and Japan for informal consultations on Burma. ¹⁵⁵
26	Taiwan	Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that it will establish a task force under the nation's representative office in Thailand to provide help to the people of Burma in striving for democracy. ¹⁵⁶
30	US	Senate introduced legislation to tighten sanctions on SPDC by imposing a travel ban on top generals and associates and outlaw the import into the US of gems and timber from Burma. ¹⁵⁷
31	UK	British MPs called for an investigation into crimes against humanity in Burma. ¹⁵⁸

ECONOMY

Hunger increases

As part of crackdowns, SPDC authorities hampered World Food Program (WFP) deliveries out of Mandalay and to Akyab.¹⁶⁰ On 17 October, the WFP said that five million people in Burma – one in ten - do not have enough food, because of repressive SPDC policies. WFP said that they had been feeding Rohingya for ten years and conditions have not improved.¹⁶¹ On 18 October, 13 humanitarian organizations working in Burma called on the SPDC to stop preventing them from providing assistance to those who need it most.¹⁶²

Maungdaw Township market, Arakan State ¹⁵⁹	July	October
edible oil/kg (kyat)	1,600	2,200
kerosene/kg	1,100	1500
onion/kg	600	800
potato/kg	250	500
beef/kg	2,000	3,500
Car fare: Maungdaw to Bawli Bazar	2,000	3,000
Car fare: Maungdaw to Inn Din	2,000	6,000
Daily wage	1,500-2,000	1,500-2,000

Flights cut

Airlines operating to and within Burma slashed flights, reporting a large decrease in the numbers of passengers. Travel operators blamed the decrease on the unrest, curfews, visa restrictions, and travel boycotts. Airlines were also feeling the impact of additional EU and US sanctions, as well as increased scrutiny by banks in Singapore.

- On 11 October, Myanmar Airways International (MAI) suspended flights to Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur.¹⁶³ The SPDC-owned airline was grounded because London Market Aviation Insurer scrapped their insurance coverage.¹⁶⁴
- Air Bagan announced it would suspend flights to Singapore as of 4 November.¹⁶⁵ Its owner, regime favorite Tay Za, has been the focus of increased scrutiny for his business dealings, and his Singapore bank announced it would end its relationship with the airline.¹⁶⁶ They were also forced to reduce their daily Rangoon-Bangkok flights to three per week.¹⁶⁷

¹⁵¹ AFP (19 Oct 07) Bush slaps new sanctions on Myanmar

¹⁵² VOA News (22 Oct 07) UN Burma envoy meets Singapore officials

¹⁵³ IHT (24 Oct 07) Trade unionists call for boycott against businesses that work with Myanmar regime

¹⁵⁴ Sydney Morning Herald (25 Oct 07) Australia places financial bans on Burma's generals

¹⁵⁵ CNA (24 Oct 07) George Yeo to visit China, Japan for consultations on Myanmar

¹⁵⁶ Taipei Times (27 Oct 07) Ministry announces pro-democracy task force for Myanmar

¹⁵⁷ AFP (31 Oct 07) US Senate bill would tighten Myanmar sanctions

¹⁵⁸ Asian Tribune (31 Oct 07) British MPs called for an investigation into crimes against humanity in Burma

¹⁵⁹ Kaladan News (27 Oct 07) Famine like situation in Arakan

¹⁶⁰ Irrawaddy (01 Oct 07) Poverty forces more Burmese to beg for food

¹⁶¹ Independent (London) (19 Oct 07) Five million Burmese are going hungry, warns UN - Peter Popham

¹⁶² Irrawaddy (20 Oct 07) International Aid Groups Ask Junta to Eliminate Barriers

¹⁶³ Mizzima News (12 Oct 07) Insurer stops coverage of MAI flights, Irrawaddy (23 Oct 07) Tay Za grounded - Wai Moe

¹⁶⁴ Mizzima News (12 Oct 07) Insurer stops coverage of MAI flights

¹⁶⁵ Irrawaddy (25 Oct 07) Air Bagan suspends flights to Singapore; sanctions cited as Reason - Violet Cho

¹⁶⁶ Irrawaddy (25 Oct 07) Air Bagan suspends flights to Singapore; sanctions cited as Reason - Violet Cho

