

STATEMENTS / PRESS RELEASES

February 12, All Burma Monks' Alliance Rejection of the Burmese military junta's announcement 1/2008 and 2/2008

(A) In 1974, then-dictator General Ne Win and his regime had redrawn the 1947 State Constitution and forced the people to endorse it. Therefore, rule of the one-party dictatorship was stronger and the people of Burma were poorer. Then Burma became the world least developing country (LCD).

(B) Under the one-party dictatorship, national economy had been deteriorated and as general population were not able to tolerate the situation, they came to the streets to launch the 1988 popular democracy uprising.

(C) After the current military regime took over power from the previous regime, it held the multi-party elections in 1990. As this military regime fails to keep its own promise that it would hand over the power to the election winning party in 1990, we believe that its recent announcement of schedule to hold a general election in 2010 is not necessary.

(D) As did by the previous dictator Ne Win, planning to hold the referendum without respecting the real desire of the people of Burma is another insult to the people and will worsen the situation of the country.

(E) Current situation of the people of Burma under the social, economic and political crises as well as severe oppression, imprisonment, torture and killing by the regime is much worse than before 1988.

(F) We believe that a tripartite dialogue between the election winning party National League for Democracy, the military regime and ethnic representatives will be the only way to solve the national crises and lead the country towards to democracy.

(G) As per above-mentioned facts, we denounce the military regime's announcement 1/2008 and 2/2008 as these statements are unable to realize the real desire of the people and just intend to perpetuate the military dictatorship.

(H) We, All Burma Monks' Alliance (ABMA), announce that we, along with all democracy forces and grassroots people, will continue our struggle to help the people of Burma to be free from general difficulties.

All Burma Monks Alliance Group