

OFFICE OF SENATOR AZUMA KONNO

OFFICE OF SENATOR TADASHI INUZUKA

December 10, 2009

H.E. Ambassador Michel Kafando
President of the United Nations Security Council
Permanent Representative of Burkina Faso to the United Nations
866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 326/327 A
New York, NY 10017, U.S.A
Fax: 1(212) 308 4690

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
United Nations
New York, NY 10017, U.S.A
Fax: 1(212) 963 2155, 1(212) 963 1185

Via facsimile

Your Excellencies,

On behalf of 442 Members of Parliament from 29 countries around the world, we are writing to urge the United Nations Security Council to launch an investigation into crimes against humanity committed by the military regime in Burma (Myanmar) and to impose a global arms embargo on that regime.

Such action is long overdue. Burma's military regime has carried out brutal attacks on its own people for decades. According to the Thailand Burma Border Consortium (TBBC), a humanitarian agency providing aid to Burmese refugees and displaced persons for 25 years, through these attacks, the regime has destroyed over 3,500 ethnic minority villages in eastern Burma since 1996. Here, at least 75,000 people were forced to leave their homes during this past year alone, and more than half a million people remain internally displaced. TBBC has described the situation in Burma as being comparable to the situation in Darfur. Furthermore, these crimes against humanity in Burma are well documented by various UN bodies, although none of them have taken effective action.

There is an urgent need for the Security Council to address this horrific condition in Burma. Please find attached a letter to the United Nations Security Council that has been endorsed by 442 Members of Parliament from 29 countries. We respectfully request you to distribute the letter to the members of the Security Council and call for an emergency meeting to discuss the issue. We thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Azuma Konno, Member of the House of Councillors, the National Diet of Japan



Tadashi Inuzuka, Member of the House of Councillors, the National Diet of Japan

Office of Senator Azuma Konno
Member of the House of Councillors
The National Diet of Japan
Room 318, Sangiin Giinkaikan
2-1-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
100-8962 Japan

Office of Senator Tadashi Inuzuka
Member of the House of Councillors
The National Diet of Japan
Room 708, Sangiin Giinkaikan
2-1-1 Nagata-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
100-8962 Japan

Enclosures: Letter to the United Nations Security Council

Copies to:

1. H.E. Dr. Susan Rice, Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Fax: 1(212) 415 4415
2. H.E. Sir John Sawers, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations, Fax: 1(212) 745 9316
3. H.E. Mr. Jean-Maurice Ripert, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations, Fax: 1 (212) 207 8765
4. H.E. Mr. Yukio Takasu, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations, Fax: 1(212) 308 1451
5. Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Chef de Cabinet, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations, Fax: 1 (212) 963 1185
6. Mr. B. Lynn Pascoe, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Political Affairs, United Nations, Fax: 1(212) 963 5065
7. Mr. Kim Won-soo, Deputy Chef de Cabinet, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, United Nations, Fax: 1(212) 963 1185
8. Media

December 10, 2009, International Human Rights Day

Members of the United Nations Security Council
c/o H.E. Ambassador Michel Kafando and Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

RE: Burma/Myanmar: Commission of Inquiry and Arms Embargo

Dear Members of the United Nations Security Council,

We are members of parliaments and congresses from throughout the world, writing to urge you to draft and pass a UN Security Council resolution both establishing a commission of inquiry into crimes against humanity and war crimes in Burma and imposing a global arms embargo on Burma's military regime.

For too many years, the Security Council has ignored widespread and systematic crimes carried about by Burma's military regime, including the destruction of over 3,300 ethnic minority villages, widespread rape of ethnic women, the forced displacement of over 1 million refugees and internally displaced persons, the recruitment of tens of thousands of child soldiers, and the prolific use of modern-day slave labor.

The silence of the Security Council on these matters is especially shocking since five of the world's leading judges recently commissioned a report which found that various bodies of the UN are already aware of these shocking crimes. At the same time, several United Nations special rapporteurs on human rights in Burma, including Brazil's Paulo Sergio Pinheiro and Japan's Yozo Yokota, have called on the regime to address these abuses. South Africa's Nobel Peace Prize recipient Desmond Tutu is adding his name to this call for action, and ten more Nobel Laureates are calling for a ban on weapons sales to the military regime.

The Burmese military regime's incarceration of Nobel Peace Prize recipient Aung San Suu Kyi has gained great international attention, but these crimes against humanity – and the provision of weapons which strengthen the military regime, has been wrongly ignored by the Security Council.

As Pinheiro wrote in the New York Times, "The Security Council must establish a commission of inquiry into crimes against humanity and impunity in Myanmar. The Security Council took similar steps with regard to Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The situation in [Burma] is equally as critical."

We strongly urge you to immediately draft and pass a resolution on these matters. The longer the Council waits, the more people in Burma will die.

