

Endorsements for *The Voice of Hope: Aung San Suu Kyi from Prison
– and a Letter to a Dictator*

By Alan Clements and Fergus Harlow

"I am happy to endorse this timely book, by Alan Clements and Fergus Harlow, a summary of their book set of meticulous research and years of seeing the problem in Burma,

There are many people in the world who are truly concerned about the crisis in Burma and the difficulties faced by Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace Laureate and State Councillor.

Silencing people through sheer force is not the solution to a problem. Any problem can be solved through dialogue in the genuine spirit of reconciliation.

I congratulate Alan, and Fergus too, for completing this book despite Alan's very fragile health. I believe this is the most truthful and accurate commentary on how the world got it wrong, not unlike Tibet, and what we can do to support Aung San Suu Kyi and the people of Burma, to avert disaster.

Martin Luther King said, 'I do not feel sad when bad people do bad things, but feel sad when good people do not do anything.' "

Geshe Lhakdor, Distinguished scholar, Translator and Interpreter for His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama 1989 to 2005, Director of the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives in Dharamshala, and Head of the Science Education Project (a one hundred year initiative)

"This book is a beacon in the dark. By illuminating in vivid detail the catastrophe unfolding in Burma and the world's indifference to it, Alan Clements and Fergus Harlow shine a harsh but compassionate light on the crisis of humanity at the beginning of the twenty-first century. For anyone who cares about the plight of Burma and the fate of our global village, this book will shock you, upset you, and challenge you to do whatever is in your power to imagine and realise another way of being together in this fragile, vulnerable and suffering world."

Stephen Batchelor, author of *After Buddhism: Rethinking the Dharma for a Secular Age*.

"It is common in this fast-paced information era for complex problems and subtleties to be exaggerated or overlooked. The right to correct information should not just be guaranteed by every state's laws, but practiced by active and in-depth searching and research by users. This book zooms into the events leading up to the current crisis in Myanmar for the readers, examining not just on what happened in the past, witnessed by the authors themselves, but also focusing on how Aung San Suu Kyi consistently responded. It goes beyond sensational and

superficial headlines, and delves deep into truth. We don't have to agree or accept her words or this point of view, even with so much evidence, but we should not undermine the very real information and different interpretations sincerely offered.

In my view this book presents facts which make perfect sense, and has endeavoured to explain the complexities, for those who can bear to look deeper. Thanks Alan and Fergus. The people of Burma thank you."

Dr. Ma Thida, surgeon, writer and ex-political prisoner, Chair of Writers, Prison Committee, PEN International

"This remarkable book presents Aung San Suu Kyi in her own words —a wrongfully oppressed Nobel peace laureate in solitary confinement in her native Burma, and is a voice for oppressed worldwide. It outlines a framework for redemption and reconciliation - offering hope for the future of life and our precious planet. May this meticulously researched work be widely read... including by political leaders worldwide, every member of the United Nations and media outlets throughout the world."

Jeannine A. Davies, PhD. Psychologist, Relational Dharma

"I urge everyone to read this amazing work. It is fascinating, fascinating, fascinating! This footnoted, historical account has the power to change hearts and minds and aims to result in the release of the ailing and elderly Aung San Suu Kyi from solitary confinement and hard labor. Further, it examines how and why the Nobel Peace Prize winner and heart and soul of the democracy movement in Burma has been so vilified in the press as to bring the international icon to her knees - and the entire people and country, now under the heel of the military dictatorship, relegated to the back pages of the news. Finally, it stunningly and articulately, offers a path of redemption for Min Aung Hlaing, the military dictator. A must read. And did I say fascinating?"

Jennifer W Chartoff, President of Robert Chartoff Charitable Foundation

"I am deeply concerned over the condition of the many thousands of prisoners of the democracy movement which seemed to be fairing so well after the open elections which put Aung San Suu Kyi's party into power. The astonishing thing is that the Colonels expected people to vote for them, which of course they did not. The terms under which Aung San Suu Kyi became State Counsellor were severely limited, and I suspect they were not allowed to speak out on some of the atrocities being committed by the Generals. The fact remains that she was muted by the terms of her Premiership and her voice was simply not heard against the atrocities committed by the Generals.

Now, it has got much worse. The Colonels have felt strong enough to imprison Aung San Suu Kyi, whereas formerly they feared insurrection if they arrested her, such was her popularity amongst the people. Now they have simply swept away all the rights they have been forced to give to people and simply put the entire nation under a dictatorship of fear. The Generals are shielding themselves under Putin's war with Ukraine, taking it as *carte blanche* to desecrate and destroy.

I understood that a strong movement of a people's army was gathering strength to confront the Colonels, but they have simply locked up anybody who threatens their power. It is well to remind ourselves that the vows of poverty that sent Buddhist monks into the streets every day for food and the simple beauty of the people are still evident in the struggle. When I was there, I asked a monk why was it that despite living under this cruel dictatorship that the people so often had a smile on their face. He said "We are taught that we can expect from life nothing but pain and suffering so that when something pleasant occurs, however small, we are grateful."

In the shadow of Putin's war on Ukraine, the plight of Burma has simply been forgotten. It is both shocking and terrible. Out of simple human compassion, we must keep the story of Burma on our minds and in the consciences of democratic leaders worldwide."

