

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING IN BALI (27-28 October 2007)

Resolution on Burma (Myanmar)

The members of Transparency International, the world's leading anti-corruption organisation, with representatives from over 70 countries, gathered today in Indonesia for their Annual Membership Meeting, express their outrage at the violent repression that peaceful protesters have been facing in Burma (Myanmar) against a backdrop of entrenched government corruption.

Burma (Myanmar) is another example of a country where, despite enormous natural wealth, the people have been trapped in poverty by systemic corruption. Burma (Myanmar) showed lowest of all the countries assessed in the TI 2007 Corruption Perceptions Index.

Corrupt governments do not respond to the basic needs of their citizens, nor do they respect their human rights, including the right to equal treatment before the law.

The fundamental factors that led to the current situation in Burma (Myanmar) illustrate the destructive link between systemic corruption and massive human rights abuses.

Transparency International therefore calls urgently on:

- The global community, the United Nations Security Council, ASEAN and its neighbours to increase the pressure on the government of Burma (Myanmar) to put an end to the massive human rights abuses in the country in general - and in particular to the repression of peaceful protesters and to the actual situation of Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been democratically elected prime minister, but is deprived to participate in ruling the country for 18 years and has remained meanwhile under house arrest for 12 years by the military junta that rules the country.
- The global media to spare no effort to keep the spotlight on Burma(Myanmar).
- Foreign companies doing business directly or indirectly with Burma (Myanmar) in rubies, oil, gas, or other goods, to stop enriching Burmese officials or generally supporting the junta.
- The Government of Burma (Myanmar) to recognise the right of freedom of association to civil society groups, including Burmese monks, not just because they are fundamental agents of democratic reform, but because they are essential for re-establishing human rights, and for fighting corruption and impoverishment.

Bali, on the 28th of October 2007