

To: Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations Headquarters
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CC: Sir Emyr Jones Parry, KCMG, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations, *Fax: (212) 745-9316*;
Ambassador Andrey Denisov, Permanent Representative of the Federation of Russia Mission to the United Nations, *Fax: (212) 628-0252*;
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Ambassador Jean-Marc de la Sabliere, Permanent Representative of the France Mission to the United Nations, *Fax: (212) 355-2763*; and
Ambassador John Bolton, Permanent Representative of the United States Mission to the United Nations, *Fax: (212) 415-4053*

Dear Secretary-General,

In your September 2003 report to the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on the political situation in Burma (also known as Myanmar, as it was renamed by the ruling military junta in 1989), you encouraged the international community to facilitate a democratic transition in Burma by the year 2006. Today, that deadline fast approaches and there are no signs of political dialogue or cooperation in Burma, despite your promises to do your "utmost, together with all interested member states, to reinvigorate the process of national reconciliation."

On October 24, 2005, your fellow Nobel Peace Prize recipient and leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and Burma's democracy movement, Aung San Suu Kyi, will have spent a cumulative 10 years in solitary detention in Burma. The political stalemate in Burma has not eased or ended, and the Burmese generals repeatedly ignore and reject UN attempts to facilitate and encourage political dialogue. In fact, both the UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Burma, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, and the Special Envoy from the Office of the Secretary General, Razali Ismail, have been barred from even entering Burma since 2003 and 2004, respectively.

It is ironic that October 24, 2005 is also the 60th anniversary of the United Nations, or "UN Day." In 1948, the year the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was proclaimed and adopted by the UN General Assembly, Burma was the first country to proclaim complete independence from British colonialism. Burma's independence opened the global floodgates of decolonization and heralded the creation of a world of independent nation-states - a world of united nations. It is wholly appropriate that Burma now stands poised to usher in a new era of the United Nations, one that you called for yourself when you said, "We must move from an era of legislation to an era of implementation."

The issue of Burma is waiting to be addressed by the UN's most powerful body, the Security Council. Nobel Peace Prize recipient Archbishop Desmond Tutu and former President of the Czech Republic Vaclav Havel have called on the Security Council to address Burma and pass a peaceful resolution that would allow for the vigorous engagement of the UN Secretary General in establishing and implementing a plan for national reconciliation in Burma. The resolution being recommended by Archbishop Tutu and President Havel would grant you the mandate of the Security Council, multiplying and magnifying the ways in which you may facilitate peaceful change in Burma. Their recommendations, which do not include calls for sanctions or the use of force, have the heartfelt endorsements of many Burmese who struggle for democracy and human rights in their country, such as the NLD, ethnic nationality parties elected in 1990, student leaders, and ethnic movements who have signed ceasefires with the Burmese army.

Such a resolution on Burma as that proposed by Archbishop Tutu and President Havel must be passed at the UN Security Council today because the situation in Burma has deteriorated to the point where its political instability, widespread human rights violations, creation of over 700,000 refugees, displacement of millions internally in Burma, tolerance of the production and trafficking of illegal narcotics, and indifference to the transmission of HIV/AIDS from Burma to other parts of Asia, all pose a legitimate threat to international peace and security.

We urge you to make good on your promise to the Burmese people and to the world to meet the deadline you set in 2003 to see progress in Burma by 2006, by responding positively and immediately to the call for the UN Security Council to address Burma. We demand that you bring Burma to the attention of the UN Security Council without further delay.

Respectfully,

Name

Signature