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## BURMA - World weekly news round-up 19 November 2007 – 26 November 2007

### Inside Burma

In an attempt to work towards national reconciliation, Aung San Suu Kyi met for a third time with Aung Mye Thaw, the military regime's Labour Minister designated to handle relations with her. (Date: 19 November 2007. Source: Associated Press found at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/latest/story/0,,7087529,00.html>)

The day after the meeting, two prominent politicians were arrested by the Burmese military regime. The National League for Democracy (NLD) condemned the detention of Myint Naing, a senior NLD member and Pu Chin Sian Thang, chairman of the Zomi National Congress (ZNC) party, saying that it undermined the talks intended to build mutual confidence between the democracy activists and the military government. (Date: 22 November 2007. Source: Reuters found at [http://www.swissinfo.org/eng/International/detail/Myanmar\\_opposition\\_says\\_arrests\\_undermine\\_talks.html?siteSect=143&sid=8452449&cKey=1195727905000&ty=ti](http://www.swissinfo.org/eng/International/detail/Myanmar_opposition_says_arrests_undermine_talks.html?siteSect=143&sid=8452449&cKey=1195727905000&ty=ti))

### UN

The UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, issued a new report on the grave situation regarding children's rights violations, including recruitment of children into armed groups in Burma. He called on the military regime, which has ratified the UN's convention on the rights of the child, but is yet to accede to the UN's optional protocol on children and armed conflict, to take measures to address the problem which is common to both State and non-State actors. (Date: 23 November 2007. Source: UN News Centre <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=24785&Cr=myanmar&Cr1>)

### ASEAN

The ten ASEAN member countries signed a landmark charter at their annual summit on 20 November. Earlier in the week, the Philippines warned its fellow ASEAN members that it may not be willing to ratify the charter because of its serious concerns about Burma's ruling military junta. At the beginning of the week ASEAN leaders cancelled the planned session with Ibrahim Gambari, the UN envoy to Burma, who was due to brief ASEAN members on the current situation inside the country. (Date: 20 November 2007. Source: Agence France Presse, found at <http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/storypage.aspx?StoryId=99804> and Associated Press <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/7102992.stm>)

### EU/ASEAN

At the EU/ASEAN Commemorative Summit, leaders agreed on a joint declaration which included the situation in Burma. The statement called for the Burmese military to release all political prisoners and voiced their continued support for the work of Ibrahim Gambari, the UN Secretary General's special envoy to the country in pushing for an inclusive national reconciliation process. (Date: 22 November. Source: <http://www.aseansec.org/21120.htm>)

### EU

On 19 November 2007 EU foreign ministers confirmed the imposition of tougher sanctions on the Burmese military regime which they had agreed on 15 October following the regime's crackdown against pro-democracy demonstrators. (Date: 19 November 2007. Source: Deutsche Welle found at <http://www.eubusiness.com/news-eu/1195477325.85>)

A delegation of Members of the European Parliament visiting the Philippines warned that the European Parliament would oppose EU-ASEAN free trade deals unless Burma makes more democratic reforms. (Date: 23 November 2007. Source: Associated Press found at <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/11/23/asia/AS-GEN-Philippines-EU-Myanmar.php>)

The European Union's envoy, Piero Fassino travelled to Washington to discuss with US officials how to best coordinate pressure on the Burmese military. (Date: 20 November 2007. Source: Associated Press found at [http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art\\_id=9366](http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=9366))

### India

On 21 November, India voted against a UN resolution condemning the recent military crackdown of the September pro-democracy demonstrations, but the Indian government announced later in the week that India has put on hold all sale and transfer of arms to the Burmese military. (Date: 22 November 2007. Source: Central Chronicle <http://www.centralchronicle.com/20071122/2211191.htm>, and 26 November 2007. Source: Hindustan Times New Delhi

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/storypage/storypage.aspx?id=b8eec4be-bc15-41b0-b640-5278100126b8&&Headline=India+stops+arms+sales+to+junta>

**Vietnam**

During a visit of Ibrahim Gambari, the UN's special envoy to Burma, Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Kiem reaffirmed Vietnam's support for the national reconciliation process in Burma. (Date: 25 November 2007. Source: VietNamNet Bridge <http://english.vietnamnet.vn/politics/2007/11/756612/>)