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SĀSANAMOLI

INTERNATIONAL BURMESE MONKS ORGANIZATION

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June 19, 2009

President Barak Obama
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear President Obama,

We want to introduce ourselves to you on the occasion of the 64th birthday of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi. The International Burmese Monks Organization (IBMO) is a group comprised of both exiled monks in over 20 countries as well as monks who remain inside Burma.

The IBMO is a voice for the people of Burma who are silenced by a brutal regime. We are Buddhist monks who believe in the power of non-violence to bring change. We are deeply concerned for the people of Burma, who live under a stifling regime where they cannot ask, even peacefully, for respect and common human decency without fear of beatings, torture, imprisonment and even death.

We appeal to United States government to take a more active role in bringing peace and democracy to Burma, and are holding a public prayer vigil outside the gates of The White House on Saturday June 20, from 12noon -3pm.

The Burmese regime is once again making a mockery of democracy with their arrest of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi. She is now imprisoned in one of the most notoriously horrific jails in the world and facing a sham trial. She is a beacon of non-violence and compassion and she has given up her private life for her people. We appreciate the statements you have made on her behalf, but we feel more must be done.

We plead with the United States government to use your influence at the Security Council as well as send a representative to Burma to support the following:

1. **The immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi, as well as the other 2100 political prisoners including over 200 monks and nuns.**
2. **Pressing the regime to allow the ICRC full access to the prisons and labor camps. Backing a comprehensive global arms embargo against the Burmese regime.**

We look forward to meeting with you at the earliest possible convenience to discuss our struggle for peace in Burma and how to work together for this.

In peace,

Ven. U Kawwida
Vice President
International Burmese Monks Organization (IBMO)