

The Mon Forum

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Some Acronyms in This Issue

BCP-	Burma Communist Party,
LCD-	Least Developed Country,
IB-	Infantry Battalion,
RIT-	Rangoon Institute of Technology,
GTI-	Government Technical Institute,
VPDC-	Village Peace and Development Council,
USDA-	Union Solidarity and Development Association,

News

Monks and University Students sent back home forcibly

Moulmein, Pegu, September 30, 2007

It was reported that Buddhist monks studying at monasteries and University students who have completed their examinations were sent back home from the capital of Mon State, Moulmein City.

According to an anonymous monk from the studying temple, "On the night of the 26th the authorities came to the monasteries to investigate, remind the monks to stop their protest and order the monks who were from the village to go back to their home. Then they arrested over 40 monks who were on the list of the leader of the demonstration." On September 26 evening, the Mon State authorities came and ordered the monks to go back, so on the 27th they came and picked us up with the trucks, he added.

Dependable sources from the New Mon State Party in Moulmein city confirmed that some protest leaders were arrested on 27th evening. But due to strictly restricted by the authorities, it was hard to confirm who have been arrested. Moreover, Students and majority of the monks' population were sent back to their home, so no more marching in Moulmein after those events."



About 1,000 demonstrators, led by 400 monks, took part in a peaceful demonstration through Moulmein on September 25 afternoon

International Community Must Stop Bloodshed and Conflict in Burma

People in Burma including Buddhist monks clearly showed their desires not in the SPDC's organized rallies but on the streets of Rangoon, Mandalay and Moulmein in late September that – they need for democracy and economic reforms. The monks gave their bloods and sacrifice for the people in the brutality made by the ruling regime SPDC.

We need no more bloodshed in streets of Burma and in remote areas of ethnic people. The people in Burma humbly demand international community to get involved solving political problems in Burma and create a coordinated strategy until the regime accept negotiation with democratic opposition and ethnic leaders for peace and reconciliation.

We welcome UN Undersecretary Gambari's attempts to find the way and try to solve the problems in our country. We need the SPDC's best friends China and India to get involved in negotiation tables. We say, the people in Burma are suffered enough. Many of them killed and thousands of them in detention and prisons, all leaders are kept away from the people, Buddhist monks are killed and intimidated. Peaceful Buddhist country of Burma turned into killing fields. The international community in advance must stop another bloodshed and conflict in this country.

A source who live closed to Moulmein University also reported that on the evening of September 27, he saw many Army trucks from southeast command and it seem to him that the authorities were already arranging the trucks at the front of the student hostels to send them to their town.

According to a University student who temporary lives in Gone-Htate quarter said that the head of the authorities in the quarter was previously preparing the trucks for the students, so as soon as they finished the examination they came to the students' hostel and let the student collect their belongings to go back.

“Even though we wanted to go back tomorrow, they didn't allow us to stay and forced us to go back as soon as possible,” a second year Moulmein University student said.

Protests happened for a moment in Mawlamyine on September 27 but the news emerged that the authorities would use violence to crack down on the demonstration. Therefore at 3 p.m the protesters broke up their group.

Likewise, on September 27, 2007, the abbot of the biggest monastery in Pegu sent monks involved in protests back to their home town.

The abbot from Tharthana Mern Daing monastery sent back more than 400 monks who were studying in the temple and were involved in leading the protests in Pegu. The monks who were sent back have been supporting the protest and have not been accepting the government's donation.

“Now only novices remain in the temple. The abbot is now accepting donations from military officers,” a monk said.

Recently the Thartana Mern Daing abbot and abbot of Kyat Khat Wine accepted donation from military officers why others boycotted. Before sending monks back home the abbot stopped them from joining the protests.

The military regime also used the Kyat Khat Wine case alleging that the protestors broke the doors and windows in Kyat Khat Wine monastery, to show protesters in bad light and as terrorists. The junta even alleged that the protesting monks were not monks at all.

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Five arrested on suspicion of links with organizations in exile

Khaw Zar, September 19, 2007

According to reporter, four women and a man were arrested by a Burmese Army officer from Infantry Battalion No.31 based in Khaw-Zar sub town in southern Mon State on suspicion of passing on information to organizations in exile.

Telephone owners

Nai Aung Khin (40 years)

Mi Kon Payu (60 yeas)

Ma Nu (4 years), Ma Hla Win (35 years) and Mi Chan Kyi (18 years) were detained in the military barracks and are being interrogated, family sources said. The entire cordless phone supplies in Mi Kon Payu's house were seized by the army officer on September 16 following the arrests, the sources added.

