



FREEDOM NOW

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FREEDOM NOW DEMANDS RELEASE OF BURMESE DEMOCRACY LEADER AUNG SAN SUU KYI

*Files Petition to United Nations to Obtain Judgment That Her Ongoing
Detention is in Violation of International Law*

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Washington, D.C. – Today, Freedom Now filed a Petition to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on behalf of Aung San Suu Kyi, the world’s only imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, on behalf of a member of her family.

Previously, the Working Group has issued four opinions – 8/1992, 2/2002, 9/2004, and 2/2007 – that Ms. Suu Kyi’s house arrest is in violation of international law.

After Ms. Suu Kyi’s political party and its allies won the 1990 elections in Burma with more than 80% of the vote, she has spent more than 12 of the last 18 years under house arrest.

This new Petition to the Working Group is necessary because Opinion No. 2/2007 expired when the military junta in Burma issued a new detention order for an additional year of house arrest on May 27, 2008. Ms. Suu Kyi is allegedly being detained under Article 10(b) of the 1975 State Protection Law, which allows up to five years of detention without charge or trial. Despite the expiration of her fifth year of detention, the Burmese junta continues to detain her.

“It is deeply unfortunate that the Burmese junta continues to flagrantly violate their own and international law,” said Jared Genser, President of Freedom Now, and lead attorney for Ms. Suu Kyi. “It is long past time that Aung San Suu Kyi, who is a hero to the Burmese people and so many others around the world, should be released. We urge the international community – and in particular the UN Security Council – to demand that Burma comply with its statement from last fall, which urged the early release of Ms. Suu Kyi and all political prisoners in Burma.”

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