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The BLC Statement on the Responsibility of the So-called Union Assembly

Quite recently, Egypt Army spoke-person announced on Aljazeera television mentioning that Army would refrain from using force against the demonstrating people and it would protect legitimate rights of great people as well as security of great nation. This clear stand of Egypt Army is praiseworthy. Mubarek must not pressurize the Army to divert from this position.

In the case of Burma, the 2008 Constitution rejects the legitimate rights of people, in terms of basic rights, such as the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly. Dr. Tun Shin, Deputy Attorney General of the military regime and leader of Burma mission to the UN, who attended the UN Human Rights Council meeting held in Geneva on Jan 27, 2011, misled the government representatives from across the world, by stating incorrectly that the right to freedom of expression is guaranteed in all three constitutions of Burma – 1947, 1974 and the 2008 Constitutions. Actually, by using an exception clause - 'if not contrary to the laws enacted for Union security'- provided for in the Section 354, the 2008 Constitution has already denied people's legitimate right to basic freedoms.

If the ruling military regime wants to prove that the so-called Union Assembly being convened in Nay-pyi-daw for the time being is a genuine legislative body which will duly recognize legitimate rights of people, the 2008 Constitution must be amended immediately to be in line with the international human rights laws and norms, prior to making any other laws. If the political parties' representatives, who are attending that Assembly, want to prove that they represent genuine will of people, they must initiate to abrogate the following draconian laws, prior to submitting any other bills:

1. 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration laws;
2. 1975 Law to Safeguard the State Against the Dangers of Those Desiring to Cause Subversive Acts (known as the 1975 State Protection Act)";
3. 1988 Law Relating to Forming of Organizations; and,
4. 2004 Electronic Transaction Law;

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