“I don't know the name of the officer but in Burmese soldier's troop, I saw Bo mike-Khae (Commander Col. Ba Lay) who lives in the No.31 battalion. They (troops of soldiers from IB No. 31) started the

SPDC's misuse of the media and the role of bloggers during peaceful demonstrations in Burma



In Burma, during the Parliamentary Democracy era, the country used to practice the freedom of press extensively. People enjoyed almost total freedom of expression and publishing for a decade. It used to be the golden age of Media in Burma. But these all opportunities were finished after military coup led by Gen. Nay Win in 1962 and all media and publications were intensely restricted by the Press Scrutiny Board under the Act of Printing and Publishing promulgated by Nay Win's government. This Act existing till these days and all writings and publishing are under the tight control of the military regime.

Apart from paper publications, other forms of Media like TVs and radio are also under the tight control of the current ruling military regime. All forms of presses and media, except, state run "the Mirrors" and "The New Light of Myanmar" newspapers, were seriously edited by the Press Scrutiny Board of SPDC regime.

Similar to press and media restriction, the online accesses were also under the close observed by the Ministry of Information. On the other hands, the military junta intended to use their controlled media as "a counter offensive tool" to fight against oppositions' media groups.

For instance, in the late 2005, Minister of Burma information ministry, Brig Gen. Kyaw San tried to put into practice on using media as counter offensive tools during a state run journalism training program which hold in Rangoon. At that time,

Brig Gen. Kyaw San also claimed that some big nations from western part of the world are trying to influent Burma National affairs by using their power and media. Thus, now a day, SPDC has been extensively spreading propaganda in their different types of state run Medias. Frequently, they create false news and spread it in order to reduce the civilians' belief in international news. They are producing and using false news by creating situations in order to take simulated photos, by writing fictitious news stories and spreading these in the SPDC-owned media with fake pen names.

As an instance, after the well-known brutality of the SPDC regime against the civilian peaceful demonstrations led by Buddhist monks, the junta are tricking people by holding a peoples rally of support of their fake national convention, staging rallies of opposition against the National League of Democracy (NLD), directing accusations at pro-democracy supporters and spreading propaganda in their newspapers, radio and television networks and the internet. Not only Burmese civilians but also the international

communities already know SPDC abuse Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of NLD in the media with insulting words which affect her dignity. Recently, the Burmese junta was frightened of the effectiveness of the media when they discovered that bloggers can provide news to the public within a few minutes with different methods. The abilities of bloggers and also the actions of activists and civilian correspondents can effectively spread the real news to the people. Coverage of the recent peace demonstrations by pro-democracy supporters was provided by international news groups such as: BBC; DVB; RFA; VOA; and internet website owners. Therefore, the SPDC is trying to destroy these websites and blogs quickly through hacking them.

They retaliated against the bloggers who were posting the real news by creating their own blogs. They wrote insulting words in other blogs using fake names, sent computer viruses through pornographic images and not only entered but hacked others' email, forums and websites. They wrote, swore and



SPDC Information Committee Chairman
Information Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan

provoked in the CBox (a *tagboard for website or blog to let visitors leave their messages or chat with each other*) of the blogs, sending false news to mislead the readers from following the events of real news. They also emailed using another users' name, sending offensive messages in order to attack the real user's dignity.

Bloggers were capable of deducing SPDC's fabrication in order to protect many civilians. For instance, SPDC ordered the Headmaster of St. Augustine Basic Education High School based in Rangoon to force students to attend school in order to spread propaganda that students were learning peacefully. However, the bloggers were able to obtain that news and inform the students in time. The bloggers were also able to inform the civilians about SPDC's activities of preparing to violently crackdown upon the masses.

Therefore, SPDC were taking action to stop the flow of information and communication between all correspondents and the public by cutting off the internet, reducing the speed of the internet, restricting the freedom of using the internet and monitoring the people's activities full time. Moreover, the SPDC also unjustly arrested and jailed some internet users that they suspected of being activists.

During the last few weeks, SPDC has been using many methods to mislead the people with erroneous information. They created fake pictures and sent them to media organizations and emailed the bloggers. Their main purpose is to make people doubt the validity of the authentic news, by reducing the civilians' belief in the reporters who are

NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

People's Desire

- ☆ We favour stability.
- ☆ We favour peace.
- ☆ We oppose unrest and violence.

