

Jakarta, 6-03-2008

Assalaamu'alaikum wa-Rahmatullahi wa-Barakatuh

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Let me begin by thanking the Human Right Working Group (HRWG), Kontras, and KSMUB and also the United States of America Embassy in Indonesia for inviting me to this Forum today. This is one of the most meaningful ways by which we can sit together to find the best way to support Myanmar's people to reach their freedom, democracy, and prosperity.

I also want to welcome you all to our beautiful country, Indonesia, the largest country in South-east Asia. Hope you will not feel uncomfortable with our recent situation where we will see flood everywhere around the city.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

September's bloody crackdown in Myanmar has made important changes to the political environment both inside the country and also in the international level. Monks' "real political movement" which had been paid by the death of more than 31 protesters caused by repression of the military regime, at least, has a strategic impact to invite wider solidarity from the budhis community worldwide. At the same time, human right abuses done by the military ruled government in the September crackdown also justify international communities to enlarge and tighten economic sanctions against Myanmar's government.

Following the crackdown which makes the international pressures getting stronger, Myanmar's junta started the routine dialogue with the Nobel laureate, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. They also announced to hold a national referendum on their new constitution on May 2008 and will be followed by the general election on 2010. Junta said that it's part of their road map to democracy.

We need to be more careful to respond Junta's policies to lunch announcement of national referendum and general election plan. There are several reasons to criticize it:

- The referendum seems like a move aimed to reduce mounting international and internal pressure on the SPDC following the brutal killings of monks in the Saffron Revolution.
- The scheduling of the referendum represents a rejection of tripartite dialogue and snubs UN efforts to broker discussions on democratic reform.

- The referendum is a blatant attempt by the SPDC to force its people at gunpoint to approve a constitution that is the result of an unrepresentative and non-participatory process.
- The constitution that was sent to the constitutional drafting committee gives unfettered power to a President who must come from the military, and 25% of parliamentary seats are allocated to the military. In addition, there are provisions that would bar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from running for office because of her former marriage to a foreign national.
- The announcement comes as the military regime continues its crack down on political activists and peaceful dissent. Since the beginning of 2008, the SPDC has detained 12 members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and two 88 Generation Students.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Some international stakeholders made “a soft reaction” to junta’s plan by calling them to make sure that referendum should be inclusive and involve all parties. But, (*according to me*) we need to have a clear understanding that referendum will be a window for junta to legalize their involvement and influence in politic. So, if it comes true, Burma will get longer nightmare, more and more.

The international community must make it clear to the SPDC that it will not be distracted in its push for genuine reform. We must support calls from Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the NLD, and ethnic groups for immediate, time-bound and inclusive dialogue with the SPDC.

If the SPDC is serious about promoting democratic reform, it must stop arresting activists, cease mass atrocities in ethnic areas, and release all political prisoners, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and ethnic leaders, and restart this process through tripartite dialogue.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ASEAN as part of the international community and strategic group in the region basically has been playing important role to influence the Myanmar’s Government to implement democratic system. With its organizational and countries member’s power, we are doing many efforts to ensure Junta to run democratic system, release all political prisoners and performing human rights. But, I acknowledge that what ASEAN did, is not enough yet. They have to had clearer position and policy on Myanmar, and redefine their “non-interference policy”. It doesn’t mean ignorance on what happening in their neighboring countries in the name of respecting of their independencies. We need to look back to basic principles which ASEAN built upon, democracy, human right, etc.

Current position of ASEAN against Myanmar is becoming stronger, since international community tighten their pressures. ASEAN now become the only international level organization which has relationship with the country, so Myanmar basically “depend” relatively to it. Myanmar need ASEAN to stand behind to face the pressure of international community. Here, ASEAN’s role is claimed to ensure Myanmar to respond

international call. ASEAN should use the ASEAN Charter that has just signed, as an instrument to push Myanmar to follow it, as well as their economic, social and development cooperation.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Indonesia has a clear position on Myanmar issue. As the largest of ASEAN, we always tried to use our influence to urge Myanmar's regime to establish inclusive politic. We understand that democratic and stabilized politic in Myanmar is a must. We also think that as member of ASEAN community, Myanmar also has an obligation to use our basic values (democracy, human right, etc) as their political fundament for their governance.

Regarding to the referendum and election in Myanmar, Indonesia wants to see that announcement made by Junta will be a good step stone to establish real democracy in Myanmar. We believe that referendum must be done in a fair process, which, allow people to give their opinion in reviewing the constitution draft. Junta must give a wide space for people to discuss substantive contents of the constitution before they give vote.

The 2010 election also has to be inclusive, and junta has to guarantee that Madame Suu Kyi will be able to participate in the political contest. Otherwise, there will be no justification for the world to acknowledge it.

So Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this strategic forum, I do hope that we will be able to formulate some important and appropriate recommendation for stakeholders to address situations in Myanmar. I believe that all participants who come from various stakeholders could share their ideas and analysis that will be needed to find better solution to implement democracy in the country.

I end with these words : welcome to Jakarta and enjoy the seminar.

Thank you.

Hon.Djoko Susilo,MP