September 26 - October 02 2010

STATE PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (SPDC) AND ITS STOOGES ORGANIZATIONS

A. ACTIVITIES ON ADMINISTRATIVE LEVELS

-Daw Khin Htay Kywe, the defense lawyer of Rev. Okkantha (aka) Rev. Zaw Lat who was detained in Insein prison under the charge of possessing anti-election leaflets, stated that a Special Court opened in Insein Prison compound and recently sentenced Rev. Monk Okkantha to 15 years. (IMNA 270910)

-Government employees in Naypyitaw and attendees of the Central Institute of Public Services in Hlegu, Rangoon Division stated that authorities had collected early votes from them between the 14th and 18th of September for the upcoming election. (Irrawaddy 270910)

-U Nyan Win, SPDC Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated at the 65th UN Assembly held in New York on 28th September, that the elections' inclusiveness was apparent, as over 3000 representatives would contest in the elections. (VOA 280910)

-Speaking on the condition that his identity would be kept anonymous, a police officer stated that police boot camp for election security personnel in Sittwe, Arakan State had begun on 20th of September and there had since been 160 police recruits. (Narinjara 280910)

-Ma Mie Mie from Myanmar International School in Yankin Township, Rangoon, stated that authorities instructed all international schools in Burma to close during the election, on 7th November, and forbade the employment of foreign tutors in the lead up to the election. (Irrawaddy 290910)

-A professor from Hlegu Central Institute of Public Services stated that about 500 police and riot police personnel from the anti-terrorism department were being trained in how to use teargas to crackdown on any possible demonstrations that may take place during the election period. (Irrawaddy 011010)
-Two anonymous statements from military officials, AFP, on 1st October, stated that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s current sentence would come to an end on 13th November, but Senior Gen. Than Shwe was the only person who knew if she would in fact be released. (RFA 011010)

-AP news stated that according to a Laos government spokesperson, Senior Gen. Than Shwe and his delegation arrived in Laos on 1st October for a 3-day visit to discuss the relationship between the two nations and the upcoming elections in Burma. (DVB 011010)

B. THE UNION ELECTION COMMISSION

-Residents from villages in Loikaw, Karenni State, revealed that the Union Election Commission had been collecting 500 kyat from each household in exchange for ballot papers. (KT 270910)

-Residents from Oaktha Myothit, Pegu Division, stated that an explosion occurred on the evening of 30th September at around 9pm at Ward 8 Peace and Development Council Office, as well as the ward election commission office. There were no casualties. (RFA 300910)

C. THE UNION SOLIDARITY AND DEVELOPMENT PARTY

-U Aung Thein Lin, U Aung Kyaw Moe, U Myo Min Aung and Dr. Maung Thin will contest in the election and represent Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) from South Okkapala Township, Rangoon for 3 Parliaments. (NEJ 270910)

-A resident from Kachin State revealed that U Naw Yaw, a member of USDP and U Zakhung Ting Ying, the leader of National Democratic Army-Kachin (NDA-K), recently transformed as a border guard force, had collected lists of eligible voters and threatened residents with arrest if they chose not to vote. (NEJ 270910)

-A female teacher, from Tesakha village, stated that chiefs of voting stations in Telon and Tesakha villages, in Loikaw No. 1 constituency, Karenni State, were threatened by USDP personnel who made it clear that there would be consequences if USDP did not receive more votes than opposition parties from people in the area. (KT 270910)

-Local authorities from Kya-In-Seik-Kyi, Karen State, revealed that the region in the western part of Zami River, Kya-In-Seik-Kyi, Karen State, was recognized as the region who would vote for USDP. (IMNA 270910)

-Zaykaba U Khin Shwe, a top businessman in Burma, who will contest in the election representing USDP, stated that USDP would definitely win and highlighted that the party had not been involved in any unfair or unlawful activities. (RFA 280910)

-A politician from Sittwe, Arakan State, revealed that even though the Union Election Commission officially restricted the use of religious buildings for election campaigns, USDP had already violated these restrictions. (Narinjara 280910)
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- USDP has been providing cell phones, worth 1.5 million kyat, to voting station officials, who are also education employees, and ward authority figures in Naypyitaw. (Irrawaddy 290910)

- U Khun Sai, the editor of Shan Herald news agency, stated that U Kyaw Myint, U Myint Lwin, U Hti Khun Myat and U Kyin Mai, who are all well established drug dealers based along the Thai-Burma border, would contest in the elections and represent USDP. (Irrawaddy 290910)

