



## **The Constitutional Committee on the Revelation of the People's Aspirations (CCRPA) Workshop No. (3)**

### **Press Release**

18<sup>th</sup> October, 2004

The Constitutional Committee on the Revelation of the People's Aspirations (CCRPA), which was jointly formed by the Burma Lawyers' Council (BLC) and the National League for Democracy (Liberated Area) (NLD-LA), held its third workshop discussing the revelation of the people's aspirations for the future constitution. It took place on the Thai-Burma border on 17th October, 2004, and over 50 Burmese migrant workers in Thailand attended. A committee member of CCRPA, U Tin Tun Aung, Member of Parliament from Yinmarbin Township Constituency (2), Sagaing Division, Burma, addressed the importance of the people's participation in Burma's democratization process in his opening speech of the workshop.

The Working Groups' committee members primarily discussed topics relating to rights and legal knowledge of the constitution, such as a Constitutional Introduction, Human Rights and the Constitution, Civil and Political Rights, Freedom of Expression, and Labors' Rights. The intention of these important topics was to raise the worker's awareness on the process of drafting a constitution and to give them an opportunity to share their aspirations for a future constitution.

The working group members discussed the fact that all people should be allowed to participate in the constitutional drafting process and that their civil and political rights should be guaranteed in that constitution. They gave details about the regime's sham of a national convention that aims at extending its military power in the country's politics, that fact that no real representatives of the people were able to participate in the convention, as well as the current complete lack of freedom of expression and equal rights inside Burma. "There were two constitutions in Burma, but it couldn't really guarantee the basic rights of the people and the lack of people's participation at the constitutional convention. The Burmese military regime is now trying to draft a new constitution by holding a national convention, but the Burmese people and their representatives are being intentionally excluded in the process. Therefore, it cannot represent the whole people of Burma and cannot assure the basic rights of people," said U San Thar Aung, a presenter from the Holding Mass Meeting Working Group.

Burmese migrant workers discussed the current situation in Burma, including no economic freedoms, no equal rights before the law, no freedom of education, no right to property, no freedom of movement, and no women's rights. They compared these concepts with their experiences and agreed that these rights should be guaranteed in the future constitution. "There are too many young people who cannot have access to education because of the economic problems in Burma. I would suggest including a free education system at the future constitution." advised one young worker, who themselves wasn't able to access further education in the country. Furthermore, the workers proposed that the committee hold similar discussions inside Burma and that they will support the movement for democracy and human rights in Burma.

In conclusion, the presidium, the presenters, and the workers exchanged their opinions about the current situation of Burma and the workshop successfully ended at 2:30 PM.

The Constitutional Committee on the Revelation  
of the People's Aspirations (CCRPA)