



Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)

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Daw Aung San Suu Kyi verdict: “Yet another travesty of justice”

[Mae Sot, Thailand] The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) (AAPP) today strongly condemned the guilty verdict and three year jail term with hard labour - commuted by Senior General Than Shwe to 18 months under house arrest - handed down to Nobel Peace Laureate and democratic opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and her two live-in party members Daw Khin Khin Win and Daw Win Ma Ma. American man John Yettaw was also found guilty of intruding into Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's home, and sentenced to seven years with hard labour.

“There is no justice, no rule of law, and no independent judiciary in Burma,” said Tate Naing, Secretary of AAPP. “The continued detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is the jailing of Burma's future. She is the true leader of Burma.”

The trial has been yet another travesty of justice perpetrated by the regime since it illegally assumed power in 1988. Since then, more than 10,000 people have been arrested and jailed for advocating for democracy and human rights. Today there are more than 2,100 political prisoners in Burma's detention centres, labour camps and jails.

Bo Kyi, Joint Secretary of AAPP, said, “The fact that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been sentenced to house arrest rather than jail is immaterial. The

point is the regime wants her to have a criminal record so they can prevent her from standing as a candidate in future elections.”

Bo Kyi continued, “It is only through the Burmese people’s efforts - backed by the international community - that Burma will move towards a new political system where the rule of law prevails, equality reigns and the right to live free from fear is fully realized.”

AAPP today calls on the UK and US to show international political leadership on Burma at the United Nations. The UK chairs the UN Security Council in August whilst the US has its turn in September. Together they should press the UN Security Council to pass an arms embargo on Burma, and initiate a Commission of Inquiry into crimes against humanity in the country.

-ENDS-

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Notes to editors:

- In July 1989 Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was first detained under the State Protection Act and placed under house arrest at her mother’s home at 54 University Avenue, Rangoon.