

# SAVE BURMA

## MEMORANDUM TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA



Over the past several days, the world has watched in horror and revulsion as **the peaceful protests by unarmed monks and civilians have been violently suppressed by the military government in Burma**. Latest reports indicate that the actual death toll may be in the hundreds, and that thousands more are being killed, tortured and imprisoned by the Burmese junta. Local and international journalists have been killed and harassed, and newsmedia has been suppressed by the junta in order to stop the truth of the massacres from reaching the world.

The courage and resilience of the Burmese people is such that the peaceful protests are continuing despite the killings, beatings, mass arrests and torture. **We must support their struggle for freedom NOW, before it is too late.**

It is clear that ASEAN has failed to exert any real pressure on Burma, as almost every member nation has too many vested interests or the need to hide their own questionable human rights records to take any meaningful action against Burma. Even the United Nations has very limited influence on the fascist Burmese junta.

**We therefore call on President Hu Jintao of the People's Republic of China to demonstrate the responsible, decisive and compassionate leadership expected of a modern and progressive nation.**

**As the primary source of political, military, economic and ideological support for the Burmese junta, the People's Republic of China must bear a great deal of responsibility for the massacre and ongoing violent suppression of the peaceful revolts in Burma.**

We demand that the Chinese government:

1. immediately exert all possible pressure on the Burmese military junta to *immediately* stop the killing, torture and imprisonment of innocent civilians and monks involved or associated with the peaceful protests;
2. immediately withdraw all military and non-humanitarian support to the Burmese junta;
3. immediately extend humanitarian aid to the victims of the violence, including accepting refugees if necessary;
4. cooperate with the United Nations to hold the junta in check, and to bring to account those responsible for the violent crackdown.

**It is incumbent on China**, as the primary backer of the Burmese junta, to demonstrate that it has moved on from the dark days of Tian'anmen 1989 to becoming a responsible global citizen respecting human rights, not just in Burma, but also within China itself.

Failing which,

**the bloodstained shadow of Tian'anmen 1989 and Burma 2007 will hang over the glitz and glamour of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.**

## **SAVE THE BURMESE PEOPLE** CHINA IS THE PRIMARY SUPPORTER OF THE BURMESE JUNTA



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Rest assured, President Hu, that we - human rights organisations and concerned individuals - will spare no effort to keep these massacres fresh in the public memory of the international community.

Human rights are not optional. China can either step forward and redefine itself as a modern, progressive and humane country, or continue to be associated with repressive and murderous regimes.

**We stand with the Burmese people. Do not let their sacrifice be in vain.**

For more information:

1. **The Free Burma Coalition:** <http://www.freeburmacoalition.org/>
2. **Democratic Voice of Burma:** <http://english.dvb.no/>
3. **The Burma Campaign UK:** <http://www.burmacampaign.org.uk>

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