Sir John Boorman, CBE, Oscar nominated multi-award-winning director of *Beyond Rangoon*, *Hope and Glory*, *Deliverance*, *The Emerald Forest* and numerous other feature films.

"As with many of the urgent issues and crises of our time, most of the news coverage about Burma (Myanmar) is cartoonish propaganda or simply non-existent. The events within the country are largely misunderstood by those who rely on mainstream news and are ignored as irrelevant by everyone else on earth. Burma's most iconic figure, the elected State Councillor, Aung San Suu Kyi, represents a heart-breaking example of this news distortion, misinformation and blackout.

Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, Aung San Suu Kyi was once seen as a heroic symbol of nonviolent revolution, empowering integrity and the dignity of dialogue, enduring years under house arrest and foregoing a family life with her husband and young boys in service to what she felt was a greater good for society her country. However, as an ever-present counterpoint to a powerful military junta backed by even more powerful interests, she has been painted with every dark brush they could find. Now at age 77, she lingers in solitary confinement in a Burmese prison with what amounts to a life sentence for bogus charges such as "incitement" and "violating covid restrictions."

Though the world has turned its back, Alan Clements has faithfully chronicled Aung San Suu Kyi's brave journey, beginning in 1996 with the

publication of 'The Voice of Hope.' In this important new work, Alan and his co-writer Fergus Harlow lay out Aung San Suu Kyi's case in a compelling plea to release her from prison and in so doing redeem what is left of Burma's reputation as a place of dharma and dignity, and hopefully a just and democratic nation."

Catherine Ingram, Author of *'In the Footsteps of Gandhi,' 'Passionate Presence,' 'A Crack in Everything,' 'Facing Extinction.'*

"In this precious book, Alan Clements has chronicled the calculated and executed destruction of a country. It is a template for the world to see, and if the good and wise don't pay attention the wicked will. Full of heartache and susceptible to despair, Mr Clements compels us to step up with courage and commitment for the likes of Aung San Suu Kyi, and the world, wherever we are, be it Ukraine, Brazil, Yemen, America... It has been an honor to read these brilliant, agonizing accounts."

Barbara R. Wright, Ph.D. Laguna Beach, Ca. Author and world lecturer on Compassionate Communication and Conflict Resolution, Founder and Director of Metta4All: The Metta Method, a program for Compassionate Communication and Conflict Resolution. Consultant to organizations, churches, corporations and universities.

"Violence was not the way... It is a last resort form of evil." In her own words, Aung San Suu Kyi expresses her rightful evaluation of the hidden atrocities currently committed in her beloved country of Burma (Myanmar). This book is an eye and heart opener. It is much needed information that is hidden from the world, and that we all need to know. Helping the world to become a fair and just place for all to exist in freedom, for all to honor one another's dignity with compassion, is a very urgent task. Read this book to awaken your "consciousness compass." Read this book to find out the truth. Read this book to find out what you and we can do about what is happening in Burma/Myanmar."

Margot Anand, Author of *The Art of Everyday Ecstasy*

"[I am proud to support] Burma's inspiring leader who now remains imprisoned by the Military. The good and kind people of Burma have been imprisoned and murdered in an attempt to eliminate political dissent as well as to destroy many, many aspects of Buddhist religion and culture. This book is truly a profound and heartfelt plea asking the world to wake up and to stand up to these injustices and to call noble attention to the immediacy for a new awakening of all voices who stand for liberty, freedom and individual choicefulness, for free thought, religious freedom and political dissent. There is an eerie timeline to awaken and to stand

for justice and this book will inspire and motivate you to act. A must read for all those who wish to preserve great leaders and an extraordinary spiritual culture.”

Ronald A. Alexander, Open Mind Training Program, Santa Monica, CA, author of *Wise Mind and Open Mind* and *Core Creativity: the Mindful Way to Unlock Your Creative Self*.

“The Voice of Hope: Aung San Suu Kyi from Prison and a Letter to A Dictator’ may be the title of this heart wrenching book but after reading it I have realised that it is OUR sacred duty to be a voice of hope in this crazy world we are living in... and join together to help each other, especially in a situation such as what is occurring in Burma today.

It is clearly our duty as conscious, aware human beings, to stand up and say ‘NO!’ to this genocide and cruelty. I ask everyone to just for a moment, if at all possible, try to imagine being exposed to such barbarism and obscene injustice.

A powerful message comes out glaring from the words within this book: It is not possible any longer to turn a blind eye to this genocide, torture and obscene injustice and we, as fellow human beings, have to speak up in unity, together to make this stop now. We are all connected and when we help each other, we honour ourselves. Never underestimate the power of the collective as our hearts all beat together, and together we can change everything.

Alan Clements, suffering extreme ill health himself, has constantly voiced his concern for his beloved people of Burma and has constantly been a guiding light for this very important cause. Alan has set a very high standard of care in action himself and he is loved by so, so many people worldwide. Alan has lived in Burma and personally researched virtually every aspect of what has evolved there, and he has given a real and honest account of what has happened since the beginning right up to this present moment.

I honour this book and I also honour the man.

It’s time to make this world a safer place and stand up to the cruel and opposing forces, no matter how they may be disguised. Thank you, Alan, for the love you shine.”

Paul Margolin, Sydney, Australia