- ☆☆ RFA, VOA and BBC airing skyful of lies
- ☆☆ RFA, VOA and BBC saboteurs, watch your step!
- ☆☆ The public be warned of
killers in the air waves —
RFA, VOA and BBC

- ☆☆ Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation
- ☆☆ BBC lying
- ☆☆ VOA deceiving
- ☆☆ RFA setting up hostilities
- ☆☆ Beware! Don't be bought by those slickers

Some slogans and propaganda in the state-run "the New Light of Myanmar" daily newspaper

providing correct information, through use of propaganda and varied smear campaigns.

They have many different kinds of methods to lead people into believing fabricated information. For example, they spread the news that Infantry Battalion No. 33 cooperated with the protesters and the armies fought against each other at the times that the momentum of demonstrating was high. They also broadcasted the misinformation that General Than Shwe and Maung Aye disagreed with each other and Maung Aye overthrew General Than Shwe. Other news that they spread was that the SPDC Prime Minister Soe Win died in Singapore and that monks cooperated with the opposition armed forces and fought against the Burmese. Activities included the distribution of letters warning the people to pray in their houses when the United Nations envoy was due to arrive in Burma, and the defiling of protesters by publishing pictures of fake monks holding bamboo sticks and people throwing stones at the trucks of the Union

Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), in order to mislead the civilians.

Recently, they cheated by sending pictures that people were crushed by truck to Burmese famous bloggers, Niknayman and Myochit. They just mentioned that the photos were from Yangon. In the picture, they have reduced the resolution of the image so that nobody can see the number plate of the truck. Moreover, there is no blood on the wheels. Therefore, the pictures were deleted as soon confirmation of their in authenticity was complete. However, the people who didn't take notice have published these pictures mistakenly.

According to a Burmese blogger, Ko Myo Chit, Niknayman has posted these pictures in his blog with the purpose of making the public aware of the SPDC's misuse of the media and fight against the real media. However, he deleted the fake pictures because he was worried the public would misunderstand them. Since last month, SPDC supporters have spread false news in some forums stating

that Niknayman and some other bloggers were posting incorrect news. However, people were already aware of the SPDC's cunning methods and did not accept their news; consequently, the SPDC finally had to admit defeat.

SPDC's communication minister said that, "We must fight the media with media." This means that they are going to fight the real media with their deceptive and fraudulent media - which is based on imitation for the purpose of their self-interest - by misappropriating and defrocking the value of the real media. Before he made this statement, the international community already acknowledged that the SPDC was the enemy of the internet for years. Therefore, news groups, forum supervisors, email group owners and bloggers should be unified and fight with care against the internet/media enemy.

"No matter what devious methods are used by the SPDC to fight against the oppositions' media, we will continue to post our factual news which is originally reported to us by independent correspondents. We can identify which is the correspondents' correct information and which is the SPDC's propaganda, enabling us to cooperate with correspondents to remain active in the legitimate media movement and maintaining the flow of factual information," A famous Burmese blogger, Niknayman expressed his desire on his blog.

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Personal Account

On September 26, 2007, a HURFOM reporter met with a forced labour and porter victim, Nai Blai and his family in a liberated area and got a chance to ask about his awful experiences on working in the SPDC's gas pipeline projects.

Name:	Nai Blai
Age/Sex:	45 Years, Male
Nationality/Religion:	Mon/Buddhist
Native Place:	Legyi Village, Yebyu Township, Mon State
Status:	Married with six children
Occupation:	Hill-side cultivation, Day Laborer
Date of interview	26 th September, 2007

"I was born in Abor village near Ye Township. When I was one year old I moved from Abor to Mayan Chanung Village, Yebyu Township, in Tenasserim Division. I lived there until I was about 35 years old. There is no big city in Mayan Chaung. I moved from Mayan Chaung to Legyi village, near Min Tha village, when I was 35 years old. A large hill separates Mayan Chaung and Legyi, and the town lies about 13 miles from the Pipeline. This pipeline, where I was forced to work, crosses through Kalein-Aung village, then moves forward to Nat-Ei-Taung Village. I lived in Legyi for about 10 years. Now, I am 45 years old and about three months ago I fled from Legyi. All my family members are still with me and I now own a hilly rice plantation and work as a day laborer.

