



Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats

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Dr. Surin Pitsuwan
Secretary General
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
Jakarta, Indonesia

Dear Dr. Surin:

We are fully aware of the fact that previously in your career, you were instrumental in the establishment of CALD and had been actively involved with it. We have accordingly submitted, as attached hereto, a copy of the CALD Annual Report 2010 for your kind information.

We are certain that you will agree with us that ASEAN as a whole and its member states have been a force in bringing about the end of military rule in Burma and the beginning of its democratization process. We are pleased that the seeming transition from military rule to civilian has been smooth and peaceful thus far. Many of the military leaders who used to hold political power and office have gone into peaceful retirement.


In order for democracy to work, however, the Burmese government should observe inclusiveness for all citizens. It is a known fact that there are Burmese citizens living outside their country, about 5000 of whom are in exile, voluntary or otherwise. We advocate then that all Burmese political exiles should be invited to return as free persons and as full citizens. This should go together with the unconditional release of all political detainees, thousands of whom are still languishing in jail to this day.

CALD believes that ASEAN should continue to play its facilitating and contributory role in smoothening and extending the road to peace, stability and reconciliation in Burma, and therefore submit the above for your kind consideration.

Very truly yours,



Rajiva Wijesinha, MP
Chairperson



J.R. Nereus Acosta, PhD
Secretary General