

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

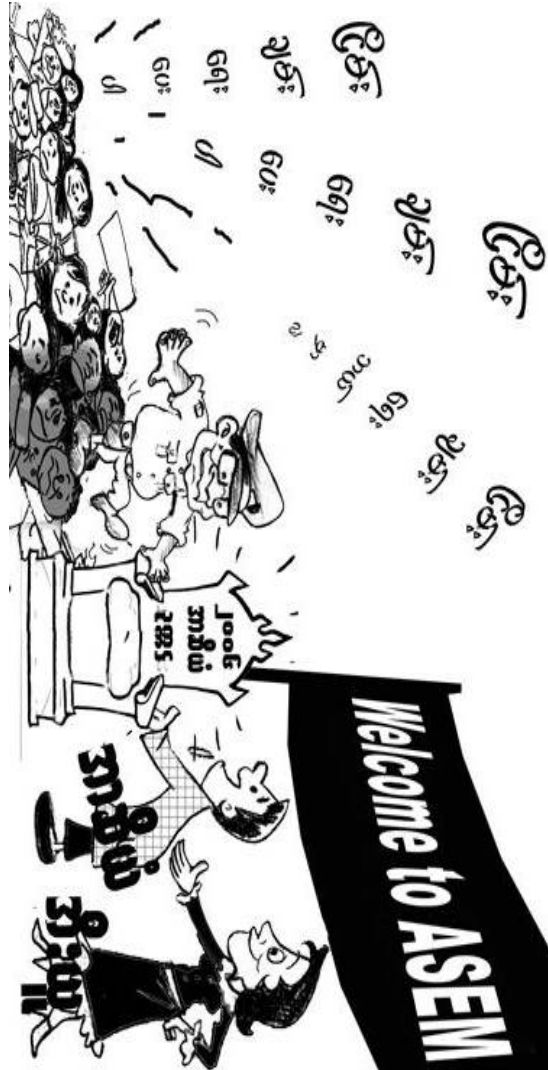
The International Day of Peace (IDP) was established by a United Nations (UN) resolution in 1981. In 2001, the UN passed Resolution 55/282, which set **21 September** as the permanent date for the International Day of Peace.

In creating this Day of Peace, the UN invited all Member States, organizations of the UN system, regional and non-governmental organizations, and individuals to commemorate the Day in an appropriate manner, including through education and public awareness, and to work together to establish a global ceasefire.

Collectively calling for peace will help unite the international community and shift consciousness to the need for non-violent communication and actions.

This year, the Women's League of Burma (WLB) Peacebuilders Team is actively participating in this campaign with grassroots events and activities. As messengers of peace, the Team seeks to raise awareness of the need for peace both around the world and within Burma.

"There is no way to Peace, Peace is the way."



Cartoon by Agga

International Day of Peace



September 21, 2004

May Peace Prevail in Burma



May Peace Prevail on Earth

Peacebuilders Team
Women's League of Burma (WLB)
www.womenofburma.org

THE SITUATION IN BURMA

The emergence of the nation known as Burma in 1948 was the outcome of mutual understanding that the union would be one of co-equal and co-independent states. Following independence, however, mutual understanding among ethnic groups was lost and from there led to the country's decades-long civil war. The 1962 coup affectively dismantled the Union's constitution and replaced it with a military regime that continues to rule the country.

Sixteen years ago, on August 8th, 1988, the government of Burma shot down thousands of peaceful, unarmed, pro-democracy protesters throughout the country. In 1990, the same regime ignored the results of an election they had called but lost dismally.

Despite attempts by ASEAN, other international organizations, and sovereign nations around the world to encourage and influence Burma's government to use cooperative, peaceful and democratic methods to rule its country, the regime has yet to alter its approach.

*"Our differences should not be our weakness;
our differences should be our strength."
- Daw Aung San Suu Kyi*

CALL FOR ACTION

As part of the campaign for international peace, the WLB Peace Team seeks to raise awareness about the problems in Burma on the international, regional, and local level. In India, Bangladesh, and along the Thai-Burma border we will be holding prayer vigils, public discussion forums, and peace exhibits. We will also host traditional performances in the name of peace. While using these events to call for peace around the world, the Team is particularly focusing on the need for peace in Burma. With regards to this specific focus, we call for:

1. The release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners;
2. The right for the people of Burma to return home peacefully and safely;
3. A protest against the participation of Burma in the October 2004 Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM); and
4. The prevention of Burma as ASEAN Chairman until genuine peace and democracy come to Burma.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about this campaign please contact **Naw Lay Dee** at 07-172-6566 or **Mai Ja** at hsawzhn@yahoo.com or 01-594-2012.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF BURMA

The Women's League of Burma (WLB) is an umbrella organization of 11 different ethnic women's organizations from Burma. Founded in 1999, the WLB works for women's empowerment, the advancement of the status of women and increased participation of women in all spheres of society in the democracy movement as well as in peace and national reconciliation processes. Visit www.womenofburma.org for more information.

WLB PEACE TEAM

The WLB Peacebuilders Team was started in 2002 to ensure the contribution of women from all ethnic nationalities participate in the struggle to bring about genuine peace and justice, human and equal rights, national reconciliation, and democracy in Burma. The Peace Team's priority is to build trust, solidarity, and mutual understanding among women of all nationalities in Burma by working together to build peace at personal, family, communal, and national levels.

The Team trains and educates women and men from the Burma border regions on peace, conflict resolution, mediation, and negotiation. The Peace Team, which currently has members from more than ten ethnic groups, also disseminates information at the local level by doing grassroots advocacy campaigns.