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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A SET OF NEW BOOKS

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BURMA'S VOICES OF FREEDOM

IN CONVERSATION WITH ALAN CLEMENTS

AN ONGOING STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY

Vancouver, Canada: A new four-volume set of feature-length conversations between Alan Clements (author of *The Voice of Hope* and *Burma: The Next Killing Fields?*) and dozens of leading figures at the heart of Burma's "revolution of the spirit," *Burma's Voices of Freedom* is the definitive account of a decades-long nonviolent struggle for democracy and universal human rights, to be released Sept 1st, two months before Burma's upcoming national elections.

Spanning 2012–2020, these rare conversations cover the historic national election of the National League of Democracy (NLD) to Parliament, the Rohingya crisis, the nature of totalitarianism and the efficacy of nonviolence, the radicalization of militant Buddhist monks and the role of Islamic terrorism, interspersed within the jagged landscape of a nation's ongoing struggle for freedom, rule of law, and national reconciliation. At the core, this unprecedented body of work illuminates the mindset and conscience of the nonviolent revolutionary at the same time as it attempts to decipher the psychology of dictatorship.

Combined with extensive archival material spanning over 30 years and drawing upon Clements' lifetime of personal connections within the country, *Burma's Voices of Freedom* is unique in both its depth and candor, conveying the struggle of Burma's peaceful revolutionaries in their own words.

From Aung San Suu Kyi and the co-founders of the NLD to multi-award winning writers, from veteran student activists to notorious artists, and including some of Burma's most respected religious figures, politicians, and activist-comedians, these voices describe in vivid detail the courage and conviction required to nonviolently confront injustice, whether on a stage, in a demonstration, or in solitary confinement.

As Burma's transition to democracy hangs tentatively in the balance, and with an estimated four billion people globally living under some form of dictatorship, these voices of freedom have never been more important.

BIO AND ENDORSEMENTS for Alan Clements

Clements was among the first Westerners to ordain as a Buddhist monk in Burma, where he lived in a monastery practicing mindfulness meditation for nearly four years, before being expelled from the country in 1984 by the dictatorship, with no reason given. Leaving the monastic life, Clements returned to the West, becoming a spiritual maverick, journalist, and human rights activist engaged in Burma's nonviolent struggle for freedom while speaking up for political prisoners worldwide.

Clements co-authored *The Voice of Hope* with Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi - the former political prisoner and Nobel Peace Laureate. In addition, his books include, *Burma: The Next Killing Fields?*, and *Revolution of the Spirit*, both with forewords by the Dalai Lama and endorsed by 8 Noble Peace Laureates and former President Jimmy Carter. He's also written *Instinct for Freedom* and *A Future To Believe In: 108 Reflections on the Art and Activism of Freedom*.

“Distilling the essence of world religions, cultures, politics, and spiritual traditions, Alan Clements’ magnificent, timely book provides a courageous and intelligent compass personifying our aspirations for freedom and wisdom, and in so doing, offers insights on how to actively shape a future that gives life hope. With our planet in peril, it is imperative that we act now to provide a secure future for our children and future generations; make this book your guide, mentor and friend.” ~ Dr Helen Caldicott, Author of *Nuclear Power is Not the Answer* and *If you Love this Planet*; Founding President Physicians for Social Responsibility

“This culture is killing the planet. If we are to have any future at all, we must unlearn everything this culture has taught us and begin to listen to the planet, to listen to life — the core intelligence of nature and the human heart. This book not only helps us with that unlearning process — the greatest challenge humankind has every faced — it provides the essential wisdom, the spiritual intelligence, to open ourselves to finally start to hear.” ~ Derrick Jensen, Author of *Endgame* and *Deep Green Resistance*

“This book is the music of wisdom, a dance with the finest places of the human heart. You will want to keep this timeless treasure within reach, so you can open it to any page, and let a paragraph or a line ignite you again to the truth of your own being.” ~ Joanna Macy, Author of *World as Lover, World As Self* and *Pass it On: Five Stories that Can Change the World*

Clements has been interviewed on ABC National, Talk to America, CBC, VOA, BBC, the New York Times, Time and Newsweek magazines, the Sydney Morning Herald, Utne Reader, Yoga Journal, and scores of other media worldwide. He has also made presentations to the Soros Foundation and Mikhail Gorbachev's State of the World Forum, and delivered a keynote speech for Amnesty International's 30th year anniversary. Learn more about Alan's work on his web site at: www.AlanClements.com.

Fergus Harlow has collaborated closely with Alan Clements on numerous World Dharma Publication projects since 2013, as writer, editor, researcher, and assistant. He worked extensively on *Burma's Voices of Freedom* for the best part of eight years, compiling, editing, and contributing various sections of the work.