¹⁶⁷ Irrawaddy (23 Oct 07) Tay Za grounded - Wai Moe

- Air Mandalay is reportedly unable to guarantee regular flights from Rangoon to Chiang Mai.¹⁶⁸
- On 1 October, Thai AirAsia began cutting its Bangkok-Rangoon flights, and intended to reduce them to three a week by the end of the month.¹⁶⁹
- On 15 October, SilkAir announced that it had reduced its Singapore-Rangoon flights from 14 a week to 12, with plans to cut flights to 10 a week in November.¹⁷⁰

Some deals postponed, some going ahead

Strengthened sanctions from the US, EU and Australia, increased public and lobby-group pressure, and the unstable political environment in Burma led several companies to halt or postpone their investments. [See above, *The heat is on: new sanctions squeeze SPDC and their cronies*]

- EU sanctions forced seven British timber, jewelry and finance companies to halt trading with Burma.¹⁷¹
- Thailand's PTT announced that it expected that the start of operations at one of its plants in Burma would be delayed for three months.¹⁷²
- China's \$600-million nickel project in Burma was stalled because of the SPDC's request for a larger stake and political unrest.¹⁷³
- On 10 October, Jewelers of America requested the US Congress to strengthen existing sanctions, closing the loophole that allows Burmese gems to be imported if they are cut or polished in another country.¹⁷⁴ On 12 October, luxury goods company Bulgari asked suppliers to certify their jewels did not come from Burma.¹⁷⁵
- Orient-Express Hotels Trains and Cruises tourism group advised its guests traveling to Burma to cancel their holiday or make plans for alternative destinations.¹⁷⁶
- Denmark's pension scheme ATP announced it would sell its stakes in companies that have work with Myanmar Oil, including US\$177 million in Total.¹⁷⁷

Others said that they would continue despite the crackdown and international outcry:

- PTT Plc said that the company would proceed with its Burma investments and that it expected a new Memorandum of Understanding for gas block M9 to be signed by the end of 2007.¹⁷⁸
- On 5 October, Total said that it had no intention of pulling out of their operation at Yadana offshore gas fields.¹⁷⁹
- On 8 October, Indian Minister of Foreign Affairs Pranab Mukherjee defended India's investment in Burma.¹⁸⁰ Indian officials reported that they will finalize the agreement with the SPDC for the US\$100 million Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project by the end of the October.¹⁸¹
- On 18 October, Chevron Corp announced it would keep its stake in a natural gas project in Yadana.¹⁸²
- On 26 October, Malaysia's Astral Asia Bhd announced a new US\$200 million project to develop oil palm plots.¹⁸³

¹⁶⁸ Irrawaddy (23 Oct 07) Tay Za grounded - Wai Moe

¹⁶⁹ Bangkok Post/DPA (01 Oct 07) Airline cuts back as visitors cancel Burma

¹⁷⁰ AFP (15 Oct 07) SilkAir reduces flights to Myanmar

¹⁷¹ UPI (18 Oct 07) Myanmar sanctions extend to British firms

¹⁷² Bangkok Post (06 Oct 07) PTT defends Burma business

¹⁷³ Reuters (08 Oct 07) China's \$600 mln nickel project in Myanmar delayed

¹⁷⁴ Jewelers of America (10 Oct 07) JA appeals to Congress and issues advice to members concerning purchases of Burmese gemstones

¹⁷⁵ AFP (12 Oct 07) Italian jeweller Bulgari joins boycott of Myanmar's precious stones

¹⁷⁶ Reuters (08 Oct 07) China's \$600 mln nickel project in Myanmar delayed

¹⁷⁷ DPA (23 Oct 07) Danish pension scheme sells assets linked to Myanmar Oil

¹⁷⁸ Bangkok Post (06 Oct 07) PTT defends Burma business

¹⁷⁹ Forbes (08 Oct 07) Total CEO: We Won't Budge From Myanmar

¹⁸⁰ Mizzima News (08 Oct 07) Closer ties with Burma irreversible: Pranab Mukherjee

¹⁸¹ BBC (10 Oct 07) India 'close to Burma port deal'

¹⁸² Bloomberg (29 Oct 07) Chevron committed to Myanmar project, O'Reilly says, Chevron (18 Oct 07) Update to Chevron statement on Myanmar

¹⁸³ Malaysian Star (27 Oct 07) Astral Asia to lead US\$200m Myanmar project

Money transfers affected

In mid-October, Thai money transfer agents that send the savings of Burmese migrant workers home to their impoverished families suspended their services. They were responding to rumors that the SPDC will demonetize again.¹⁸⁴ Additionally, some trading companies transferring money between Burma and Singapore through the United Overseas Bank did not receive remittances. No reason was given for the delay.¹⁸⁵