"At the pipeline we were forced to work in the military camp cleaning bushes, digging channels and toilet holes. I was also forced to work as a porter twice in this period of time. The order was given by LIB No. 408 which was based 52 miles away, in the nearby Mi-Chaung-Taung village. When I was forced to work in pipeline construction near Klaing-Aung village, we had to clear the road and dig the channel for the pipeline. The channel was about 8 feet deep. They divided us into groups of 7 people; if someone from our group forgot his equipment, they forced all group members to go back and bring it together. Sometimes, their punishment saw us forced to somersault while we were walking to collect our equipment. I was



Nai Blai, a victim from Ye Township

beaten, kicked and slapped by Burmese soldiers when I was a porter because I was too weak to walk quickly with them. When I had to work as a porter, we had to walk from Mayan Chaung to Kyauk-ka-din in the North and from Mayan Chaung to Nat-Ei-Taung in the South. One of these journeys was from Kalein-Aung to Nat-Ei-Taung. We had to carry ammunition, food supplies and cooking materials for all the troops and workers.

"If we compare now with the time when I was young, the activities of Burmese soldiers have increased. Before, there were only about 70 soldiers in a military column but now it has increased to about 200-300 soldiers in any military operation. This helps them to prevent the Mon Groups' operations. The number of soldiers began to increase when construction of the pipeline started. The Battalion are LIB No. 404, 407, 408. Before the ceasefire, the Mon National Liberation Army, led by Wan Tuu, fought against the Burmese military.

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Report

The Recent Crackdowns on Peaceful Demonstrators in the Context of International Criminal Laws

I. Background of Burma's Conflict

Burma regained its Independence from British colony in early 1948 and the Burmese and ethnic leaders declared their Independence on January 4, 1948. The rule of democratic governments elected by the people including the ethnic people in the frontier areas have been stabilized for about 10 years until 1958.

Although the Burman leaders led by Gen. Aung San, father of Burma's Independence (and also father of current pro-democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi) promised to ethnic leaders in mountainous and frontier areas to form Burma as 'Federal Union' that guarantee the rights of all ethnic people but the newly elected governments formed Burma as "Unitary" system that the central government monopolized the political power. However, some non-Burman ethnic nationalities like Kachin, Chin, Karenni, Shan were granted with territories complied with the rights of self autonomy, but many remaining main ethnic groups like Karen, Mon and Arakanese were not granted with the same rights.

The lack of democratically governments' accountabilities have pushed Mon and Karen ethnic groups to hold arms and struggled for the rights of self autonomy and waged in armed fighting against central governments. While there was a civil war between the central governments and the ethnic political organizations like Mon and Karen, there were political factions in Burma's democratic parliamentary. One faction wanted to solve political problems with ethnic people and favored for reforming the union structure (from Unitary system to Federal system) while another group refused to offer greater autonomy rights to the ethnic people and agreed to strengthen military under the name of Burmese Army (or *Tatmadaw*) to uproot the armed struggle of ethnic people.

Since there was disunity in democratic parliament and accompanied political unrest, the democratic government led by U Nu temporarily abandoned the political power and allowed the Burmese Army led by Gen. Ne Win to maintain in the administrative power in 1958. U Nu allowed Gen. Ne Win to form a Caretaker Government and rule the country for a year.

During this time, the Burmese Army was so much of proud themselves because they can rule the country guns not by votes and political administrative powers were tasteful for the soldiers.

Another mistake by the democratically government by U Nu was he planned to declare Burma as 'Secular State' based on the main religion 'Buddhism' in 1961. After his declaration on 'Buddhism State', many non-Buddhism ethnic nationalities like Chin, Kachin, Karenni and Karen has dissatisfied on the government's declaration. Therefore, Chin and Kachin ethnic people took up arms and collaborated with their earlier ethnic brethrens Karen and Mon.

At the same time, the Shan ethnic leaders who earlier agreed for formation of Federal Union (with Burman leaders in Panlong Agreement in Shan State) organized all non-Burman ethnic leaders for the whole Burma to make for the demands of genuine federal union of Burma, after the democratic governments failed to accomplish according to their promise during the pre-Independence day. In 1961, the Shan leaders called ethnic conference in Shan State's capital Taung Gyi to call on for the re-constructing Federal Union of Burma.

But that ethnic Conference was interpreted as 'attempts to split the Union' by some pro-Unitary politicians and Burmese Army leaders and they have watched closely watched on the political movement of ethnic



U Nu served as the first prime minister of independent Burma (now known as Myanmar) from 1948 to 1958 and from 1960 to 1962.

people. So that on 2nd March 1962, the Burmese Army led by strongman Gen. Ne Win seized the political power by killing many student activists and detained hundreds of pro-democratic leaders and ethnic leaders countrywide.

