



## Aung San Suu Kyi

### Burma

Aung San Suu Kyi (born 19 June 1945) is the General Secretary of Burma's National League for Democracy (NLD) and a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. As the face of the pro-democracy movement in Burma, Ms. Suu Kyi embodies the peaceful struggle of the Burmese people to speak out against the military autocracy. She was illegally detained by the Burmese junta for nearly 15 of the past 21 years. For further background about Ms. Suu Kyi, click [here](#). On November 13, 2010, the Burmese government released Aung San Suu Kyi.

During the 1988 protests against the military government, Ms. Suu Kyi gave numerous speeches calling for freedom and democracy in Burma. On July 20, 1989, the junta placed Ms. Suu Kyi under house arrest, without charge or trial. In 1990, the NLD and its allies won more than 80 percent of the seats in parliament; in what was Burma's last and only democratic election. The military junta, however, never recognized the results. Ms. Suu Kyi, who would have been the leader of the rightfully elected government, remained under house arrest. She was released after nearly six years of arbitrary detention on July 10, 1995. Ms. Suu Kyi continued her outspoken opposition to the military junta's practices and was again detained under illegal house arrest from 2000 to 2002.

Ms. Suu Kyi's latest series of illegal detentions by the Burmese junta began in May 2003. Ms. Suu Kyi launched a 95-township tour to promote the activities of the NLD after her release from house arrest in May 2002. However, on May 30, 2003, her convoy was attacked by the junta-created Union Solidarity Development Association in an apparent assassination attempt. Over 70 of her supporters were murdered during the attempt. Ms. Suu Kyi was then placed into "protective custody" by the junta. This alleged protective custody was executed under Burma's draconian State Protection Law and illegally applied to Ms. Suu Kyi.

On August 11, 2009, three months after she was due to be freed from her illegal house arrest of six years, Ms. Suu Kyi was sentenced to three years in prison, which was then commuted to 18 months of house arrest. According to the junta, this extension was justified by Ms. Suu Kyi's alleged violation of the terms of her house arrest when American John Yettaw swam onto her property uninvited.

The UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has found the detention of Ms. Suu Kyi a violation of international law six times.

On November 13, 2010, the Burmese junta released Aung San Suu Kyi from her illegal house arrest. “We are pleased the junta has finally released Aung San Suu Kyi from her house arrest,” said Freedom Now President Jared Genser. “Unfortunately, her release alone is virtually meaningless until the junta enters into an irreversible process of dialogue resulting in national reconciliation between the junta, the National League for Democracy, and ethnic groups and a restoration of democracy to Burma. For anyone who might mistakenly view this release as a sign of change, the international community should recall that Ms. Suu Kyi was released from house arrest three times previously – in the mid-1990s and early 2000s – and nothing fundamentally changed in the country.”

Ms. Suu Kyi was released on November 13, 2010, and continues to be a leading figure in the struggle for democracy and freedom in Burma.