Members of Parliament from:

Commonwealth of Australia (13)

Michael Danby
Kelvin Thomson
Judi Moylan
Laurie Ferguson
Guy Barnett
Chris Bowen

Gary Humphries
Scott Ludlam
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Son Chhay
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Mao Munyvann
Cheam Channy
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Kimsour Phirith
Eng Chhai Eang
Cjiv Cata
Ho Vann
Ly Srey Vyna
Yont Tharo
Chan Cheng
Lhim Laky
Pot Pov
Nuth Rumduol
Men Sothavarin
Khy Vandeth
Long Ry
Chea Poch
Kong Bora
Huoy
Bunroeun
Tok Vanchan
Ke Sovannaroth
Kem Sokha
Ou Chanrith
Nhem Ponharith

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Gordana Sobol

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Jozef Kochan
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Aleš Řebíček
Martin Říman
Karel Sehoř
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Pavel Suchánek
Cyril Svoboda
Pavel Svoboda

[Czech Republic continued]

David Šeich
Milan Šmíd
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Boris Šťastný
Jaromír Štětina
Lucie Talmanová
Vlastimil Tlustý
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Catherine Morin Desailly
Jean-Pierre Leleux

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Florian Toncar

Republic of Hungary (1)

Mátyás Eorsi

India (39)

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B.S.Gnanadesikan
Abani Roy
Barun Mukherji
Tarlochan Singh
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Ram Jethmalani
D. Raja
Janeshwar Mishra
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J.D.Seelam
Supriya Sule
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Nripendra Nath Roy
Maheshwar Hazari
Kaushalendra Kumar
Bhudeo Choudhary
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Baidyanath Prasad Mahto
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Dinesh Chandra Yadav
Sharad Yadav
Monazir Hassan
Ranjan Prasad Yadav
Mohan Singh
Hari Kewal Prasad
Nand Kishore Yadav

[India continued]
Vishwa Mohan Kumar

Indonesia (37)

Ratu Hemas
Sarah Lery Mboik
Syarifah
Alit Kalakan
Nurmawati Dewi Bantilan
Sofwat Hadi
Erma Suryani Ranik
Abraham Paul Liyanto
Emanuel Babu Eha
Sofia Maipauw
Supartono
Istibsjaroh
Abd. Sudarsono
Wasis Siswoyo
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Budiman Sudjatmiko
Ganjar Pranowo
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Dewi Asmara
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Anna Mu'awanah
Honing Sanny
Hetifah
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Mary White

Liz McManus
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Kantoku Teruya
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Marutei Tsurunen
Katsuhiko Yokomitsu

Republic of Latvia (1)

Oskar Kastens

Malaysia (42)

Lim Kit Siang
Teresa Kok Suh Sim

[Malaysia continued]

M Kula Segaran
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Karpal Singh
Fong Kui Lun
Chong Eng
Lim Lip Eng
Tan Kok Wai
Fong Po Kuan
Sim Tong Him
Tony Pua Kiam Wee
Hiew King Cheu
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Liew Chin Tong
Er Teck Hwa
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P Ramasamy
Dato Ngeh Koo Ham
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Nga Kor Ming
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M Manogaran
John Fernandez
Salahuddin Haji Ayub
Dzulkefly Ahmad
Dato' Mahfuz Omar
Dato' Seri Ir. Muhammad Nizar Jamaluddin
Mohd Yusmadi Mohd Yusoff
Dato' Johari Abdul
Loh Gwo Burne
Abdullah Sani Abdul Hamid
Hj. Abdul Aziz Abdul Kadir
Azan Ismail
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Mohamed Nasheed

Hussain Waheed
Ahmed Eesa
Mohamed Thoriq
Ibrahim Mohamed Salih
Ruqiyya Mohamed
Ahmed Hamza
Mohamed Musthafa
Mohamed Riyaz
Mohamed Qasam
Mohamed Nazim
Shifaaq Mufeed
Ilyas Labeeb
Mohamed Aslam
Mohamed Rasheed
Moosa Manik
Hamid Abdul Ghafoor
Eva Abdulla
Mariya Ahmed Didi
Mohamed Rasheed
Imthiyaz Fahmy
Ibrahim Rasheed
Abdull Gafoor Moosa
Ismail Abdull Hameed

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Mariko Peters

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Maryan Street
Pete Hodgson
Lianne Dalziel
Trevor Mallard
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Steve Chadwick
Ross Robertson
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Charles Chauvel
Darien Fenton
Su'a William Sio
Jacinda Ardern
Grant Robertson
Carol Beaumont
Phil Twyford
Carmel Sepuloni
Iain Lees-Galloway

[New Zealand continued]

Keith Locke
Sue Kedgley
Kennedy Graham
Te Ururoa Flavell

Republic of Korea (6)

Gang Ki Gap
Gwak Jeong Suk
Kwon Young-gil
Lee Jeong Hee
Hong Hee Deok
Hong Young Phyo

Republic of Poland (1)

Zbysgniew Romaszewski

Romania (1)

Renate Weber [MEP]

Slovak Republic (1)

Laszlo Nagy

Spain (1)

Raül Romeva [MEP]

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Fredrick Federley
Helena Leander
Magdalena Streijffert
Gunvor G Ericson
Birgitta Ohlsson
Lage Rahm

Kingdom of Thailand (6)

Kraisak Choonhavan
Rachada Dhnadirek
Pusadee Tamthai
Buranaj Smutharaks
Pojanart Kaewpaluek
Rachadaporn Kaewsanit

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (55)

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Andrew Pelling
Andrew Stunnell
Ann Clwyd

Anne Moffat
Anne Picking
Alistair Carmichael
Ashok Kumar
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Baroness Ludford
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Peter Bottomley
Roberta Blackman-Woods
Roger Gale
Sandra Osborne
Sir Peter Tapsell
Stephen Crabb
Tim Loughton

[United Kingdom of Great Britain and
Northern Ireland continued]

Tom Clarke

Janet Anderson

Maggie Jones

United States of America (4)

Joseph Pitts

Aaron Schock

Mark Souder

Frank Wolf