This seizure of political power by Burmese Army has ceased the democratic development in the country and has pushed the ethnic people to prolong their armed struggle against the military regime because they ensured the military will not offer their rights to self autonomy in unitary system. The new military regime under the name of 'Revolutionary Council' and then 'Burmese Socialist Programme Party (BSPP)' also centralized the political power and rejected the ethnic nationalities' demands for establishment of Federal Union of Burma.

II. Protracted Conflict and 1988 Uprising

After Burmese Army held the political power and the Burmese military leaders increased the armed force and supported for stronger army in order to attack and uproot the activities ethnic armed oppositions from various parts of Burma from upper Burma of Kachin areas to the down south Mon areas, and other leftists - Burma Communist Party (BCP).

Since the military regime has to target on waging war against the ethnic armed oppositions and BCP, they allocated over 50% of budget into armed force expansion and costs in civil war and they have less focus on socio-economic sectors of the country. Military regimes allocated a very limited amount of budget in agriculture sector, economic development, education and health care.

Additionally, in cold war situation, the military regime also isolated the country and has not allowed for any foreign investments in the country and it could not manage the country's economy well. At that time, due to open market economy system, some countries in Southeast Asia has suddenly grown economically. For example, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore had a lot of economic growth in its country while Burma was left behind.

There has been a lot of economic crises during the Burmese Army or BSPP rule of the country from 1962 to 1988. Under the socialist economy system, Burma faced many insufficiency of commodities, lack of market operation, relying on government's food and commodities contribution. Burma's financial system has been terribly cracked due to inflation and at the end the BSPP government declared for demonetization of Burmese currency 'Kyat'. BSPP government deleted various types of Burmese currency notes and did not return their values to the people. It was likely confiscation of people's money and their properties. Due to economic deterioration in the country, Burma was declared as 'Least Developed Country (LCD)' by the international community in 1987. At the same time, the people in the country are facing serious socio-economic related difficulties in all walks of their life.

The 1988 uprising was led by students. After dissatisfaction on the currency demonetization by the regime, the students started their protests against the government. In March 13, some engineering students were killed in the campus of Rangoon Institute of Technology (RIT) and the students were very angry to the regime and Burmese Army's troops. But the authorities closed down all schools and arrested some student leaders who led protests. In June 1988, when the schools re-opened thousands of students gathered at Rangoon University - Main and protested and demanded for the release of students who were detained in jails and for the political reforms. Then when the students came out to streets, they were violently cracked down by security force of Burmese Army troops on June 16, 1988. Then the authorities forced back all students to return homes.

However, dissatisfaction against the BSPP and Burmese Army troops those shot down on student protestors exploded on August 8, 1988 in the streets of Rangoon. The students, Buddhist monks, civilians and government servants poured onto streets and demanded for 'democracy' and end of single party rule under the socialist system. Then, the demonstration separated out to other cities countrywide. Even in the small cities, the civilians came out and participated in protests in demanding for democratic reform.

But the ruling regime, Socialist government, refused to step down from power even Gen. Ne Win resigned as Chairman of BSPP. Some BSPP leaders replaced in the leadership and at the same time, the troops of Burmese Army opened fire to demonstrators on the streets. On September 18, the Burmese Army troops led by Gen. Saw Maung seized political power and declared for formation of new regime, State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

There was a serious bloodshed when he seized political power from demonstrators on the streets. Under the order of SLORC, the soldiers from Burmese Army opened fire to many demonstrators in cities like Rangoon, Mandalay and Moulmein and killed many hundreds of them.

As a result, about 3000 innocent demonstrators were killed on streets of these cities and many thousands of students, Buddhist monks, and civilians fled from their native homes to escape further intimidation by troops. Many of them took refuge in ethnic armed oppositions' controlled areas.

III. Recent September Crackdown On Cities' Streets

The Burmese Army and ruling military regime (recently in Rangoon and later moved to new military capital, Nepyidaw) has been well known for its worst human rights records. Almost all the time since 1988, the troops of Burmese Army have constantly and inhumanely treated non-Burman civilians belonged to ethnic minorities in remote areas which are far from cities.

The current military regime SPDC sees all ethnic people in the conflict areas as their **enemy** that they believed the people are supporting rebel soldiers. Therefore, they have killed not only the rebel-suspects but also the villagers. Many human rights organizations have reported how the cruelty of the regime against the ethnic minorities.

