
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE 15/95

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NEWS SERVICE ITEMS: EXTERNAL - **MYANMAR** (being sent to targeted Asia media by the research team)

PLEASE NOTE: The text of the Sudan News Release is confirmed as it stands, but please note the embargo time of **0800 hrs GMT** (confirmed in NS 11/95). We will, however, be issuing a short news release rounding up what is happening at the launch which you can use in conjunction with other Sudan material. In addition, Pierre's speech will be sent to you tomorrow.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS RELEASES

Sudan - 25 January - SEE NEWS SERVICES 275 AND 261

UN Commission on Human Rights - 31 January - SEE NEWS SERVICE 06/95

Turkey - 8 February - SEE NEWS SERVICE 261

Northern Iraq - 28 February - SEE NEWS SERVICE 266

Women's Campaign - 8 March

TARGETED AND LIMITED NEWS RELEASES

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MYANMAR: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONDEMNS CONTINUED DETENTION OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Amnesty International today condemned the decision of the Burmese military Government to detain Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, until at least July 1995.

"We have repeatedly called for the immediate and unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi since she was placed under house arrest on 20 July 1989. However, Myanmar's ruling military authorities appear determined to hold her until she is no longer deemed a political threat to them," Amnesty International said today.

"If they are going to make a credible effort to improve their human rights record, the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi would be a genuine first step."

Following rumours that she may be released sometime this month, Kyaw Thein, a general staff officer of the Directorate of Defence Services Intelligence (DDSI), told an Australian broadcasting company on 18 January that she would not be released until the sixth anniversary of her detention on 20 July 1995.

In a related report, Thai Foreign Minister Thaksin Shinawatra stated publicly on his return from Yangon (Rangoon, the capital) that Aung San Suu Kyi would not be released until a new constitution is drawn up. General Than Shwe, Chairman of Myanmar's ruling military authority, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), discussed her continued detention during a meeting with Thaksin on 19 January.

The National Convention, which is convened and controlled by the SLORC, has been meeting to agree principles for drafting a new constitution since January 1993. However, there is no public timetable for the completion of this task.

Delegates have agreed on principles which stipulate that no one who is married to a foreigner or who lived outside the country during the last 20 years can hold the office of executive president or vice-president. These provisions are widely believed to be designed to exclude Aung San Suu Kyi from these offices.

Ms. Suu Kyi was a founder member of the National League for Democracy (NLD), the main political opposition party in Myanmar. The NLD won a landslide victory in elections in 1990, but the SLORC, which took power following the violent suppression of a nationwide pro-democracy movement in 1988, refused to hand over power. Hundreds of political activists were arrested and imprisoned by the SLORC, many of whom remain in prison today.

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