

World Dharma's Burma Project International
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Dear Friends,

Warm greetings. Please allow me to share some extraordinary news, and a heartfelt request for your support of an urgent project. This vision will bring hope, redemption and a future worth believing in to the many people touched by oppression and injustice in this world.

As you may recall, after 16 years of being blacklisted from Burma for my activism, books, and support of Aung San Suu Kyi and her country's struggle for freedom, I was "unbanned" last year by Burma's President Thein Sein.

Soon after, I spoke with Aung San Suu Kyi in San Francisco when she was honored with the Valclav Havel Award for Creative Dissent, and shortly before she called upon the people of the world to stand in solidarity against a military-controlled Constitution that bans women from high office and which explicitly bans her, a member of parliament, from running for President.

Following her personal advice I reentered Burma, a country where I once lived as a Buddhist monk, on a mission to support the people of my spiritual homeland in their transition from dictatorship to democracy, and to support Aung San Suu Kyi in realizing her country's imperative for a free and fair national election in 2015.

For three months my cameraman and I travelled throughout the country, documenting both the beauty and horror of a nation and her peoples unravelling from five decades of totalitarian tyranny. This journey, both heartbreaking and spiritually illuminating, resulted in 250 hours of footage, with 100 feature interviews that include many of Burma's leading figures in her long march towards freedom.

In short, we have in our hands the most comprehensive record of Burma's ongoing struggle for democracy, reconciliation and human rights. This collection of materials was made possible by good people, like yourself, who generously supported our first crowdfunding campaign late last year. It could not have happened without you. From my heart, thank you.

Our plan is to enshrine the best of these materials and present them in a series of short films with a new multimedia eBook edition of *The Voice of Hope*, my collection of conversations with Aung San Suu Kyi, conducted at her home shortly after her first release from detention in 1995. To date, *The Voice of Hope* is the most comprehensive account of the Noble Peace laureate's political and spiritual philosophy, acclaimed as "*a message the world should hear*" by President Jimmy Carter and endorsed by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and numerous other Noble Prize winners and world leaders.

The series of short films with the eBook, titled *Aung San Suu Kyi and Burma's Voices of Freedom*, will contain new and exclusive archival materials, including rare (never-before-seen or heard) video and audio recordings, an extensive photographic collection of iconic historical images, as well as the feature-length print and video interviews with numerous members of Burma's democracy movement, gathered earlier this year.

With our new "Use Your Liberty" crowdfunding campaign we are seeking \$50,000 in completion funds to produce this historic multimedia archive, which is to be **distributed freely** to every school, library, university and person throughout Burma via an interactive website; in order to inspire freedom of thought and expression through open access to the country's long denied political heritage; to enable reform of the military-controlled Constitution; and to promote an informed, free and fair national election. This new film and enhanced eBook will be

available on the Use Your Liberty website as a downloadable multimedia text, in multiple formats, and with proper funding translated into Burma's native languages, such as Burmese, Shan, Kachin, Mon, Arakanese and Karen.

New interviewees include:

- ✦ National League for Democracy co-founders U Win Tin and U Tin Oo (both men spent 19 years in jail as political prisoners, mostly in solitary confinement).
- ✦ Aung San Suu Kyi's closest colleagues and fellow members of Parliament, U Win Htein, U Ohn Kyaing, Dr. Zaw Myint Myint Maung, Dr. May Lwin Myint, and Daw Phyu Thin (all former political prisoners).
- ✦ Winner of the International Award for Most Courageous Woman of 2012 Zin Mar Aung.
- ✦ Renowned journalist of The Independent, with a Doctorate from Harvard, Ma Thida Sanchaung (8 years as a political prisoner).
- ✦ Phyzo Zayer Thaw — former hip hop artist and co-founder of the activist movement Generation Wave, also a former political prisoner and a member of parliament.
- ✦ Kyaw Zwa Moe, publisher and editor of the Irrawaddy, "Burma's Time magazine," who spent 8 years as a political prisoner.
- ✦ Kyaw Thu, Burma's most famous actor, still banned from his art by the regime, and President of the Free Funeral Service Society of Burma.
- ✦ "Burma's Mother Theresa," Daw Than Myint Aung, a famous literary figure who also runs fee-free homes for the elderly and orphaned children with HIV/AIDS.
- ✦ Prominent members of Burma's Buddhist, Catholic and Muslim clergy, including:
 - The 93-year old Venerable Sayadaw U Pandita, teacher to Aung San Suu Kyi and other key colleagues in her political party and one of the most respected mindfulness meditation teachers in the world.
 - Sittagu Sayadaw, a highly respected Buddhist monk who assists Burma's poor
 - Archbishop of Rangoon Charles Bo.
 - AL.Hajj Maung Shien, President Islamic Religious Affairs Council of Myanmar.
- ✦ As well as filmmakers, humanitarians, activists, and many other ex-political prisoners.