OCTOBER CHRONOLOGY

01	Over 300 people hold a two-hour demonstration in Man Aung, Arakan State, demanding the release of all political prisoners, a reduction in essential commodity prices, and national reconciliation.
01	Thai AirAsia begins cutting Bangkok-Rangoon flights.
01	Karen National Union condemns the SPDC's brutal response to the recent protests.
01	Belgian prosecutors reopen inquiry into alleged crimes against humanity by France's Total over its pipeline project in Burma.
01	US expresses serious concerns about "continued reports of violence and intimidation" in Burma.
01	SPDC Army's Rangoon Commander Maj Gen Hla Htay Win is "permitted to retire".
02	Anti-junta demonstration is held in Man Aung, Arakan State.
02	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets UN Special Advisor Ibrahim Gambari at a government guesthouse in Rangoon.
02	Three people fleeing crackdowns in Rangoon reach Moreh, India, and are arrested for migration law violations.
02	US House of Representatives adopts resolution calling for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and an immediate halt to attacks against civilians by the Burma's military junta.
03	SPDC authorities release Min Zaw, a 56-year-old reporter for the Japanese newspaper Tokyo Shimbun, after six days of detention.
04	Thousands of Christians begin a fast throughout Burma to pray for the release of detained protesters.
04	Sr Gen Than Shwe says he is willing to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi under certain conditions.
04	Karen National Progressive Party official says its forces attacked the SPDC Army's LIB 54 based south of Loikaw in Karen State.
04	China praises a meeting between SPDC leaders and Ibrahim Gambari, UN Special Advisor on Burma as a positive step toward restoring calm.
05	PTT announces a delay of three months for the start of operations at one of its gas plants in Burma.
05	Top US diplomat in Burma meets with SPDC leaders in Naypyidaw.
05	Singapore PM, Lee Hsien Loong, says that sanctions against a SPDC are more likely to be counter-productive.
05	US says that a meeting between the SPDC's Deputy FM and the acting US Ambassador was not productive.
05	India PM Dr Manmohan Singh tells Philippines President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo that India favors an early release of Aung San Suu Kyi and desires a fast return to peace in Burma.
06	SPDC partially restores internet connection across the country
07	Over 5,000 Christian Chins hold a prayer meeting for genuine peace and stability in Burma.
08	SPDC appoints Maj Gen Aung Kyi as the junta's liaison officer to hold talks with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
08	Singapore FM Pranab Mukherjee defends Indian investment in Burma, and calls for closer economic ties with it Burma.
09	SPDC authorities arrest Sithu Maung (aka Yar Pyit) and Han Ni Oo, two leaders of the All-Burmese Federation of Students' Unions.
09	China's FM says it does not support UN sanctions against Burma's junta but favors continued mediation by a UN.
10	Jewelers of America requests US Congress to strengthen existing sanctions, closing the loophole that allows Burmese gems to be imported.
10	State-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar reports that three villagers were killed and four were injured after stepping on landmines in Ye Township, Mon State, and Kyaukkyi Township, Karen State.
11	88 generation students issue a statement calling for unconditional dialogue between the SPDC and pro-democracy leaders.
11	Myanmar Airways International suspends flights to Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur after its London insurer

