



NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR DEMOCRACY

(Liberated Area – UK)

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Request to EU Rotating Chair Germany

The recent protests in Burma has drawn international attention after thousands of Buddhist monks joined people in venting anger at decades of brutal military rule. Some 100,000 people took to the streets in Burma's former capital Rangoon, as well as in many other major cities, before the protests were crushed on last Wednesday and Thursday when government troops opened fire into the crowds and raided monasteries to beat and arrest monks.

The protests began Aug. 19 when the government sharply raised fuel prices, then mushroomed into the junta's largest challenge in decades when Myanmar's revered monks took a leading role.

The government says 10 people were killed in last week's violence but independent sources say the number is even higher than one hundred.

The United Nations' Security Council has urged Burma's military government to exercise restraint towards peaceful protesters. US President George W. Bush on Tuesday unveiled new sanctions on Burma's military rulers and urged global pressure for democratic reforms to end the junta's decades-old reign of fear. Even China, Burmese regime's main supporter, expressed their concerns over current situations in Burma.

The military government, meanwhile, flooded Rangoon with troops, ensuring that almost all demonstrators would remain off the streets.

As Burmese junta's bloody crack down on the Monks who have been peacefully speaking out about the starving poverty of the people amounts to a vulgar offence on the religion of the country, on Sunday, even the Pope Benedict XVI joined world leaders in expressing serious concern over the current situation in Burma.

Despite these developments, the European Union cannot yet come up with any credible measure to put pressure on Burma's military regime to push it towards sincere democratic reforms in Burma. The lack of agreement among EU countries on how to best deal with Burma leads to the current ineffectual EU common policy on Burma. France had been one of the main opponents of banning new investment in Burma, a key demand of Burma's democracy movement for more than a decade. But France has now come out in

support of banning new investments, leaving Germany as the main obstacle to the EU implementing sanctions.

With the brutal crack down going on, in addition to the pre-existing tough oppression on pro-democracy parties inside Burma, international community's timely and appropriate intervention is the only remaining hope to save Burma and its people before becoming too late.

So the National League for Democracy (Liberated Area, UK) along with the Burmese democratic community in London would like to request German Government to stop blocking EU's attempts to take serious and effective actions on Burma.