

fidh

International Federation for Human Rights



FIDH / BLC Seminar

Advancing Human Rights and ending impunity
in Burma: which external leverages?

Conscious that all peoples are united by common bonds, their cultures pieced together in a shared heritage, and concerned that this delicate mosaic may be shattered at any time, Mindful that during this century millions of children, women and men have been victims of unimaginable atrocities that deeply shock the conscience of humanity, Recognizing that such grave crimes threaten the peace, security and well-being of the world, Affirming that the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a

of concern to the international whole must not go unpunished and



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Despite repeated efforts, Burma remains unresponsive to pressure from the international community and situation in the country continues to be characterized by continuous and systematic human rights violations. There is consequently a need for a renewed strategy on Burma.

The Burma Lawyers Council and its major partners decided to concentrate efforts in a worldwide campaign to secure a UNSC referral of the situation in Burma to the ICC. A referral is not expected in the short term, however this campaign may increase the pressure on the Burmese regime and may have a deterrent effect on the perpetration of more international crimes in Burma.

Mon 4 May 2009 – Session I and II			
Time	seminar	Interventions	
08:30 AM	SESSION I: Burma and the ICC: A case for referral? - General moderator: Aung Htoo, General Secretary, BLC	9:00-9:30 - Registration	
09:30 AM		9:30-9:40 - Opening remarks - Kraisaak Choonhavan, MP, President of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus - AIPMC), U Thein Oo, Chairperson of BLC, Cynthia Gabriel, FIDH Vice-president	
		09:40-10:00 - Advances in International Law on Grave Crimes and the Security Council's Role – Speaker: Janet Benshoof, President, Global Justice Center	
		10:00-10:20 - Past Referrals Experiences: The Referral of the Situation in Darfur - Speaker: Mariana Pena, FIDH permanent representative to the ICC	
		10:20-10:40 - Current Dynamics within the Security Council, past Security Council reaction to non-compliant government ... - Speaker: Antoine Madelin, FIDH permanent representative to the IO	
10:30 AM		10:40-11:00 - Q&A	
		11:00-11:15 - Coffee Break	
11:30 AM		11:15-12:30 - Discussion Groups	
12:30 AM – 1:30 PM : Lunch			
01:30 PM		Session I	1:30-2:00 - Report of the Discussion Groups General moderator: Mr. Stewart Manley, Staff Attorney of BLC
	SESSION II: Documenting international crimes in Burma - General moderator: Andi Friedman, Vice-president, GJC	2:00-2:20 - Crimes falling under the jurisdiction of the ICC - Speaker: Evelyn Serrano, Asia Coordinator of the Coalition for the ICC	
		2:20-2:40 - Who could be prosecuted? - Speaker : Magda Karayiannakis, barrister, former ICC prosecutor	
02:30 PM		2:40-3:00 - Role and activities of the ICC Office of the Prosecutor - Speaker: Satoko Ikeda, Attorney, Legal Officer in the Office of the Prosecutor, ICC	
		3:00-3:15 - Coffee Break	
03:30 PM		3:15-4:00 - Overview of existing documentation work on international crimes in Burma - Three Speakers: Dr Yuval Ginbar, Asia Pacific legal adviser, Amnesty International, Lway Dan Jar, ND-Burma ; and Youk Chhang, Director of DC Cam	
		4:00-4:10 - Questions and Answers	
04:30 PM		4:10-5:10 - Discussion Groups	
05:30 PM	5:10-5:30 - Report of the Discussion Groups		
6:00 PM – Cocktail			

To strengthen the campaign’s momentum, and highlight the potential role of the ICC in Burma, but also to consider all different possibilities of external leverages such as arms embargo, sanctions... to advance human rights and end impunity in Burma, the BLC and the International Federation for Human Rights are organizing a seminar which will gather key Burmese and international organizations.

According to Aung Htoo, BLC’s General secretary, «Two years ago this campaign was only an idea. Now, the tide is turning. Burma must not be an exception to international accountability for serious crimes.»

Tue 5 May 2009 – Session III and IV		Time
seminar	Interventions	
SESSION III: Sanctions by the Security Council under Chapter VII: what are the alternatives for Burma? - General moderator: Cynthia Gabriel, FIDH vice president	09:30-10:00 - A Brief Analysis on SPDC's 2008 Constitution and 2010 Election - Speakers : Aung Thoo, General Secretary BLC, Thin Thin Aung, Presidium Board Member of WLB	09:30 AM
	10:00-10:15 - Human rights and financial and economic sanctions: past experiences - Speaker : Ludovic Hennebel, ULB	
	10:15-10:45 - Existing sanctions against the Burmese regime – Speakers: Mark Farmaner, BCUK and Jeremy Woodrum, USBC	
	10:35-10:45 - Coffee Break	10:30 AM
	11:00-11:15 - Chances of obtaining an arms embargo: the way forward? - Speaker: David Mathieson, Burma Researcher, HRW	
	11:15-11:30 - Questions & Answers 11:30-1:00pm - Discussion Groups	11:30 AM
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM : Lunch		
Session III	2:00-2:30 - Report of the Discussion Groups	
SESSION IV: Overview of the situation in Burma and regional dynamics - General Moderator - Evelyn Serrano, Asia Coordinator of CICC	2:30-2:50 - Role of ASEAN on Burma - Speakers: Kalpalata Dutta, Asian Institute for Human Rights and Debbie Stothard, Coordinator of Altsean Burma	02:00 AM
	2:50-3:20 - Role of China and India in relation to Burma - Speakers: Mr. Kim Coordinator Shwe Gas Campaign Committee- India and Wang Xiumei, professor, coordinator of ICC Project Office in China	
	3:20-3:30 - Questions & Answers	03:00 PM
	3:30-3:45 - Coffee Break	
	3:45-5:15 - Discussion Groups	04:00 PM
	5:15-6:00 - Reports of the Discussion Groups and Concluding Comments by BLC/FIDH	05:00 PM
		06:00 PM

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Seminar* - Bangkok, 4th and 5th May 2009



HOTEL
Windsor Suites
B A N G K O K

Windsor Suites Hotel Bangkok
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