

1 **[Urging our Federal Representatives to Denounce the Burmese Military Regime's**
2 **Illegitimate 2010 Election]**

3 **Resolution urging our Federal representatives to denounce the Burmese military**
4 **regime's illegitimate 2010 election and recognizing May, 27, 2010, as Burma Democracy**
5 **Day in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the 1990 Elections.**
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7 WHEREAS, The City of San Francisco has a long history of supporting the democracy
8 movement in Burma; and

9 WHEREAS, In response to the 1988 uprising, the military regime held elections in
10 1990, but when the National League for Democracy (NLD) won an overwhelming majority of
11 votes, the regime arrested and imprisoned the democratically elected leaders, including Aung
12 San Suu Kyi, the General Secretary of the NLD, who subsequently received the Nobel Peace
13 Prize and the US Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of her courageous and unwavering
14 commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy; and

15 WHEREAS, The regime refuses to abide by the results of the 1990 elections and has
16 held Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest 15 of the last 20 years. In response, the US
17 imposed sanctions by enacting the Burma Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003; and

18 WHEREAS, In August and September 2007, the people of Burma, led by Buddhist
19 monks, took to the streets in peaceful demonstration to protest intolerable economic
20 conditions resulting from a sudden 500% increase in fuel prices. The military regime killed
21 hundreds of peaceful protesters and arrested, imprisoned, and tortured many thousands more
22 including Buddhist monks. The violent actions taken against the peaceful protests were
23 reported by Human Rights Watch (See December 2007 Report "Repression of the 2007
24 Popular Protest in Burma"), Amnesty International (See November 2007 briefing paper "No
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1 Return to 'Normal’”), and the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro,
2 based on numerous first-hand accounts by victims and eye-witnesses of: shootings, beatings,
3 and killings of protesters and monks, monasteries being raided, arbitrary detentions and
4 disappearances, torture, cruel and degrading treatment, and restraints on political activity and
5 access to the media; and

6 WHEREAS, On May 21, 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told senators at a
7 hearing that “If they (the generals) stay on the track they're on, their elections in 2010 will be
8 totally illegitimate and without any meaning in the international community;” and

9 WHEREAS, On April 2009, the NLD released the Shwegondaing Declaration, which
10 calls for the unconditional release of all political prisoners, review of a draft constitution,
11 recognition of the 1990 election results; and to establish a political dialog between the military,
12 the NLD and other stake holders. However, in response, the military regime released the 2010
13 election law on March 9, 2010 which states that any political party with members in jail is
14 automatically disqualified. Given Burma's record of imprisoning dissidents, that makes political
15 participation for a legitimate opposition impossible. (429 members of Suu Kyi's party are
16 imprisoned.); and

17 WHEREAS, On March 9, 2010, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged the junta to
18 empty the jails of political dissident so that they can participate in the election. He also said
19 that “Without participation of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all key political prisoners, this
20 election will not be an inclusive one.” He wrote to General Than Shwe “expressing my
21 concern about this lack of progress on democratic reforms, and emphasizing the importance
22 of ensuring this year’s vote is most credible, inclusive and transparent”; and,

23 WHEREAS, On March 15, 2010, during the press conference at the UN headquarters
24 in Geneva, Thomas Ojea Quintana, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma,
25 accused the Burmese military regime of systemic and gross violations of human rights and

1 called for an international commission of inquiry to look into serious cases of abuse, which he
2 says entail crimes against humanity; and

3 WHEREAS, On March 10, 2010, at a briefing, US State Department spokesperson
4 Philip J. Crowley told reporters "given the tenor of the election laws that they've put forward,
5 there's no hope that this election will be credible." Crowley also added that, "The political party
6 law makes a mockery of the democratic process and ensures that the upcoming elections will
7 be devoid of credibility;" and

8 WHEREAS, Over 200 people attended the 10th Annual Burma Human Rights Day
9 benefit on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalist Hall,
10 organized by the Burmese American Democratic Alliance (BADA) and signed the BADA
11 Burma Human Rights Day Statement denouncing the Burma's military regime for banning
12 Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners from participating in the election and calling for
13 their immediate release; and

14 WHEREAS, On March 19, 2010, more than 150 pro-democracy organizations,
15 including BADA, launched a global campaign on Burma's 2010 elections calling on the
16 international community to denounce this election and refuse to recognize the results; and

17 WHEREAS, On March 29, 2010, Burma's main opposition party, the NLD, decided
18 against registering for the general election; choosing to cease to exist as a legal entity,
19 according to that law. U Win Tin, a founder of the NLD, stated, "For me, the decision was
20 simple: No. We cannot expel Aung San Suu Kyi and others who are or have been imprisoned
21 under this corrupt and unfair legal system. Without them, our party would be nothing. They are
22 in prison because of their belief in democracy and the rule of law"; now, therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges our Federal
24 representatives to denounce the Burmese military regime's 2010 illegitimate election and
25 recognizing May, 27, 2010, as Burma Democracy Day in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the

1 1990 Elections therefore recognizing Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as the rightful leader of the
2 people of Burma; and further declare May 27 as Annual Burma Democracy Day; and, be it

3 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Office of the Clerk of the Board shall send this
4 document to President Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and U.S. Ambassador to the
5 UN Susan Rice thanking them for their support of the Burmese people and asking that they
6 continue urging Burma's neighbor China, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations
7 (ASEAN), and India to stand with the US and the UN in rejecting the regime's 2010 election
8 unless the regime makes necessary changes that would ensure credible, inclusive and
9 transparent elections; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Office of the Clerk of the Board shall send this
11 document to United Nations General Secretary Ban Ki-moon thanking him for supporting the
12 Burmese people and urging him to reach out to the Security Council Members and Burma's
13 neighbor China, ASEAN, and India to stand with the US and the UN in rejecting the regime's
14 2010 election unless the regime makes necessary changes that would ensure credible,
15 inclusive and transparent elections.

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