



E U R O - B U R M A O F F I C E  
Square Gutenberg 11/2, Brussels, B-1000, Belgium  
Tel: +32 2 280 0691 Fax: +32 2 280 0310  
Email: [ebo@euro-burma.be](mailto:ebo@euro-burma.be)

## BURMA - news round-up #39 9-14 August 2008

### Inside Burma

Aung San Suu Kyi was allowed a rare meeting with her lawyer to discuss her ongoing house arrest, which was the first such meeting since 2004. The surprise meeting at her lakeside Yangon home came a day after the new United Nations human rights envoy for Myanmar Tomas Ojea Quintana left the country after his first visit. (Source: [AFP](#) – 10 August 2008)

Despite this move, Myanmar's military rulers have extended Suu Kyi's house arrest for another year. The junta's decision will keep her under detention for more time than the county's law allows. She has already been under house arrest for four and a half years, and the maximum limit is five years without charges being filed. (Source: [CNN](#) – 11 August 2008)

Police in Myanmar's western Rakhine state arrested a member of Aung San Suu Kyi's party, NLD. Nyi Pu's arrest came four days after the anniversary of 1988 pro-democracy protests that were violently suppressed by the military. The only public demonstration known to have taken place in Myanmar to mark the occasion Friday took place in Rakhine. (Source: [AP](#) – 12 August 2008)

Rape is increasingly being used as a tool of war in ethnic conflicts in Darfur and Myanmar, wrecking families and communities, two women Nobel peace laureates warned. Jody Williams, who spearheaded a campaign banning antipersonnel landmines, and Wangari Maathai, an outspoken advocate for greater democracy in Africa, said women were paying "the highest price" in the violent conflicts. (Source: [AFP](#) – 13 August 2008)

Myanmar gem merchants have dismissed US embargo threat. Yangon gem sellers dismissed the sanction against their government as a symbolic gesture unlikely to have much impact on their lucrative trade. (Source: [AP](#) – 13 August, 2008)

### International

The FT wrote an article commemorating 8-8-88 by highlighting China's role in Burma's fate. According to the article, the ruling Burmese junta receives substantial financial support and political cover from China, which sees its impoverished and badly governed neighbour as a valuable source of natural resources, including wood, gemstones and natural gas, necessary for its own buoyant economy. (Source: [Beijing holds key to change in Burma](#) - *Financial Times* - August 8 2008)

Denmark's minister for development cooperation, Ulla Tørnæs, stated that economic sanctions on Burma and a tourism boycott of the country are counterproductive. In an interview to *Politiken* she said Burma would benefit from more tourists and trade with the world. There have been unconfirmed reports among nongovernmental workers and diplomats that the European Union developmental agency might be in the process of undergoing a reevaluation of its views on economic sanctions on Burma. Tørnæs said she planned to raise the issue with the EU and ask it to reconsider its position on Burma. (Source: [Irrawaddy](#) - Monday, August 11, 2008)

### UN / Nargis

Press release by UNICEF:

**UNICEF continues relief efforts for Myanmar cyclone victims**

[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/myanmar\\_45170.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/myanmar_45170.html)