- USDP and National Unity Party (NUP) have been hiring people to observe the voting stations in Rangoon Division for the upcoming elections. (Irrawaddy 300910)

- Residents from Rangoon Division stated that USDP had been providing them with training sessions on how to vote in the upcoming election, but also urging them to vote for USDP. (NEJ 300910)

- USDP top leaders including U Thein Sein, the Chairperson of USDP, have been campaigning in Cyclone Nargis affected areas by discussing plans for regional rehabilitation projects in the area. (Irrawaddy 011010)

- U Thein Htay, the Chairperson of Union Democracy Party (UDP), stated that 6 opposition political parties would hold a meeting on 2nd October to establish an alliance to potentially win the election. (KNG 011010)

- U Mahtu Naw, the leader of a militia unit in Manglin village, Theindi Township, Northern Shan State, has been threatening residents, stating that if they do not vote for USDP, they will be removed from their community. (KNG 011010)

- An official from USDP stated that even though the USDP announced that they would cover registration fees for representatives contesting in the elections in support of USDP, U Khin Maung Lwin and U Lay Myint, who will contest in the elections from Tamwe Township representing USDP, were upset to discover that a registration fee of 500,000 kyat was in fact required. (BBC 011010)

- A resident from Myingyan, Mandalay Division, stated that U Zaw Myint Pe, who would contest in the elections for Mandalay Division Parliament, has been canvassing in Myingyan and Nahtogyi townships and Gaungkwe village and forcing at least one person per household to attend rallies. (DVB 011010)

D. NATIONAL UNITY PARTY

- U San Thwin, a representative from NUP, stated that on 28th September at Tharawaddy Township Court, NUP sued a member of USDP who stole passport size photos of NUP organizers in Tharawaddy, Pegu Division, intended for NUP membership cards. (DVB 290910)

- U Han Shwe, the Spokesperson of NUP, stated that NUP submitted an appeal regarding 4 NUP representatives who were rejected by the Union Election Commission; but had received no acknowledgement or response from the Commission. (DVB 300910)
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OPPOSITION FORCES

A. FORCES INSIDE BURMA

-U Moe Zaw Oo, the 2nd Secretary of National League for Democracy-Liberated Area (NLD-LA), stated that even though the military regime announced the disbanding of NLD, NLD would still stand as a political party following the election. (yoma3 270910)

-U Ohn Kyine, a member of NLD Central Executive Committee, revealed that a ceremony was held, on 27th September, to celebrate the 22nd anniversary of NLD at the residence of U Tin Oo, the Vice Chairperson of NLD. NLD leaders urged over 200 attendees to boycott the election. (RFA 270910)

-U Win Tin, member of NLD Central Executive Committee, stated at the 22nd Anniversary of the establishment of NLD, on 27th September, that representatives who decided to contest in the 2010 elections would be like cows sent to the slaughter house, going to the dead end, without any hope. (NEJ 270910)

-U Nyan Win, a member of NLD Central Executive Committee and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s personal defense lawyer, stated that he submitted a request to the special police branch (SB), on 27th September, to schedule a meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi but the appeal was dismissed. (RFA 270910)

-Ko Myint Soe, a member of NLD Twante, Rangoon Division, stated that he raised public awareness of the election boycott by wearing a t-shirt highlighting the idea, which was given to him at NLD’s 22nd Anniversary celebration and traveled from Pansodan Township to the 8 wards in Twante Township. (DVB 270910)

-Ko Zarni, the Spokesperson of All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU), stated that 11 students from Dagon University and Hmaubwe Institute of Technology were arrested by security troops following their distribution of leaflets urging people to boycott the elections. (Irrawaddy 290910)

-A resident of Bamaw, Kachin State, revealed that Democratic Youth Force (Myanmar) distributed anti-election leaflets, stating “People should boycott the elections for the elections would activate the 2008 constitution which would elongate the military rule in Burma,” in crowded areas of Bamaw on 30th September. (S.H.A.N 300910)

-U Win Tin, a member of NLD Central Executive Committee, stated that NLD would initiate public movements for national reconciliation dialogues to be held if and when Daw Aung San Suu Kyi would be released on 13th November. (Irrawaddy 011010)

-U Tin Oo, the Vice Chairperson of NLD, stated that the military regime should release all political prisoners before the elections and begin a dialogue. He also highlighted that arbitrary detention was not legitimate with specific reference to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. (BBC 011010)
NDD-Documentation and Research Department

-U Ohn Kyine, a member of NLD Central Executive Committee, stated that a NLD delegation led by U Kyi Win (Labutta), a member of NLD Central Committee, would head to Irrawaddy Division, on 1st October, for the third time to initiate party organization and election boycott activities. (RFA 011010)

