



EURO - BURMA OFFICE
Square Gutenberg 11/2, Brussels, B-1000, Belgium
Tel: +32 2 280 0691 Fax: +32 2 280 0310
Email: ebo@euro-burma.be

BURMA - World weekly news round-up 3 September 2007 - 8 September 2007

Inside Burma

National Convention

The final meeting of Burma's widely condemned National Convention was concluded on 3 September 2007. The 1000 convention delegates, mostly handpicked by the Burmese generals, passed the proposed 'principles' which are to be included in the drafting of a new constitution. Rare street demonstrations have continued during the past two weeks which were sparked by a sudden increase in fuel prices in mid-August by the military government in Burma. More than 150 activists have been arrested by authorities since the end of August, which has met condemnation from governments and leaders worldwide. On Thursday 6 September, military officials were taken hostage by monks while their car was burnt after a peaceful demonstration was violently broken down by the government on Wednesday 5 September. (Date: 3-8 September.

Sources: Reuters <http://www.reuters.com/>, The Irrawaddy http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=8524, Burmanet <http://www.burmanet.org/news/2007/08/22/mizzima-news-spontaneous-demonstration-in-rangoon-biggest-in-decade-in-burma/> & Human Rights Watch <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2007/09/05/burma16798.htm>)

China

On Friday 7th September, a spokesperson from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs told reporters that "we [China] hope to see reconciliation and improvement in the situation in Burma," at a press conference held on the sidelines of an Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Sydney.

The official also confirmed that "China is willing to strengthen its communication and dialogue with all the relevant sides, including the United States." (Date: 07 September 2007. Source: Reuters <http://www.reuters.com/>)

EU

Commissioner Viviane Reading from the European Commission condemned the rights violations in Burma as a 'scandal'. She advised that more should be done to engage with the military regime, saying that further isolation of Burma would not be helpful for the population. (Date 7 September 2007. Source Reuters <http://www.reuters.com/>)

UK

On Sunday, Prime Minister Gordon Brown slammed the Burmese military's crackdown on dissidents and demanded the release of those held after street protests against fuel price rises. (Date 2 September 2007. Source Reuters <http://www.reuters.com/>)

USA

At a press conference held before the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, President Bush condemned the recent repression of democracy activists as 'inexcusable'. (Date 5 September 2007. Source Agence France Presse <http://www.afp.com>)

Hollywood/Bollywood

Several Hollywood and Bollywood film stars have written to U.N. Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon to urge him to do more to get Aung San Suu Kyi released. (Date 7 September 2007. Source <http://www.burmanet.org/news/2007/09/07/hollywood-un-must-act-to-help-aung-san-suu-kyi-and-burma/> & Reuters <http://www.reuters.com/>)