



## **"Junta Uses the Global Terror Threat as a Tool for Political Oppression"**

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Claims from the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) this week that members of the All Arakan Students' and Youths' Congress (AASYC) have been involved with terrorist or sabotage activities are totally baseless accusations. Those arrested are not members of our organization and have surely been framed in a government attempt to push the people of Burma (Myanmar) further into oppression.

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, the Burmese state-run TV channel MRTV3 announced a series of untruths that were then reiterated in the state-run newspaper New Light of Myanmar on 24<sup>th</sup>.

Firstly, these media outlets stated that the AASYC is “responsible for terrorist attacks in the country [Burma]” and secondly, that the Arakanese youths recently arrested in Rangoon (Yangon) and Arakan were its members.

First of all, the AASYC is a political organization which supports the democratic process in Burma via purely peaceful means and is absolutely not a terrorist organization. Second of all, none of these people are members of the AASYC. We do not have any affiliation with any of the people that have been reported arrested.

We have noted that, in response to the increased torture, oppression and human rights abuses inflicted by the military dictators on the local population, a series of anti-government activities and mass movements have recently been taking place across Arakan.

Over the past month, the military junta's overwhelming fear of public dissent has been demonstrated in the fact that it banned local elderly people from engaging in free conversations, and put around a dozen children below the age of ten in custody for being involved in a make-believe demonstration.

By framing Arakanese youths and then forcing them to confess that they are part of the AASYC and responsible for the recent bombings in Rangoon, the regime is now attempting to accuse us as terrorists. In thus doing, the current ruling government, the SPDC demonstrates its three ulterior motives –

1. To instill terror in our sympathizers and individual activists to discourage them from pursuing their political ideals, and supporting us

2. To stigmatize democratic forces so that their popular and international support diminishes
3. To quell any forthcoming resistance against the 2010 election, and its cosponsored development projects that are set to generate a huge amount of money for its ever increasing defense budget

As a human rights group, we strongly denounce the arbitrary arrest, detention and torture of these people and urge the responsible authorities to:

1. Stop such inhumane actions once and for all in light of the ordeal that all ethnic nationalities in Burma have been suffering
2. Demand fair and public trial, independent judiciary and rule of law for all citizens
3. Recommend a meaningful tripartite dialogue for national reconciliation and peaceful coexistence among all ethnic nationalities, regardless of their color, race, gender, and political or religious beliefs

On behalf of all the AASYC comrades,  
Central Executive Committee

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