



MONK YOUTH ORGANIZATION & 88 STUDENT GENERATION GROUP URGE THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO PROMOTE CRIMINAL ACCOUNTABILITY IN BURMA

The Monk Youth Organization and the 88 Student Generation Group in Exile join the call for a criminal investigation of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) for systematic crimes committed against the people of Burma. We believe that the United Nations Security Council must take all action necessary to stop the crimes committed against the innocent people of Burma and hold the military junta commanders criminally accountable. We believe that the time for engaging the regime in a dialogue for change has passed and failed. It is time for a new approach.

For over forty years, the SPDC has exercised dictatorial control over the lives of the people of Burma with impunity. The SPDC routinely employs torture, rape, slavery, murder, and mass imprisonment as tools to consolidate its power and silence any dissent. Most recently, the world witnessed how the regime used unnecessary force against peaceful demonstrators, including women, children, and monks. Many have been detained and taken to unknown locations. We have been subjected to on-going oppression and we want justice.

Although the Security Council members have recognized the abhorrent and unacceptable situation inside Burma, the discussion falls short of asking for criminal accountability for the crimes. History reveals that the strategy of pursuing change in Burma by engaging the junta in dialogue is insufficient to ensure the safety and security of the people. The military junta has ignored 30 resolutions by the General Assembly and the United Nations Human Rights Council on the situation in Burma, including those which called for an independent investigation of such crimes as the Depayin massacre and the rapes by the military of ethnic women. Yet, there has been no justice for the people of Burma. This is why we believe that Security Council action is critical to eliminating impunity for the crimes committed against the Burmese people.

A Security Council Resolution under Chapter VII setting up an independent commission of inquiry to investigate the crimes committed by the regime is the right step toward enforcing the most fundamental of rights to justice and accountability. The SPDC is a threat to security and the world community has a moral and legal duty to protect the Burmese people. We urge the international community to respond to this situation and condemn these crimes which endanger international peace and security.