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Press Release

Over 450 express support of Burmese protesters / Havel, Albright, Wolfowitz and Milinkevich among first to sign

Prague, 8 October 2007 – More than 450 participants of the conference Forum 2000 in Prague, Czech Republic, signed during one day the “Declaration in Support of the People of Burma” of the organization Burma Center Prague. The undersigned express their sympathy with the protesters for democracy in Burma, condemn the extreme use of violence by Burmese military forces and demand immediately to release political prisoners and to give information about their whereabouts. They also urge China, Russia and India to cease supporting the Burmese regime and call for an international arms embargo on Burma.

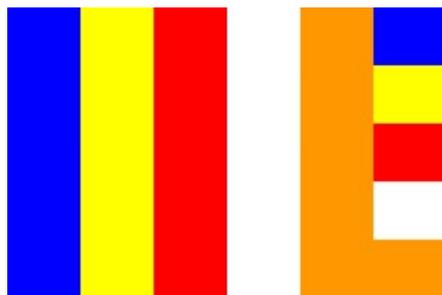
Among the most prominent undersigned are Václav Havel, Madeleine Albright, Paul Wolfowitz, Alyaksandar Milinkevich, Karel Schwarzenberg, Magdalena Vášáryová, Jacques Rupnik, Andrée Glucksmann, Tomáš Halík, Ján Kubiš, Sir Robin Christopher, Sir Frank Lampl, Adam Michnik, Huseyin Bagci, Christiane Amanpour, Philip Dimitrov, and Jiří Dienstbier. Others comprise numerous Czech MPs, Senators, Ministers and Ambassadors.

“We are overwhelmed by this great support”, says Sabe Soe, co-founder of the Burma Center Prague. “This is a clear message to the Burmese regime and an important encouragement for the people suffering and fighting in Burma!”

The declaration was drafted and provided by the Burma Center Prague, a NGO run by the Burmese community in the Czech Republic and their supporters. Its presentation at the conference was kindly supported by the organization People in Need and facilitated by the organizers of Forum 2000. Members of the Burma Center Prague also offered badges with the international flag of Buddhism by which participants of the conference could openly show their support for the democracy movement in Burma and honor the monks who decided to risk their life for the country's welfare.

The Burma Center Prague was founded in 2006 by the Burmese exile community in the Czech Republic to promote the Burmese issue on local and international level. Further information can be found on www.burma-center.org, or contact info@burma-center.org.

Part of this press release is the text of the declaration and a sample of the flag used for the badges.



Declaration in Support of the People of Burma

We, the undersigned,

Express our sympathy for the protests by monks and their supporters in Rangoon and other towns of Burma against the Burmese regime;

Support their demand for democracy, justice and equal distribution of the country's wealth to the people;

Express our grave concern at the crackdown on the demonstrators by the army and police forces;

Strongly condemn the use of extreme violence against unarmed monks and civilians;

Condemn the permanent intimidation and oppression of the Burmese opposition;

Demand the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners in Burma who have been arrested before and in connection with the crackdown;

Demand that international aid organizations like the Red Cross have immediate and unhindered access to people in need of their services;

Demand the immediate and unconditional release of the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi;

Demand immediate and impartial investigations into raids on monasteries during the crackdown by police forces;

Demand immediate and accurate information on the whereabouts of persons missing after their arrest;

Demand that Burmese people be able to freely express their opinion in public without having to fear reprisals and that a free press be able to report inside Burma and on Burma to the world;

Urge the international community and in particular China, Russia and India to support the United Nations in their efforts to help the people of Burma;

Urge China, Russia and India to immediately cease supporting the Burmese regime and to cease delivering arms and army supplies to the Burmese regime; and

Call for an international arms embargo on Burma.

Prague, 8 October 2007

at the FORUM 2000 Conference