-New York Times published an article by U Win Tin, a member of NLD Central Executive Committee, titled "An Election Not Worthy of Support" on 30th September. (RFA 011010)

-Rangoon based Non-Violent Nationalists (Myanmar) sent a message, on 2nd October International Day of Non-Violence, to Senior Gen. Than Shwe urging the military regime to recognize UN day with direct relation to the current political situation in Burma. (RFA 021010)

B. FORCES AT BORDER AREAS

-The Joint Secretary of Student and Youth Congress of Burma (SYCB), representing 8 youth organizations, stated that SYCB began distributing anti-election leaflets in August. (IMNA 280910)

-Nai Lariraw, the General Secretary of Mon National Affairs League, stated that Central Committee members of Mon National Affairs League and Central Committee members from 4 other regions held a 3-day meeting at a location along the Thai-Burma border and decided not to vote in the military regime’s elections. (IMNA 011010)

C. ARMED ETHNIC GROUPS

-Capt. Pado Saw Hte Nay, Chief of Information of the 6th Brigade of the Karen National Union (KNU), stated that KNU battalion 16 ambushed soldiers from Light Battalion 283, and 405 under the command of Strategic Command 3 of Southeastern Command, and one SPDC soldier was killed. (Irrawaddy 300910)

-Brigadier Gen. Jonny, the Commander of the 7th Brigade of KNU, stated that the 7th brigade was on alert for SPDC troops under the command of Light Infantry Division 22; Light Infantry Battalion 210 and 203 were deployed in the 7th brigade controlled areas. (NEJ 300910)

-A unit under the command of Northeastern Command raided a base of Shan State Army-North (SSA-N) on 30th September. SSA troops withdrew without any casualties; however, despite the SPDC’s manpower one of their soldiers was killed. (NEJ 011090)

D. FORCES OUTSIDE BURMA

-Dr. Thaung Tun, UN representative of the exiled government of Burma; the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), stated that the military regime’s 2010 elections, announced as inclusive elections by U Nyan Win, the Foreign Minister of Burma, were biased in favour of USDP and NUP. (BBC 290910)

-Daw Khin Ohmar, the Chief of Foreign Affairs Coordinating Team of the Forum for Democracy in Burma, stated that on 29th September, at the live talk session regarding Burma’s election, which was hosted by
KBR 68 EM Radio based in Jakarta, Indonesia, an official from Indonesia’s Foreign Ministry, U Han Nyaung Shwe, the Director of Euro-Burma office was in attendance. (RFA 290910)

-National Coalition of Union of Burma (NCUB) stated that the release of democratic leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who is currently under house arrest; would not automatically make the elections free, fair and democratic. (RFA 300910)

-Ma Waihnin Pwint Thon, the daughter of imprisoned 88 Generation Student Group member Ko Mya Aye, made a speech at the annual British Labour Party conference held in Manchester, UK, on 27th September. She highlighted that free, fair and democratic elections could not take place whilst over 2200 political prisoners remained in detention and that the regime was not working towards a democratic transition but to systematically prolong military rule in Burma. (RFA 300910)

-Burmese organizations in India sent a message to Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, an Indian political leader, calling for India to push for political change in Burma. (RFA 021010)

CEASEFIRE GROUPS

A. ORGANIZATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO BORDER GUARD FORCES

-U Sein Kyi, the Editor of Shan Herald News, stated that leaders of 3rd and 7th Brigades of Northern Shan State Army were brought to the headquarters of Northeastern Command of the military regime and warned not to communicate with the 1st Brigade of SSA-N, which had rejected the military regime’s border guard force plan, and in doing so was regarded as unlawful. (VOA 270910)

-A commander from the 5th Brigade of Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), stated that 8 soldiers from the border guard battalion 1022, led by Saw Aung Htoo, based in Kawkaraik, Karen State, joined the DKBA 5th Brigade’s Special Company, led by Capt. Saw A One and were based in Payathonesu, with arms and ammunitions. (KIC 300910)

-A resident of Pa-an stated that U Saw Tha Htoo Kyaw, the Chairperson of DKBA which had transformed into the border guard force, would contest in the elections from Hlinebwe constituency 1 for Karen State Parliament. (NEJ 011090)

-Maj. Gen. Pan Pha, the Commander of the 1st Brigade of SSA-N, which has rejected the military regime’s border guard force plan, verbally informed the Commander of Northeastern Command of the military regime that, “Ceasefire agreement and peaceful days end today” on 1st October. (NMG 011010)

