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BURMA - World weekly news round-up 5 August 2007 – 12 August 2007

Inside Burma

National Convention

At the beginning of August, ninety two Burmese MPs submitted a letter to UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, in order to gain his support on putting pressure on the Burmese military to modify its road map to democracy with an alternative seven point charter. The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) and the National Council of the Union of Burma (NCUB) have publicly given their support of this alternative charter. (Date: 6 August 2007 Source: Mizzima News <http://www.mizzima.com/MizzimaNews/News/2007/Aug/09-Aug-2007.html> & <http://www.ncub.org/FrontPageNews/ncgubncubstatement6807.pdf>)

The pro-Democracy group, 88 Generation Students, urged Burmese people to reject the constitution currently being drafted. The group also marked the 19th anniversary of the 8888 democracy uprising by calling for the prevention the negative consequences of a “disempowered and detrimental” State Constitution. (Date 8 August 2007, Source 88 Generation Students. Found at: <http://www.ncgub.net/article.php/20070807125928548> & The Irrawaddy http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=8128, 6 August 2007)

The Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) said it is awaiting the outcome of the final session of the National Convention (NC) before deciding on further action. The group may consider political or military action if Burma's ruling junta will not consider the autonomy of Kachin State during the final session of the convention. (Date 7 August 2007. Source: Kachin News Group <http://www.kachinnews.com/read.asp?CatId=14&NewsId=675&Title=KIO+awaits+NC+outcome+to+react>)

UN & ASEAN

Ibrahim Gambari continued with the next leg of his global tour of capitals by visiting ASEAN member countries this week. He met with officials in Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. (Date: 6 August 2007. Source: UN News Centre <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=23433&Cr=myanmar&Cr1=>)

After a meeting with Thai officials on Wednesday, Gambari also stated that he hoped the junta's ongoing constitutional talks would eventually lead to the release of political prisoners, including democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. (Date: August 8 2007. Source: Agence France Presse <http://www.afp.com/english/globe/>)

UK

Over 50 British MPs joined forces to call for the release of 12 imprisoned Burmese political prisoners. Special Attention was put on Khun Tun Oo, an MP from the Shan National League for Democracy, who has reportedly been denied the proper medical treatment he requires. (Date 7 August 2007. Source: Burma Campaign UK <http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk/pm/weblog.php?id=P261> & full text of the Early Day Motion can be found at <http://edmi.parliament.uk/EDMi/EDMDetails.aspx?EDMID=33836&SESSION=885>)