



ဂကောမန်အင်သကြေလျာ

The Australia-Mon Association Inc.

Today, 8 August 2007, is the 19th anniversary of the (8888) popular uprising in Burma. On August 8, 1988, people from all walks of life and, from all nationalities joined together to revolt against the single-party rule of the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP), and calling for the establishment of a genuine multiparty system and federal Union in Burma. 19-years have passed, but the painful memories have not and cannot be allowed to fade. The spirit of August 8, 1988 will live on.

The 8-8-88 General Uprising had successfully toppled the one-party system of the old military regime, the so-called Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP). Unfortunately, people's democracy movement was defeated halfway to victory due to the cunning tactics of military dictators. The military junta, fearing a restoration of democracy and human rights in Burma, staged another coup d'etat on 18 September 1988.

The SPDC is until now still able to maintain its iron grid rule due to its tactics of divide and rule. It succeeded in dividing the strength of democratic forces such as the NLD and the armed ethnic nationalities forces. In the face of a constant pressure from international community to hand over power to the NLD and elected representatives after the 1990 election, it resorted to numerous tactics in reaching ceasefire talks and agreements with a number of armed ethnic nationalities. But it is apparent that the SPDC has no genuine interest in national reconciliation and solving the ethnic nationalities problem. There is no political dialogue between the SPDC and ceasefire groups. The regime has also convened a sham National Convention, which dragged on from 1994 until now. The NLD and many of elected representatives were eventually forced to withdraw from the convention.. The ceasefire groups are also barred from fully participation and discussion. Therefore, some ceasefire groups such as the NMSP have boycotted the National Convention by not sending a full delegates.

It is apparent that the SPDC has no slightest interest in national reconciliation and restoration of democracy and peace in Burma.. Therefore, on this day we should not only pay our sincere and heartfelt homage to our martyrs and patriots who had fallen on the 8888 movement, but we should also rededicate ourselves to the struggle with steadfast resolution. We should also reassess the course of our freedom struggle and re-vitalize and re-strategize our movement, efforts and resources to realize the sacred goal of restoring democracy and peace in Burma.

We should constantly remember that the one party rule of BSPP was uprooted because people from all walks of life, including monks, students, and all ethnic nationalities fought in unity for democracy and abolition of military dictatorship.

Again, towards our ultimate victory, we must continue to maintain a rock-solid unity and consolidated effort. There is much work ahead, but we should never doubt that with rock-solid national unity and the consolidated effort of people from all walks of life, and all ethnic nationalities inside Burma, on the border and in overseas we will inevitably achieve our ultimate and sacred goal of democracy ,peace and prosperity in Burma.

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8 August 2007

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