Although the military leaders believed in Buddhism by paying respect and donating alms to the senior monks, but at the same time, they suspected all their oppositions including young Buddhist monks as their enemies like ethnic people in remote areas. Because of this belief, SPDC leaders formed 'Strike Suppression Force' and ordered it troops to beat and shoot down all demonstrators to death. They also ordered soldiers even Buddhist monks and school children on streets and instructed the soldiers that they are 'destructive elements' who wanted to destroy the country.

a. SPDC's Intolerance on Protests

In 2nd and 3rd week of August, after the military regime the price of gasoline to 500%, 88 Generation student leaders came out to streets for protests demanding for the decrease of oil price. But the authorities used their puppet organizations from Swan-ah-shin (People Force) and USDA (Union Solidarity and Development Association) to disperse the demonstrators.

The members from Swan-ah-shin and USDA attacked 88 Generation students and their followers and gripped and put them onto trucks. Then, they sent these people to unknown detention centers and kept them in cells. But the protests did not decrease down, but the monks in a city of upper Burma, Pakokhu, came onto streets and continued their demonstrations in early September. The policemen who were instructed to crackdown protestors tied up Buddhist monks and beat in front of people in city. Then the protested monks were detained by the authorities.

This intimidation act against the Buddhist monks was likely against the whole Buddhism in the country and young monks demanded to the authorities to make an official apology to the monks and Buddhism. Since the authorities kept silence, the Buddhist monks in various cities, like Pakokhu, Mandalay, Rangoon and Pegu agreed to boycott the Burmese Army. The Buddhist monks announced to all monasteries in cities to not accept alms from army and policemen, and their families.

Since 2nd week of September, the Buddhist monks from various cities of upper Burma, Rangoon, Pegu and Moulmein involved in peaceful protests and prayed for passion and better socio-economic lives of the people. The monks almost approached to well known pagoda and prayed accordingly to Buddhism. But the authorities did not show any tolerance and declared that if the monks continued protests, they would be believed as non-Buddhist monks and they must face suppression by the authorities.

On September 24, the number of protesters not only Buddhist monks but also civilians increased on the streets of Rangoon. Over 100, 000 demonstrators joined in peaceful protests and prayed for peace to all people in Burma. Similar large number of protestors also protected in various cities of Burma. On September 25 and 26, the protests continued and thousands of people poured into streets.

SPDC's Minister for Religious Affairs officially declared that the Buddhist monks and protestors will face 'suppression' if they did not stop their protests. But peaceful protests continued.

Serious crackdown on the streets began on September 26. Many of troops moved into cities and took bases in important streets, corners, pagodas and planned to prevent protests. They also barred the monks from praying in well known pagodas – Sule and Shwedagon – in Rangoon and additionally they beat and shot into them. On September 27, 28 and 29, the soldiers and riot policemen continued their bloodshed crackdowns against on demonstrators.

On the night of September 27, the SPDC security force began a raid in some well known monasteries in Rangoon, such as Ngwe Kya Yan, Chauk Htet Kyi, Moe Kaung Kin, Min Kin and Thein Pyu. The authorities believed most of young monks came out from these monasteries for leading in the protests. The raid into monasteries and beat the monks and arrested many monks. The authorities brought them in designated detention centers for interrogation.

b. Human Rights Violations or Crimes

Some of the crimes in late crackdown are:

Killing:

On the streets of Rangoon, there were many photos, video footages and speaking evidences separating to the world that the troops of Burmese Army shot into demonstrators and killed not only demonstrators but also journalists. As strong evidence, one of Japanese photographer Kenji Nagai was shot by the Burmese soldiers. Since there is no opportunity to collect the exact number of those who were killed in bloodshed crackdown, many civilians and Buddhist monks killed on September 26, 27, 28 and 29 continuously.

Although the military regime officially declared about 10 people killed and 11 injured, the number would be much higher estimated by the residents in Rangoon. The people in Rangoon believed that there will be more 200 people killed in the crackdowns on the streets and many monks were killed. Accordingly to another photos after crack down, some Buddhist monks' corpses appeared on water. Some Buddhist monks and demonstrators were suffered beating to death.

Torture and Mistreatment:

When the authorities and troops of security force raid and made crackdown against the Buddhist monks and demonstrators, they arrested many monks and civilians and put them in two detention centers: (1) Kyaik Ka San Field; and (2) Government Technical Institute in Inn-sein Township.

During the sudden arrests, the protestors are always suffered from beating. The riot polices and soldiers violently arrested monks and demonstrators, beat them and put them onto trucks. When they were detaining in any detention center, they were inhumanely tortured by the authorities and soldiers in a way of interrogation. Many people in Burma always can express how they were tortured and inhumanely treated during they were put in interrogation rooms or prison cells.

