

Your Generous Support is Greatly Appreciated

World Dharma
c/o Burma Project USA/Canada
2768 West Broadway P.O. Box 74709
Vancouver, BC, V6K 2G4 Canada

Dear Friends of Freedom,

This is a heartfelt invitation to join me, along with the undersigned artists, authors, and activists, in supporting our continuing efforts to give voice and hope to the people of Burma, a country on the brink of destruction. Burma is at her most critical moment in her long struggle for democracy against one of the world's most violent dictatorships.

To briefly introduce myself, my name is Marcia Jacobs. I am an international specialist in war trauma, and the General Secretary of The Buddha Sasana Foundation, World Dharma's Dharma Forum, and The Burma Project USA/Canada/International, our nonprofit foundation and sister organizations founded to support raising international awareness about Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's detained Nobel Peace laureate, and her country's nonviolent revolution for freedom, as well as the sanctity of global human rights. We have chosen to write this letter, and offer it to the world community, with the hope of inspiring others who may come to respect our work on behalf of oppressed peoples and the elevation of human rights both in Burma and elsewhere in the world, to generously support us at Burma's most critical moment. Thus, enabling us to more intensely and effectively disseminate an urgent message to the people of our planet. Aung San Suu Kyi has asked to "let the world know that we are still prisoners in our own country." Now as this courageous woman nears her 15th year as a prisoner of conscience, our organization, directed by Alan Clements feels more compelled than ever support Aung San Suu Kyi and her peoples' ongoing struggle for freedom.

Most likely you, like many millions of us, witnessed the tragic events in Burma in September 2007, when the military regime killed scores of monks and other pro-democracy protestors as they peacefully marched in the streets of every major city in the country. International outcry about the massacres resulted in little change: numerous monasteries continue to be under strict surveillance, others emptied. Arrests continue throughout the country. Reports of torture and imprisonment persist. Many monks hide in the countryside, or remain missing.

Nationwide, the press and internet are so tightly controlled that it's effectively shut down. An international media ban makes it impossible to know the 'real story' on the ground in Burma. What we do know however is that Burma ranks among the most

restrictive and repressive country's on earth.

Alan Clements' personal passion for Burma's freedom is rooted in his five years as a Buddhist monk in Rangoon. This passion crystallized with years of investigative journalism and human rights work in the "killing fields of northern Burma" and in other parts of the country. Burma's demise offers a compelling challenge to Alan and to all of us: the voice of nonviolent democratic decency everywhere is pitted against the authoritarian machinery of repression. For us, this situation contains an urgent message for our planet.

Alan is a singular expert on the plight facing Aung San Suu Kyi and her people. He has authored four books on Burma. The Dalai Lama writes in the forward of Alan's first book: "rallying support and increasing awareness [of the crisis in Burma] is crucial... To this end ... Alan Clements' book "Burma: The Next Killing Fields?"...and [his] work at The Burma Project USA... are most valuable."

The Burma Project's photographic essay of the crisis, "Burma's Revolution of the Spirit," produced by Alan Clements and Leslie Kean, offers essays by eight Nobel peace laureates.

"The Voice of Hope," co-authored with Aung San Suu Kyi, is based on their recorded conversations over the six months Alan spent with her in Burma in 1995 and 1996. The book continues to be the definitive source of insight into one of the most courageous, nonviolent revolutions the world has ever seen.

Alan has given many hundreds of interviews in the media worldwide, including ABC (Nightline), CBS (Evening News), ABC Australia, the BBC, VOA, Time, Newsweek, and the London Times. He also has presented at numerous international events and organizations, including Mikhail Gorbachev's State of The World Forum, The Soros Foundation, the United Nations Association of San Francisco, and the keynote address at the John Ford Theater for Amnesty International's 30th year anniversary.

Due to the increased urgency of the crisis in Burma, over the past two years alone Alan has done over one-hundred radio and TV interviews.

Last year, a revised edition of The Voice of Hope was published in English, French, Italian, German, Romanian, Portuguese, Korean and Japanese. Among its new features, was an interview with U Gambira, the Burmese monk who was one of the principle leaders of the uprisings and who, along with his fellow monk-leaders, is now imprisoned, serving a 65 year sentence. The book's preface can be read on the World Dharma website, providing a rare window into the heart of Burma's struggle to overcome dictatorship.

As we are called to serve Aung San Suu Kyi's international request to speak for her country, the demands on all of us grow daily. As our work on behalf of Burma's

freedom expands it becomes more urgent. Millions of lives are in the balance. Burma is on the brink of destruction. How can you support The Burma Project?

Your generous donations will be used to undertake urgent projects related to bringing Aung San Suu Kyi's voice of freedom to the world. Your support will also enable us to continue to envision and implement our work in bringing international awareness to the plight of the people in Burma, many of whom are risking their lives at this moment to bring freedom to their country.

In addition to the Burmese peoples struggle for the 'right to life and liberty,' we are witnessing the potential loss of Buddhism itself in Burma, with its 2,500 year old lineage of monks and nuns. Buddhism was almost wiped out under Pol Pot. The Dalai Lama has said that in a few years there will be no Tibet left to save. Twenty years ago Alan wrote the groundbreaking book, "Burma: The Next Killing Fields?" Since that time more than 3,000 villages have been destroyed in a relentless campaign of ethnic cleansing. Nearly one million refugees have fled the country. One million more are internally displaced, subsisting in primitive, malaria-infested jungle conditions. Hundreds of thousands of Burmese citizens are enslaved as forced laborers, building roads, bridges, dams, and monuments for tourism. Millions more are tyrannized by one of the largest standing armies in the world. Burma is a totalitarian nightmare.

Your help is needed now, more than ever. Please join us in showing your generous support for our crucial work through the Burma Project International and World Dharma, visions dedicated to freedom and democracy in one of the last great Buddhist cultures in the world.

Your generous support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Marcia Jacobs, Psychotherapist and former Witness Support Officer for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. She has also worked with The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF, and the International Rescue Committee, founded by Albert Einstein in response to the plight of refugees after WWII.

~ Dr. Helen Caldicott, co-founded the Physicians for Social Responsibility, an organization of 23,000 doctors committed to educating their colleagues about the dangers of nuclear weapons. She's the author of numerous books including Nuclear Madness. Named by the Smithsonian Institute as one of the most influential women of the 20th Century, and nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by Linus Pauling.

~ Aung Din, former political prisoner in Burma and Executive Director of the U.S. Campaign for Burma.

~ Rex Weyler, co-founder of Greenpeace International.

~ Maureen Aung-Thwin, Director of the Open Society's Burma Project-Southeast Asia Initiative, founded by George Soros.

~ Derrick Jensen, award winning author of groundbreaking books, including Endgame, The Culture of Make Believe, A Language Older Than Words.

~ Velcrow Ripper, award winning documentary filmmaker of 31 films, including Scared Sacred and Fierce Light - Where Spirit Meets Activism.

~ Michael Toms, CEO New Dimensions Media, and author of numerous books, including An Open Life: Conversations with Joseph Campbell.

~ Catherine Ingram, international dharma teacher and author of books including, In the Footsteps of Gandhi and Passionate Presence.

~ Tami Simon, founder of Sounds True, a multi-media publishing company dedicated to awakening wisdom.

~ Aung Ko, exiled former diplomat, author, actor, and international spokesperson on the crisis in his country.

~ Drs. Joel and Michelle Levey, authors of Wisdom at Work and Living in Balance. Faculty at University of Minnesota Medical School.