We wish to invite you to stand alongside Burma's most seminal voices of freedom, and lend your generous support to this vital project. Please help us to bring these heroic stories of courage and freedom to the people of Burma, and beyond. With your support, we hope to build a bridge of mutual understanding between Burma's present leaders and their new ones, and to promote a new era defined by equality, rule of law, a free media and cultural integrity, through distribution of these rare and vital materials both inside and outside of Burma.

Our fundraising goal, as stated, is an initial \$50,000 to accomplish this timely mission. It is a modest sum for a project of this magnitude. And it includes a crucial bare bones 28 day return journey to Burma in January, to conduct follow up interviews as well as seek new ones with President Thein Sein, Speaker of the House Shwe Mann, Parliament Member Aung San Suu Kyi, and the former Dictator Senior General Than Shwe. If we receive more, we can do much more. Please note that a single full page ad in the International New York Times is \$178,000. Also, be aware that in 1995, while conducting interviews in Burma for the "Voice of Hope", I spent 6 months in county and spent a \$100,000 producing the project.

Alongside of this direct mail campaign to a handful of our key supporters, and after the success of our first crowdfunding campaign last year, as mentioned, we are launching a new campaign on Indiegogo in early November. In fact, by the time you receive this, our campaign will have launched. Please check it, including the video trailer created for the project.

The campaign, titled '*Use Your Liberty: Aung San Suu Kyi as Burma's Next President*', invites supporters to play an active role in the creation of these materials by making contributions that are honored with 'return gifts.' Contributions, of course, can also be made solely on the merit of the vision itself.

Regardless of how much one contributes, the success of this vision rests in our ability to share it with those who will be moved by it, who will stand in solidarity, and so I invite you to kindly spread word of the campaign to your friends, family, colleagues and beyond, through all means possible: blogs, newsletters, social media circles, public talks and media appearances.

There are any number of ways you can contribute, and this is a rare opportunity for many timely historical and political reasons. As a vision, this work carries with it the force of a legacy of fearless freedom that spans countries, nations, eras. As an offering to the people of Burma it enshrines our collective responsibility and shared hope for a democratic future. As a fully realized project it will encapsulate, preserve and transmit the wisdom and teachings of some of the world's most precious voices of freedom now and for generations to come.

This film and eBook, *Aung San Suu Kyi and Burma's Voices of Hope and Freedom*, (that can also be pre-ordered from the Indiegogo Campaign site), is both seminal political theory text and an irreducible expression of human spirit. Its impact cannot be underestimated. Your support of this vision cannot be underestimated. Please, from my heart, for the people of Burma and all those who walk alongside her, HELP US raise these voices both nationally and internationally. Help me keep my promise to the leaders of Burma's democratic revolution by contributing as much as you can.

Thank you for your part in supporting this dream coming true – for me, for global democracy, and for Burma.

With love and gratitude,

Alan Clements

If you'd like to discuss your contribution, please feel free to contact me on 604-251-1781 or by email: contact@worlddharma.com

Contributions can be made by check or online at the WorldDharma.com website. If online, go to our SUPPORT page of the MENU BAR; scroll to: "Offer a 1-time Contribution." You can use your PayPal account or, if you do not have one, you can easily use your credit or bankcard.

If contributing by check, please make it payable to World Dharma and mail it to:

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"As spiritual and political beings we are all activists at heart.
No one is outside of society...It's about our freedom. That
means everybody. We must see that nothing and no one is
separate from this freedom. No one is an island in this world."
~ Aung San Suu Kyi, excerpted from "The Voice of Hope"

I hope to hear from you soon, and thank you in advance for your generous consideration of support for this project in support of Aung San Suu Kyi and the very future of freedom itself.