

1 [Resolution Urging Neighboring Nations and Major Investors to Defend Peaceful Pro-
2 Democracy Demonstrators in Burma]

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4 **Resolution Urging the Governments of China, India, Thailand, Korea, Japan, and of the**
5 **United States, as well as the Chevron and Daewoo Corporations to Take Action in**
6 **Defense of Peaceful Pro-Democracy Demonstrators in Burma.**

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8 WHEREAS, San Francisco is the birthplace of the United Nations; and

9 WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of all to speak out against oppression; and,

10 WHEREAS, On August 5, 2007 the Burmese government without warning raised fuel
11 prices by as much as 500 percent, thereby making it difficult for many Burmese people to
12 afford sufficient food; and,

13 WHEREAS, street protests against the military dictatorship of Burma and for
14 democracy began on Aug. 19, 2007, and when thousands of Buddhist monks and nuns took
15 to the streets beginning Sept. 18 and numbers swelled to many tens of thousands; now,
16 therefore, be it

17 WHEREAS, Starting on Sept. 26, the government of Burma has launched violent
18 repression of the demonstrations, arresting hundreds, killing an unknown number of people
19 estimated by diplomats to be in the dozens or more, cremating the victims' bodies and,
20 allegedly, persons still living, raiding Buddhist monasteries, beating and arresting more than
21 4,000 monks, imprisoning monks in their monasteries, and placing an estimated 20,000
22 soldiers in the streets of Rangoon; and

23 WHEREAS, Burma's closest trading partners, China, India and Thailand have been
24 slow to respond, China first calling the developments an "internal matter," and only after the
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1 initial crackdown urging “all parties” to exercise restraint. Thailand has refused to take action,
2 claiming it “lacks moral authority”, and India continues business as usual; and

3 WHEREAS, Daewoo Corporation of Korea made a giant gas discovery in Myanmar in
4 early 2004 and has recently entered into a production sharing contract with the Myanmar Oil
5 and Gas Enterprise (MOGE), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the military government. The
6 project is expected to become the regime's largest single source of revenue, providing, on
7 average, US\$580 million per year for the regime for twenty years, or a total of US\$ 12 billion;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, the Chevron corporation is one of the largest foreign investors in Burma
10 and is the only remaining major U.S. corporation with a significant presence there, and the
11 Chevron subsidiary Unocal has partnered with the Burmese military to provide security for its
12 pipeline and such partnership has resulted in allegations of horrific human rights abuses
13 including torture, rape, unlawful land seizures to remove villagers from areas slated for
14 development, and the military’s use of forced labor to facilitate the pipeline construction.
15 According to ILO estimates, more than 800,000 Burmese are currently conscripted in slave-
16 like conditions with little or no pay as army porters or workers in construction and agriculture.
17 Such allegations resulted in a lawsuit charging that the companies knew about and benefited
18 from the Burmese army’s human rights abuses. The lawsuits were settled after the
19 companies agreed to make large payments, but Chevron & Unocal continue to operate in
20 Burma; and

21 WHEREAS, Burma has been ruled by a repressive military dictatorship since a coup
22 d’état ended democratic governance in 1962. After holding free elections in 1990, the
23 government annulled those elections when it lost decisively; and the government continues to
24 hold more than 1,000 political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the party
25 that won the 1990 election; now, therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the government of
2 Burma to immediately cease the use of violence in suppression of nonviolent protests by its
3 citizens, cease the detention of political prisoners and release those currently held, cease the
4 harassment of those suspected of supporting the protests, and enter into sincere negotiations
5 with leaders of the movement for democracy and human rights in Burma; and, be it

6 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the Chevron
7 corporation and its subsidiary, Unocal, to withdraw immediately from all dealings with the
8 military government of Burma on the basis that not to do so is to be complicit in perpetuating
9 a brutal and amoral regime and the torture and murder of its citizens; and, be it

10 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City and County of San Francisco urges the citizens
11 of the City and County of San Francisco to speak up for the safety, human rights, and
12 freedom of the people of Burma by participating in letter-writing, vigils, demonstrations, and
13 other actions organized by such forces as the Burmese American Democratic Alliance SF,
14 Amnesty International, Avaaz.org, the US Campaign for Burma, the Berkeley-based Buddhist
15 Peace Fellowship, and the international organized-labor movement; and, be it

16 FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution shall be sent to the
17 governments of Burma, China, India, Thailand, Korea, Japan, and the United States, by way
18 of their Missions to the United Nations as well as to the Board of Directors of the Chevron and
19 Daewoo corporations.

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