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(Open Letter)

To/

Mr. Tomás Quintana
UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar
UN Headquarters
First Avenue at 46th Street
New York, NY 10017

June 25, 2008

Re: Response to your positive comment on SPDC's 2010 election in Burma

Dear Mr. Tomás Quintana,

As you know, Burma's military junta, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), recently approved *The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Constitution* in a sham referendum held on May 10 and 24, 2008. According to the SPDC's roadmap, elections will be held in 2010. In a recent interview with the BBC Burmese, you stated that the leaders of Burma's neighbouring countries and yourself will discuss with the SPDC prior to the 2010 elections in the hopes of a positive electoral outcome. Furthermore, in your recent report to the General Assembly titled *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar*, you stated that if properly carried out the elections would "create an excellent opportunity to establish the basis for economic, social and political reforms [and] address the country's pressing humanitarian and human rights needs." In response to these assertions, the Burma Lawyers' Council would like to stress that this optimism is ill-founded.

In threatening, forcing and manipulating the Burmese people during the recent constitutional referendum, the SPDC showcased its abhorrence for democratic procedures. Any hope that the 2010 elections will be any different is quickly admonished by the Constitution and its blatant disregard for democracy and the rule of law. Despite the people's entitlement to their basic human dignity, the 2010 elections will be yet another democratic façade. It will be a hopeless avenue for the promotion and protection of human rights in Burma. For your observation, you may find enclosed an attached file with the title "**The 2010 Election in Burma: A Hopeless Avenue for Human Rights**". If you want to continue exchanging perspectives on SPDC's constitution and its forthcoming election with the Burma Lawyers' Council, you are cordially welcome.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Aung Htoo', is written over a horizontal line.

Aung Htoo
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