

MAY 10, A SAD DAY IN BURMA

Editor, Rebound 88

Today, May 10 is a sad day in our country's history. The military junta is going ahead with their flawed referendum despite the appeal from the whole world, including Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Ki Mon to postpone the process so that people can focus their effort in helping the Cyclone Nargis victims. The storm had just



devastated the whole Delta region, killing thousands of people and made many more homeless. Their survival is under threat due to lack of proper shelter, food as well as drinking water where approximately 3.5 million people are living.

Holding the referendum under these circumstances display no wisdom; it just confirms that the military Junta has no respect to human values as long as they can hold on to power. It is about time the world community has to do something to stop the nightmare, suffering among the people for decades.

In politics, as well as in other human enterprise, honesty is required in dealing with other human beings, for a sustainable community. To govern a population needs wisdom as well as intelligence to gain trust. The Junta shows no such thing in this crisis and many others. Aids are coming in just to be turned back at the airport. Personals are awaiting visa to get in and go to the

affected areas. What the government did is preventing these helping hands from reaching to the population. Are they honest and true to their country by preventing those people from coming in. I do not think so, they

are so afraid that the world will find out how they are treating their own people if they allow the outside helps.

They tell lies to their people, they tell lies

to the whole world. During the last September uprisings and many others before, they killed their people. Now, figuratively speaking, the junta is killing their own people again. They not only robbed the wealth of the nation but they allow the deaths of its people by denying foreign helps.

The 55 million people of Burma do not want them to rule their country. The ruling junta thought that they can silence the opposition by imprisoning, killing and torturing. Yes, people are helpless and afraid of their guns but they can not rule forever by force. What they are trying to do by forcing this referendum is to prolong their rule. These generals joined army and they follow orders but that does not qualify them to rule the country for ever.

The President and the first lady of the United States appealed to them directly, to allow helping the victims because they have the necessary hardware and man

power to do so. The generals knew how to refuse the offer of help, but they do nothing to reach to the victims, who are dying by thousands everyday.

I do not understand how this can happen, suffering people are desperately waiting for help , the helping workers are denied entry and the whole world can not do anything about it.

I wonder General Than Shwe see the situation as it is, because for those who saw the dead bodies all over the place can not help by doing nothing about it. The army said they sent a ship and 60 boats to the effected area but to my best knowledge I do not see them any where in these pictures. One after another people interviewed said they got nothing from the government. Since General Than Shwe is the chief of country how come he does not know that every where. people are dying



If he knew what is come, he does not to help the victims.

Referendum is a their rule. Dying in voting YES to anyway. The people area will see no compatriots are dying next-door.

going on, then how allow other countries

charade to prolong people has no value their game plan outside the effected value either while their

What the military junta actually should do is postpone the voting and set up a Disaster Recovery office in Rangoon, with a minister heading the commission empowered everything to control the situation. The important task to do is how to get help to the victims. Logistics control, Visa control and the custom controls are the last things for helping organization to be in their minds.

The minister should be empowered to grant visa, to organize cargo shipments and make sure to provide communication facilities. There should be a hotline so that people can seek help and clarification. It is a sorrowful fact that BBC broadcasting station situated thousands of miles away from the area is acting as lost and found of personnel in the country. It is a shame to the generals, they mismanaged the whole situation again. The commission should oversee the rebuilding of Rangoon as well. People have to bribe the authorities to get electricity, water supply and telephone line connected. It is very odd and frustrating to bribe for a basic needs which are provided for grated in other countries. The commission has the duty to announce what they have achieved to avoid bribery cases and make sure the citizens get what they need.

The junta said they formed a committee, but nobody knew what they were doing in Naypyidaw. The TV showed shamelessly uniformed people sticking their names to the carton boxes given by others. As a result people have no faith in the ruling generals and obviously the world has witnessed that they are not fit to rule the country, time and again. We keep wondering when this nightmare will end , hoping for the day the military government falls and the democratic peoples' government take over in our otherwise beautiful and peaceful country, Burma.