Torture always relates to the situation when the authorities and soldiers need to know the networks of demonstrators and their leadership. Besides physically torture, the monks and demonstrators are forced to not sleep for many nights and were refused to have foods. Most torture and mistreatment are systematic as the SPDC instructed 'torturing methods' in order to get information

Arbitrary Arrests, Detention and Imprisonment:

Accordingly the source from inside the country, the arrests by the authorities, riot polices, soldiers and USDA and Swan-ah-shin groups began since August demonstration on the high price of gasoline in Rangoon. Many student leaders in Rangoon were arrested during and demonstrations. The authorities went their homes and arrested many of them. From August until the end of September, about 344 students, monks and other activists were arbitrarily arrested and were put in detentions.

Many of those arrested persons were brought to one of detention centers, almost of the suffered from above-mentioned tortures and then put in detention or prisons without trials. Many of them were unknown for how many years, that they would be detained and imprisoned in detention or prisons. Their family members were also restricted to meet with those political prisoners and they did not what would be the faiths or situation of their beloved family members.

Accordingly to source from Rangoon, over 2000 people were arrested and put on the trucks. They were sent into two detention centers – Kyaikasan Field and GTI Compound in In-sein Township. Although the authorities have released some of them, but many of them are still remained in these two detention centers.

Disappearance:

During the crackdown on September 26, 27 and 28 in Rangoon, the authorities and riot soldiers and polices arrested many people including street vendors, people walking on the streets, students' parents (who bring their kids to homes), high school students and others. The people in Rangoon also claimed that their family members disappeared and reported to the local authorities. Many of them also informed to foreign Burmese program radio like BBC and FRA, in order to get helps finding their family members.

The political and student activists who were arrested even since August 2007 disappeared and they have no contacts with their families. Many of their families also worried for their family members and they even did not know where these activists are detained. Some families concerned that some of their families will be killed, injured and mentally damaged during the authorities' interrogation.

IV. Comparison Between 1988 and 2007 Pro-democracy Uprisings

Topics	1988 Pro-democracy Uprising	2007 Pro-democracy Uprising
Leadership	Student Leaders: Students leaders and their network countrywide rose up for demonstration. Later, the former political leaders and government servants participated in leading role.	Buddhist monks: especially many young Buddhist monks involved in the demonstrations following after the 88 Generation students' protests on gas price
Persecutors or Violators	Burmese Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) led by Gen. Ne Win, U Maung Maung, Gen. Sein Lwin and Gen. Saw Maung	State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) led by Sr. Gen. Than Shwe, Gen. Maung Aye, Lt. Gen. Thura Shwe Murn
Reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Killing of students in March and June by the riot forces and detention of hundreds of students ■ Economic mis-management: Burma was declared as LDC status and demonetization of Burmese currency, Kyat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Riot force by Burmese Army troops broke a peaceful demonstration and hurt 3 monks in a city of upper Burma ■ Economic mis-management: Increase of gas price to 500% and related increase of commodity prices
Duration*	August 8 protests began and ended up on September 18, 1988 after a military coup	Protests began by 88 Generation Students in 2 nd week of August, was cracked down at the end of September
Violations in Crackdown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Killing: many students, Buddhist monks and civilians in the streets of Rangoon, Mandalay and other cities ■ Arbitrary arrests: Majority students were arrested on the streets, during security force's raid in schools and universities and other civilians were arrested on streets, while many activists were arrested at their home ■ Detention and Imprisonment: Hundreds of protestors and supporters were arrested and imprisoned without trials. Many student leaders were imprisoned up to 15-20 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Killing: many students, Buddhist monks and civilians in the streets of Rangoon, ■ Arbitrary arrests: Majority Buddhist monks were arrested on the streets, during security force's raid in monasteries and other civilians were arrested on streets, while many political and social activists including NLD members and artists were arrested at their home ■ Detention and Imprisonment: Hundreds of protestors and supporters were arrested and put in two detention camps
In Number**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 3000 Killed ■ Over 3000 Arrested 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Over 200 Killed ■ Over 2000 Arrested

* During 1988, a serial demonstration continued, so that this duration does not mean the end of 2007 pro-democracy uprising.

**Note: These numbers are just for estimation. The exact number can be gathered only when there is a peaceful political transition in Burma.