POLITICAL PARTIES

A. POLITICAL PARTIES ALLOWED TO CONTEST IN THE ELECTIONS

-National Democratic Force (NDF) officially announced, on 27th September, that 7 representatives would contest in the elections for Pyithu Hluttaw representing NDF against USDP. (NEJ 270910)
- U Khin Maung Swe, the leader of NDF, stated that NDF Rangoon Division office was opened in Kyauk Myaung Ward, Tamwe Township, Rangoon on 27th September. 55 NDF representatives and about 300 people attended the opening ceremony. (DVB 270910)

- Nai Ngwe Thein, the Chairperson of All Mon Region Democratic Party (AMRDP), stated that AMRDP began campaigning in 7 townships in Mon State, Kawkaraik and Pa-an townships in Karen State as well as Yephyu township in Tenasserim Division. (DVB 280910)

- U Nay Myo Wai, the Secretary of the Difference and Peace Party (DPP), stated that DPP submitted a script to the Union Election Commission that was to be aired on MRTV; however, the Commission rejected the script and DPP were forced to give up on the plan. (DVB 280910)

- A representative from Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party (PSDP) stated that the party had been campaigning in Karen State and briefing people on the party’s polices; however, seeing as the election was just over a month away this was being done in a rather a rushed manner. (KIC 290910)

- All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) released a statement on 29th September urging the military regime to release 6 students from Hmawbe Government Technological College who were arrested because of the distribution of leaflets urging people to boycott the elections. (RFA 290910)

- Leaders of Kayin People’s Party (KPP), 88 Generation Student Youth (Union of Myanmar) and Union of Myanmar Federation of National Politics stated that they could not accept the statement of U Nyan Win, SPDC Foreign Minister, at the UN Assembly stating that the elections were inclusive, free and fair. (DVB 290910)

- Dr. Aye Maung, the Chairperson of Rakhine Nationals Progressive Party (RNPP), stated that the Union Election Commission rejected a speech script submitted by RNPP which was to be presented on MRTV and provided no reason for their decision. (DVB 290910)

- U Thu Wai, the Chairperson of Democratic Party (Myanmar) (DPM), stated that when he was canvassing in Mingalataungnyunt Township, he distributed brief bios of DPM representatives and people willingly took the leaflets. (NEI 300910)

- Leaders from DPM, NDF and Wa National Solidarity Party stated that the parties had begun campaigning; DPM vehicles with party flags and posters were being driven through Rangoon Division, NDF were distributing campaign leaflets and Wa party had opened offices in Tangyan and Kengton townships in Shan State. (RFA 300910)

- Sai Tun Aye, Information Chief of Shan Nationalities Democratic Party (SNDP), stated that SNDP had been facing difficulties as local authorities had banned the distribution of the SNDP political bulletin, “White Tiger” in Monghsu, Shan State. It was also revealed that election laws announced by the Union Election Commission were different from one township to another. (RFA 011010)

- Daw Than Than Nu, the General Secretary of Democratic Party (Myanmar), stated that the party would submit a complaint regarding the interference of USDP government authorities. (DVB 011010)
U Thein Htay, the Chairperson of Union Democracy Party (UDP), stated that 6 opposition political parties held a meeting on 2nd October and agreed to establish an alliance to cooperate during the elections and for legislative issues after the elections. (RFA 021010)

POLITICAL PARTIES NOT ALLOWED TO CONTEST IN THE ELECTIONS

-Dr. Tuja, the Chairperson of Kachin State Progressive Party (KSPP), stated that a KSPP Central Executive Committee meeting was held on 23rd September and the party was officially disbanded. (DVB 270910)

INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATIVES TO CONTEST IN THE ELECTIONS

-U Zakhun Ting Ying, leader of the former NDA-K, who will contest in the elections as an individual representative from Kachin State No. 4 constituency (Injanyan, Chiphwe and Sawlaw townships) has been campaigning by verbally attacking other representatives. (NEJ 280910)

-Daw Yaza Maw Tun, an individual representative contesting in Hline Township, Rangoon Division, stated that even though she submitted a request to the Union Election Commission to grant equal opportunity to individual representatives as political parties regarding airing political speeches through government media, her plea was dismissed. (RFA 011010)

SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS

-Daw Nay Yi Ba Swe, the General Secretary of Democratic Party (Myanmar) (DPM), stated that people do not follow the speeches of political parties through government media due to economic hardship. She also added that only party members, family members and reporters attend political party rallies. (VOA 290910)

