

World Dharma

c/o Burma Project USA/Canada
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“When human dignity is in jeopardy, national borders and sensitivities become irrelevant; whenever men or women are persecuted because of their race, religions or political views, that place must — at that moment — become the center of the universe.” Elie Wiesel



Dear Friend,

Warm greetings to you. This is a heartfelt invitation to join me, along with the undersigned artists, authors, and activists, in supporting our friend and colleague Alan Clements in his 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 the world's most violent dictatorship.

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*, and *The Burma Project USA/Canada*, the nonprofit organizations co-founded by Alan in 1989 to support raising international awareness about Aung San Suu Kyi, Burma's imprisoned Nobel Peace laureate, and her country's nonviolent revolution for freedom.

I have chosen to write you, specifically, as someone who deeply respects Alan's work on behalf of oppressed peoples and the elevation of human rights both in Burma and elsewhere in the world.

Our hope is to inspire you to generously support Alan at Burma's most critical moment,

to enable him to more intensely and effectively disseminate an urgent message to the people of our planet. Aung San Suu Kyi has asked Alan to “let the world know that we are still prisoners in our own country.” Now as this courageous woman enters her 12th year of imprisonment, Alan feels more compelled than ever to keep his promise.



Most likely you, like many millions of us, witnessed the tragic events in Burma this past September, when the military regime killed scores of monks and other pro-democracy protesters 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 ransacked, many are emptied. Arrests continue nightly. Reports of torture and imprisonment persist. Many monks hide in the countryside, or remain missing. Nationwide, the press and internet are shut down. An international media ban

makes it impossible to know how many monks have been killed and are being killed, tortured, and detained. Estimates are in the thousands.

As you know, Alan’s passion for Burma’s freedom is rooted in his decade as a Buddhist monk in Rangoon. This passion crystallized with months of investigative journalism and human rights work in the “killing fields of northern Burma.” 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 Alan, 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.”

Alan’s photographic essay of the crisis, “Burma’s Revolution of the Spirit,” co-authored with 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 he 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 three months alone Alan has done over thirty radio and TV interviews. He gives his time freely and generously, with no financial remuneration.

In February, a revised edition of the Voice of Hope will be published in English, French, and Japanese. Among its new features, it will include a ten page interview with U Gambira, the Burmese monk who was the principle leader of the uprisings and who, along with his fellow monk-leaders, is now imprisoned. Both the interview and the book's preface can be read on Alan's website, providing a rare window into the heart of Burma's struggle to overcome dictatorship.

As Alan is called to serve Aung San Suu Kyi's request to speak for her country, the demands on him grow daily. As his 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 you can support The Burma Project

Alan lives solely on the donations he receives from membership in the World Dharma community and from participants who attend his retreats. It is imperative that he receive financial support to continue to meet the increasing demands of the work of the Burma Project and the World Dharma Institute, with its year round Program exploring "Everyday Revolution." This project, inspired by Aung San Suu Kyi, has global participation and accommodates everyone, regardless of geographical location or monetary limitation.

Our fundraising goal is to raise \$75,000 through **membership pledges**. These pledges, offered monthly or annually, provide the consistent support needed to enable Alan to continue to envision and implement his 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. Nineteen 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. The monasteries continue to be raided. It is a land of 50 million hostages—prisoners in their own country.

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

Allow Burma's struggle to "become the center of the universe," as Holocaust survivor and Nobel Peace laureate Elie Wiesel states in his own statement on Burma, issued last month. This statement is signed by 58 other Nobel laureates, expressing their support for Burma's struggle for freedom and the immediate release of their sister laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi, and the thousands of other prisoners of conscience locked away in Burma's prisons.

How to Make Your TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION

Online:

Please go our website, www.EverydayRevolution.org

At the top of the page, along the menu bar, click on the 'donate' section. From there you can conveniently and securely use our online banking partner to offer donations in any amount. Monthly or annual membership pledges, or one time contributions, are deeply appreciated.

By Check:

You can send a check, or a series of post-dated checks, payable to the Buddha Sasana Foundation (if drawn on a US account) or The Dharma Forum (if on a Canadian or overseas account).

They can be mailed to:

MARCIA JACOBS
1950 WEST BROADWAY
P.O. BOX 29004
VANCOUVER, BC V6J 5C2
CANADA.

If you have any questions, please contact me at:

MARCIALJACOBS@HOTMAIL.COM OR BY PHONE AT: 604-787-5749.

If you prefer to speak directly with Alan feel free to call him

AT 604-251-1781 OR EMAIL HIM AT ALAN@WORLDDHARMA.COM.

Every level of support for Alan and his projects will be felt in Burma and beyond. The power of your generous and compassionate commitment will expand the voices of hope around the world.

And please remember, on the ‘donate’ page of the website, you can read Alan’s stirring preface to the Voice of Hope and his compelling interview with the monk leader of the uprisings, currently imprisoned. We have also embedded a copy of this letter on that same page, should you wish to send it as a link to anyone you may know who would be moved to support Alan’s work for Burma and global human rights.

With deep gratitude,

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.

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

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

~Julia Zarudzka, Educational Consultant and Past Chair of SEVA Canada and AIDS Vancouver, and Chairperson of the Brain Injury Association of British Columbia.

~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.