V. In the Context of International Criminal Laws

When the Burmese military regime, SPDC involved in cracking down against civilians and Buddhist monks those are praying in peaceful situation, which involved the actions of

- attacks direct against any civilian population,
- murder or extraordinary killing with trials,

Information on HURFOM and Invitation for Feedbacks from Readers

Dear Readers,

Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) was founded in 1995, by a group of young Mon people. The main objectives of HURFOM are:

- To monitor human rights situations in Mon territory and other areas southern part of Burma,
- To protect and promote internationally recognized human rights in Burma,

In order to implement these objectives, HURFOM has produced "The Mon Forum" newsletters monthly and sometimes it has been delayed because we wait to confirm some information. We apologize for the delay.

However, we also invite your feedbacks on the information we described in each newsletter and if you know anyone who would like to receive the newsletter, please send name and address to our address or e-mail as below:

HURFOM, P. O. Box 2237, General Post Office
Bangkok 10501, THAILAND
E-mail: hurfomcontact@yahoo.com
Website: <http://www.rehmonnya.org>

With regards,

Director
Human Rights Foundation of Monland

- enforced disappearance of persons,
- torture and inhumane treatment and
- imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty

are the **crimes against humanity** on the streets openly that the world community would not want to see. But the military regime, SPDC refused that the actions are just to disperse the demonstrators who planted unrest in the country. They claimed that that was internal case and so that no international influence will be allowed in their actions.

Anyhow, accordingly to UN Charters and International Laws, all permanent members of the Security Council must emphasize the needs of each State to respect the primary responsibility on respecting human rights of their citizens and that State must maintain international peace and security. Due to the internal crackdown and political conflict internally, these situation can affect peace and security in the region and it also breaks the

► Personal Account from page No.5

After the ceasefire, I knew only of the Mon splinter group led by Nai Hlein, which conducted actions against the Burmese military around our village. Whenever the Mon splinter group came near our village, all the villagers were accused of supporting the Mon Splinter group.

"I witnessed many fights when I was as a porter. Sometimes, the fighting happened near Mayan Chaung and sometime it happened inside Mayan Chaung. The fighting I witnessed was between Burmese Soldiers and Karen Guerrillas. It was before the Burmese Military occupied Nat-Ei-Taung village. The fighting happened about 5 years before the ceasefire. I also witnessed a fight between Mon and Burmese in 1995 because I was in Mayan Chaung village at that time. Three Burmese soldiers were killed in the fighting."

■ ■ ■

News from page No.2

interrogation yesterday. We don't know exactly what they are being asked," sources close to the arrested said. But some resident said the arrests were simply to extort money by the army officer.

Nai Aung Khin, the phone owner set up the phone at Mi Kon Payu's house for his business dealings with migrant workers in Thailand and their families in Khaw-zar town.

Recently the army officer also seized three cordless phones from the area and returned them after extorting money. "We heard that each of them were ordered to pay about Kyat 100,000 as fine to get their cordless back," Nai Chan (not his real name) from Khaw-Zar sub town.

It was also report that along with the five people, the army officer also detained Nai Tin Shwe (40) and beat him up severely on an unknown charge.

international humanitarian laws. UN Security Council should not allow immunity of those involved in violations and abuses, or crimes against the humans.

In a part of **Rome Statute of The International Criminal Court** defines the meaning of **Crimes Against Humanity** and components of crimes in the cases of Burma September crackdown as below:

For the purpose of this Statute, “Crime against Humanity” means any of the following acts when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack of directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack:

- (a) Murder;
- (b) Imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law;
- (c) Torture and
- (d) Enforced disappearance of persons

In the case of Burma September crackdown, the ‘**attacks directed against any civilian population**’ means a course of conducts involving the multiple commission of acts – murdering or killing, imprisonment and detention, torture and inhumane treatment, and enforced disappearance of persons.

Torture also means the intentional infliction of severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, upon a person in the custody or under the control of the accused involvement in protests.

Enforced disappearance of persons also relates to imprisonment of persons or make severe deprivation of physical liberty of persons and it means the arrest, detention or abduction of persons by, or with the authorization, support or acquiescence of, a State or a political organization, followed a refusal to acknowledge that deprivation of freedom or to give information on the fates or whereabouts of those persons.

SPDC September’s actions on crackdown against Buddhist monks and civilians are a serious crimes against humanity and it is a need for UN Human Rights Council to compile these information and get involved to enforce international criminal laws toward intimidators or violators – SPDC authorities who gave orders and riot officers who involved in actions.



Photo of peaceful mass demonstration during heavy rain in Rangoon on September 23, 2007

Burmese bloggers

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Printed Matter

Address Correction Required

⚠ REMINDER: HURFOM’s mailing address has changed