

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 200

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Whereas on August 15, 2007, Burma's ruling military junta, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), cancelled fuel subsidies resulting in the quintupling of the price of fuel which had an immediate and damaging impact on the living conditions of the Burmese people and Burma's already devastated economy;

Whereas on August 19, 2007, in reaction to this crippling measure, prominent student and democracy leaders peacefully took to the streets in Rangoon and elsewhere to protest the draconian action of the military junta in Rangoon; during the subsequent weeks, protests continued in Rangoon, and spread to other cities and towns throughout Burma, including Mandalay, Sittwe, Pakokku, Tounggok, Yehangyaung;

Whereas the growing numbers of protestors peacefully demanded democratic reforms and the release of 1991 Noble Peace Prize Winner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners and prisoners of conscience;

Whereas Buddhist monks actively participated and increasingly led these peaceful demonstrations, culminating in an estimated 100,000 people marching through Rangoon on September 24, 2007; in response to this largest protest since the 1988 demonstrations which were brutally crushed by the Burmese military by firing on unarmed civilians, the Burmese regime threatened to “take action”, indicating the junta’s willingness to significantly increase the level of violence used against the Burmese people;

Whereas on September 25, 2007, the Burmese junta imposed a 60-day (9pm-5am) curfew and a ban on gatherings of more than five people and moved military forces into strategic locations;

Whereas on September 26, 2007, the Burmese military opened fire on protesting crowds who bravely continued to peacefully demand democratic reforms; the continuing vicious attacks on Buddhist monks and other peaceful protesters, who were simply demanding human rights, democracy, and freedom, led to the reported deaths of 200 people and hundreds of injured to date; democracy and

human rights groups further estimate that over 2,000 individuals have been arrested, imprisoned, or tortured as part of this violent crackdown;

Whereas members of the international and Burmese media covering the protests, including a Japanese photo-journalist, have also been killed, injured, or imprisoned by the Burmese Government;

Whereas the Burmese military junta tried to hide from the world community its indiscriminate attacks on peaceful protestors by severely restricting the use of the Internet, phone lines, and radio and television equipment, making it extremely difficult to gauge the full extent of the government's crackdown on Buddhist Monks and other peaceful demonstrators;

Whereas on September 27, 2007, the United Nations Security Council held an emergency session in response to the brutal crackdown and Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari updated the Security Council on the situation in Burma; as a result of the Security Council meeting, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon ordered Special Envoy Gambari to visit the region; on September 30, 2007, Special Envoy Gambari arrived in Burma and was able to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi;

Whereas the Burmese regime has mobilized all its resources, including armed soldiers stationed in all strategically important locations throughout the country, including religious centers, and has made it impossible for peaceful protesters to gather;

Whereas the rapid growth of spontaneous demonstrations into the largest Burmese protests in the last two decades

should not come as a surprise given the human rights record of the regime over the past two decades;

Whereas the ruling military junta in Burma has one of the worst human rights records in the world and routinely violates the rights of Burmese citizens, including the systematic use of rape as a weapon of war, extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, as well as slave and child labor;

Whereas the Burmese regime has destroyed more than 3,000 ethnic villages, displaced approximately 2,000,000 Burmese people, more than 500,000 of which are internally displaced, and arrested approximately 1,300 individuals for expressing critical opinions of the government;

Whereas in 1990, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), the military junta in Burma, which renamed itself the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) in 1997, nullified the victory of the National League for Democracy (NLD);

Whereas NLD leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was not allowed to assume the office of Prime Minister and was subsequently placed under house arrest;

Whereas Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was released in July 1995, yet once again placed under house arrest in September 2000;

Whereas following a second release, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and several of her followers were attacked by a government-sponsored mob on May 30, 2003, and she was then imprisoned at Insein Prison in Yangon;

Whereas on May 16, 2007, more than 50 world leaders sent a letter demanding the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, a demand repeated by United Nations Secretary-

General Ban Ki-moon, 14 United Nations human rights experts, the European Union, the United States, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the foreign ministers of three ASEAN member states, yet on May 27, 2007, her detention was extended; and

Whereas for her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) condemns the despicable crackdown on
4 peaceful protesters in the strongest possible terms
5 and demands that the Burmese junta end its violent
6 crackdown on dissent;

7 (2) demands that the People's Republic of
8 China and other countries that provide political and
9 economic support to Burma's military junta end
10 such support until the Burmese regime's violent
11 campaign against peaceful protest has ceased and
12 the Burmese Government has fully met the political
13 demands of the Burmese opposition;

14 (3) firmly insists that Burma's military regime
15 begin a meaningful tripartite political dialogue with
16 Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the National League for
17 Democracy, and ethnic nationalities toward national
18 reconciliation, and the full restoration of democracy,
19 freedom of assembly, freedom of movement, freedom

1 of speech, freedom of the press, and internationally
2 recognized human rights for all Burmese citizens;

3 (4) demands the immediate and unconditional
4 release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, detained Bud-
5 dhist monks, and all other political prisoners and
6 prisoners of conscience;

7 (5) calls on governments around the world, in-
8 cluding the nations of the European Union and the
9 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to
10 severely tighten their sanctions regimes against
11 Burma, including through the imposition of import
12 bans such as maintained by the United States, with
13 the goal of denying the Burmese ruling junta with
14 hard currency to continue its campaign of repres-
15 sion;

16 (6) calls on the United Nations Security Coun-
17 cil to immediately pass a resolution imposing multi-
18 lateral sanctions on Burma's military regime, includ-
19 ing a complete arms embargo, and to take other ap-
20 propriate action to respond to the growing threat the
21 State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) poses
22 in Burma;

23 (7) calls on the United States Government to
24 work with its global partners to bring to justice
25 those Burmese military and government leaders who

1 have ordered or participated in any massacre during
2 or after the protests, or who may be guilty of crimes
3 against humanity; and

4 (8) calls on the members of ASEAN to imme-
5 diately suspend Burma's membership in such organi-
6 zation as a response to the violent crackdown on po-
7 litical protesters.

Passed the House of Representatives October 2,
2007.

Attest:

Clerk.

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Condemning the violent suppression of Buddhist monks and other peaceful demonstrators in Burma and calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.