

**FOUNDERS:**

Betty Williams, Ireland - 1976
Máiread Maguire, Ireland - 1976
Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Guatemala - 1992
Prof. Jody Williams, USA - 1997
Dr. Shirin Ebadi, Iran - 2003
Prof. Wangari Maathai, Kenya - 2004

united for peace with justice and equality

STATEMENT ON THE BIRTHDAY OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI**JUNE 19, 2010**

Today is the 65th birthday of our sister Nobel Peace Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, democratically elected leader of Burma. Once again, she observes her birthday under house arrest, denied the company of friends or family. The military dictatorship ruling Burma denies Aung San Suu Kyi her freedom. They also continue to imprison over 2000 others for expressing their political views. Those who live outside prison walls in Burma are not free from the brutality of the military regime either. Every day, soldiers rape women, children are forced to bear arms, villagers are forcibly removed from their homes and the majority of the population sinks deeper into poverty as the military elite prospers.

Today we will reflect on the courage, vision and leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi. And we will grieve for the people of Burma who struggle under an unjust and cruel regime. Yet we continue to be inspired by the women and men of Burma who are working tirelessly for peace and democracy in their country. We ask all leaders and all people of the world to join us in supporting the people of Burma and responding to their calls for action.

We call on the UN Security Council to take action against Burma, specifically the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry into possible crimes against humanity and war crimes in Burma. We call on Burma's neighbors to stop providing money and guns to the military dictatorship. We call upon all states to condemn the undemocratic constitution of Burma, and the planned elections, and urge genuine dialogue with the democracy movement.

Today is the day for change in Burma.