-U Aung Thein, veteran lawyer from Rangoon, stated that Prime Minister U Thein Sein and other ministers’ distribution of aid items was a form of vote buying which violated the election laws. (BBC 290910)

-A Mongton resident stated that Wa and Kokang nationals from Mongton Township, Eastern Shan State intended to vote for SNDP and were confidently saying that SNDP would win with 60% of the vote. (S.H.A.N 300910)

-It was informed that Rangoon residents were happy to hear news from foreign media on 30th September stating that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi would be released after the elections. (NEJ 011090)

-As the elections draw near, many more Chin youths who do not want to vote have been heading to Mizoram State, Northeastern India. (Khonumthung 021010)

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

-All Burma Monk Alliance (ABMA) stated that even though the Saffron Revolution reached its three year anniversary, the military regime still has not apologized for the crimes against monks and people of
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Burma, and so ABMA would continue with its monastic boycott, and also urged other people to boycott the elections. (RFA 260910)

-Rev. Monk U Pyinnyazawta, Chief of ABMA Abroad, stated that in commemorating of the 3rd Anniversary of the Saffron Revolution, ABMA distributed 500 radios so that people could hear the international media’s opinion on the 2010 elections and most importantly how the regime is not working towards a democratic transition but instead elongating military rule in Burma. (RFA 260910)

-Rev. Monk U Zawana, the Chief of Mae Sot Branch of Sasana Moli (International Burmese Monks Organization), urged people of Burma to boycott the 2010 elections, saying that if the regime receives international recognition, they will commit more crimes and human rights violations. (yoma3 260910)

MEDIA

-Election observers and political editors stated that in Rangoon, hundreds of thousands of people might lose the right to vote due to flaws in the eligible voter system. Political parties have not been allowed to investigate this further. (NEJ 280910)

-A Journalist stated that even though Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s name was officially added to the eligible voters list, the Censorship and Scrutiny Board banned reporters from covering this news. (Irrawaddy 300910)

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

A. THE UNITED NATIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

-Ban Ki-Moon, the UN Secretary General, urged ASEAN leaders to seek a successful transition to civilian and democratic rule in Burma. (RFA 260910)

-Following a meeting with UN Friends of Burma; a 14 nation group, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, stated that the release of all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was key to the stability and success of the elections. (VOA 270910)

-During a Friends of Burma Meeting, Ministers of Friends of Burma, stated that the release of all political prisoners and inclusiveness of all political forces was essential if the elections were to be deemed credible. (BBC 270910)

B. GOVERNMENTS

-The Foreign Minister of Lithuania officially released an announcement supporting a UN commission of inquiry to investigate the crimes against humanity and war crimes committed by the military regime of Burma. (RFA 280910)

-Bangkok Post stated that during the Thai Prime Minister’s visit to Burma on 11th October, the Prime Minister would discuss the post election plans of the military regime, the situation of political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s situation and the issues of ethnic groups. (Irrawaddy 300910)

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A bipartisan group of the U.S. House of Representatives, led by Mr. Donald Manzullo (R-IL), introduced a Resolution on 29 September, condemning the Burmese military regime's undemocratic upcoming elections on November 7th, 2010. (VOA300910)

Christopher Smith, an American Congressman, submitted a proposal to Congress on 29th September urging the military regime of Burma to end repression of Rohingya people in Burma and to grant them full citizen rights. (RFA 300910)

Shiv Shankar Menon, the National Security Adviser of India, urged the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace office in Washington D.C and the international community, on 30th September, to cooperate with the military regime in Burma since the elections in Burma was one step towards democracy. (RFA 011010)

Mr. Joseph Crowley, an American Congressman, criticized the military regime's announcement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi release, calling it a political trick, one of the many catch and release games of the military regime, trying to get international recognition on the elections. (RFA 011010)

C. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Vaclav Havel, former president of Czech Republic and Nobel Peace Price Laureate, wrote an article about Burma and stated that November's elections in Burma would maintain military rule. He also urged the international community to take effective actions under UN initiative. (RFA290910)

A Human Rights hearing on Burma was held at the European Parliament on 30th September. At the hearing Ma Zoya Phan from Burma Campaign UK, Debbie Stothard from ALTSEAN, and Ben Rogers from Christian Solidarity addressed the audience. (RFA 300910)

Ko Win Min, from Burma Centrum Nederland and Transnational Institute in The Netherlands jointly released a report stating there would still be problems in Burma, since the 2010 elections were exclusive to democratic forces and ethnic groups. (VOA 011010)