



THE OSLO CENTER
FOR PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

October 05, 2007

The Honorable Hu Jintao
President
People's Republic of China
Beijing, China

Dear President Hu:

We are writing to ask you to support a peaceful and inclusive dialogue for national reconciliation in Burma, in light of nationwide demonstrations and shooting on the streets of Burma's major cities.

We believe China could play an increasing constructive role in convincing Burma's military regime to participate in peaceful dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy, as well as the country's ethnic groups. These "tripartite" national reconciliation talks are called for by the UN General Assembly and strongly supported by the Secretary-General. Importantly, China can galvanize the international community's collective ability to work with Burma in a forward-looking and modern spirit of cooperation, in accordance with the Geneva Conventions

China is in a uniquely powerful position to encourage Burma's military regime to engage in such a tripartite dialogue. With China's support, the UN can facilitate these talks between all parties in Burma. Without China's support, UN efforts are likely to fail and Burma could continue to spiral into the status of a failed state, with unfortunate regional implications in the short and long term. The recent nationwide demonstrations underline the permanent instability caused by a military regime with limited and decreasing popular support.

The United Nations Secretary-General, the UN General Assembly, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Japan, Australia, the European Union, and 59 former Presidents and Prime Ministers throughout the world are all urging the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners in Burma. We invite China to stand in solidarity with the international community to join in this effort.

Mr. President,

We encourage China's policy on Burma to be carefully reviewed taking into account the following proposed areas of action:

- (1) Support the international calls for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners in Burma;
- 2) Utilize fully China's unique position to facilitate/support a peaceful tri-partite dialogue, as referred to above and as called for by the UN General Assembly; and
- 3) Support Security Council agreement on a peaceful binding resolution designed to strengthen the multilateral political efforts and impose an immediate arms embargo for Burma.

We believe such forward-looking steps would serve to strengthen Burma at this critical juncture in the country's history, on the basis of a firm and collective position by the international community, to which China is in a pivotal leading position of influence.

Thank you for your careful consideration.

Sincerely,

1. The Honorable Corazon C. Aquino
Former President of the Philippines (1986-1992)
2. The Honorable Valdis Birkavs
Former Prime Minister of Latvia (1993-1994)
3. The Honorable Kjell Magne Bondevik
Former Prime Minister of Norway (1997-2000, 2001-2005)
4. The Honorable Gro Harlem Brundtland
Former Prime Minister of Norway (1986-1996)
5. The Honorable Vlado Bučkovski
Former Prime Minister of Macedonia (2004-2006)
6. The Honorable Armando Calderón Sol
Former President of El Salvador (1994-1999)
7. The Honorable Fernando Henrique Cardoso
Former President of Brazil (1995-2003)
8. The Honorable Philip Dimitrov
Former Prime Minister of Bulgaria (1991-1992)
9. The Honorable Vigdís Finnbogadóttir
Former President of Iceland (1980-1996)
10. The Honorable Elbegdorj Tsakhiagiin
Former Prime Minister of Mongolia (1998, 2004-2006)
11. The Honorable Václav Havel
Former President of the Czech Republic (1990-2003)
12. The Honorable Paavo Lipponen
Former Prime Minister of Finland (1995-2003)
13. The Honorable Lionel Jospin
Former Prime Minister of France (1997-2002)
14. The Honorable Kim Dae-jung
Former President of South Korea (1998-2003)
15. The Honorable Zlatko Lagumdžija
Former Foreign Minister of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2001-2003)

16. The Honorable Davíð Oddsson
Former Prime Minister of Iceland (1991-2004)
17. The Honorable Viktor Orbán
Former Prime Minister of Hungary (1998-2002)
18. The Honorable Andrés Pastrana Arango
Former President of Colombia (1998-2002)
19. The Honorable Mary Robinson
Former President of Ireland (1990-1997)
20. The Honorable Eduardo Rodríguez Veltzé
Former President of the Republic of Bolivia (2005-2006)
21. The Honorable Casam Uteem
Former President of the Republic of Mauritius (1992-2002)