¹⁸⁴ IMNA (18 Oct 07) Money transfer from Thailand to Burma affected by unrest

¹⁸⁵ Irrawaddy (24 Oct 07) Burma's Money Transfers in Limbo

	drops coverage.
11	The SPDC postpones gems expo to mid November.
12	NLD urges the SPDC to meet UN Security Council demands by for dialogue between the generals and pro-democracy forces and for the release of political prisoners.
12	Luxury goods company Bulgari asks suppliers to certify their jewels are not Burmese.
12	SPDC delegation headed by Lt Gen Myint Hlaing, commander of the regime's air defense forces, travels to Russia to strengthen military ties with Moscow.
12	SPDC PM Gen Soe Win dies at Rangoon's Mingaladon military hospital.
13	Canadian government announces it would confer honorary citizenship on Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.
13	SPDC authorities arrest three prominent leaders of the 88 Generation Students group, Htay Kywe, Mie Mie (aka Thin Thin Aye), and Aung Thu, in Rangoon. A fourth activist, Ko Ko, is also arrested.
15	EU strengthens sanctions to include an embargo on timber, gems, and metals.
15	SilkAir announces it has reduced its Singapore-Rangoon flights from 14 a week to 12, with plans to cut to 10 a week in November
15	Central Committee meeting of the Kachin Independence Organization and the Kachin Independence Army decides that there will be 'no policy change' towards the SPDC.
15	Thailand proposes that the UN organize multiparty talks to bring together Burma's neighbors for discussions with the military junta on resolving the nation's current crisis.
16	Orient-Express Hotels Trains and Cruises tourism group advises its guests traveling to Burma to cancel their holiday or make plans for alternative destinations.
16	Bangladesh Foreign Adviser Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury says that Bangladesh fully backs the initiatives of the UN Special Advisor on Burmam, Ibrahim Gambari, to resolve the current situation in Burma.
16	Malaysia's FM Syed Hamid Albar says that ASEAN will not agree to sanctions or a suspension of Burma from ASEAN as a result of its violent crackdown on protesters.
16	China says it was willing to play a "constructive role" in resolving the current crisis in Burma.
17	Local boys (14- to 20-years old) living in Mueng Shu are lined up in the local football ground, and 100 are sent to the army recruitment department.
18	WFP says that SPDC policies are responsible for 5 million people going hungry in Burma, and called for more funding for its program.
18	SPDC announces the formation of a 54-member committee tasked with drafting Burma's new constitution.
18	WFP says that one in ten Burmese people are going hungry.
18	SPDC authorities arrest 88 Generation Students Hla Myo Naung and Tharaphee.
19	State-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar reports that 2,927 people have been arrested, 2,550 conditionally released, and 377 remain detained.
20	SPDC lifts curfew.
20	Singapore's FM George Yeo says that ASEAN plans to use its moral authority to get all political parties in Burma to engage in a genuine dialogue.
21	SPDC authorities arrest 88 Generation Students member Aung Naing.
22	The Peace and Democratic Front, a coalition of four ceasefire groups, issues statement criticizing the SPDC military crackdown.
23	Denmark's pension scheme ATP announces it would sell its stakes in companies that work with Myanmar Oil, including US\$177 million in Total.
23	Indian government describes Burma as its "close and friendly neighbor" and says it would aid in Burma's national reconciliation.
24	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, marks her 12th year under detention.
24	82-year-old Gwa Township NLD Chair Sein Kyaw and 85-year-old Tounggoat Township NLD Chairman, Kyaw Khine, are released.
24	Kachin Independence Army official says that more Chinese Army troops have been deployed along the Sino-Burma border in Northern Burma since early October.
24	FMs Yang Jiechi of China and Sergey Lavrov of Russia say that support efforts by UN Special Advisor on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, to open talks between the NLD and Burma's junta.
24	Junta reshuffles cabinet: Lt Gen Thein Sein is appointed as the junta's new Prime Minister. Lieutenant-General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, replaces Thein Sein as the SPDC's Secretary-1. Deputy Labor Minister, Maj Gen Aung Kyi, is promoted to Minister of Labor.
25	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets for more than an hour at a government guesthouse in Rangoon with the SPDC's newly appointed liaison minister Aung Kyi.
25	Chinese state councilor, Tang Jiaxuan, tells UN Special Advisor on Burma that the Burma issue has to be appropriately resolved by its own people and government through their own efforts of dialogue.
26	Several groups of people dressed in yellow clothes and carrying yellow candles and flowers hold prayers at

	Rangoon's Shwedagon pagoda.
26	Malaysia's Astral Asia Bhd announced a new US\$200 million project to develop oil palm plots in Burma.
26	Thousands of people attend ceremonies at Shwedgon Pagoda to observe the end of lent.
26	UN Special Advisor on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, holds talks with Japan's Deputy FM Mitoji Yabunaka on Burma.
27	French FM Bernard Kouchner begins a three day tour of Singapore, Thailand, and China to bolster regional efforts on Burma's military regime.
28	Former drug lord, Khun Sa, dies at the age of 74 at his home in Rangoon.
29	Singapore FM George Yeo meets the UN Special Advisor on Burma, Ibrahim Gambari.
30	Former United Wa State Army leader, Maha Sang, dies at the age of 61.
30	Germany and India urge SPDC to release political prisoners and to hold talks with UN.
31	About 200 monks from several monasteries in Pakokku, Magwe Division, demonstrate for about an hour marching in the streets and chanting <i>metta</i> .
31	Thai police arrest 1,200 undocumented migrant workers from Burma in the Gulf of Thailand.

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