

HUMAN RIGHTS YEARBOOK

BURMA

1999-2000

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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Copies of supporting documents on human rights violations are available on paper or computer disk.

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Acknowledgements

The emergence of a people's parliament is not only of paramount importance for Burma, it is the only hope to resolve the political, social, economic and human rights violation problems that are currently plaguing the country.

For the emergence of a people's parliament, the people of Burma, through the 1990 general elections, had overwhelmingly voted for the members of parliament of the National League for Democracy (NLD) by giving them over 80 percent of the seats.

A full decade has passed, but the people's representatives whom the people have chosen to represent them have not been permitted to convene the parliament. To prevent the parliament from convening, the military authorities have, on a daily basis, employed various detestable means — intimidation, pressure, forced resignation, illegal arrest and imprisonment — against the people's representatives. The military regime, sad to say, has also been attempting to forcibly dissolve the election-winning NLD party. The State Law and Restoration Council which re-christened itself State Peace and Development Council, has been embarking on these with an aim to denying the citizens of Burma the right to run their own political lives through the representatives they have freely chosen, thus, blatantly contravening the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The military authorities, in addition, have not only denied Nobel Peace Laureate Daw Aung Sann Suu Kyi and other political leaders and elected people's representatives freedom of assembly, freedom of organization and movement, they have used pressure and threat to coerce people into attending lawlessly orchestrated "public rallies" where, in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Articles 19 and 20, the people are made to shout and call for the dissolution of the election-winning NLD party, to make petitions and declarations of withdrawal of support for the people's representatives.

Furthermore, human rights abuses of all kinds including forced labour, forced relocation of people from their ancestral lands, persecution and torture etc, are taking place at an alarming rate in the SPDC-ruled Burma, a country where rule of law is completely missing. The SPDC has shamelessly violated the universally recognized Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The human rights abuses records found in this book are a presage of the worsening human rights violations that are looming and will soon and surely take place in Burma. Burma needs sympathy and assistance from the human rights-respecting and democ

