

September 29, 2007



Betty Williams, Ireland - 1976
Máiread Corrigan Maguire, Ireland - 1976
Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Guatemala - 1992
Prof. Jody Williams, USA - 1997
Dr. Shirin Ebadi, Iran - 2003
Prof. Wangari Maathai, Kenya - 2004

united for peace with justice and equality

SISTER LAUREATES CALL FOR RELEASE OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI

We Nobel Peace Laureates of the Nobel Women's Initiative are uniting our voices today to call for the immediate release of our sister Nobel Laureate – Aung San Suu Kyi, imprisoned in Burma.

Leader of Burma's pro-democracy movement, Aung San Suu Kyi has spent almost 12 of the past 17 years under house arrest. In calling for her release, and the release of all political prisoners in Burma, we women Laureates are doing as Aung San Suu Kyi has asked of people everywhere: using our freedom to promote theirs.

We are horrified by the rising violence in Burma, and the attacks and arrests of peaceful protesters. We stand with all those who are non-violently exercising their political rights in Burma, and call for an immediate cessation of attacks by the military. An arms embargo is urgently needed.

We are deeply disappointed by the lack of action from the Security Council, particularly China. As a major backer of Burma's repressive regime and host of the 2008 Olympics, China in particular must not stand behind a regime that brutally suppresses its people. Instead, China must use its power to put a stop to the violence in Burma. Now is the time to test if 'One World, One Dream' - the Olympic slogan- applies to the people of Burma. We call on the international community to act now.

The UN Security Council should pass a strong resolution requiring an end to the violent response to the protests, national reconciliation, and an arms embargo against Burma. We urge people everywhere – everyone who stands for democracy, who stands for human rights – to stand up for the people of Burma. Join protests world-wide to stand up for the people of Burma.

Background Only 12 women in its more than 100 year history have been recognized with the Nobel Peace Prize. Of these, 7 women are still living. In 2006, sister Nobel Peace Laureates Jody Williams, Shirin Ebadi, Wangari Maathai, Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan Maguire united to form the Nobel Women's Initiative- a united effort for peace with justice and equality. Aung San Suu Kyi is the only woman laureate who is not free to join the group.