



Burmese Protests ~ Free Burma!

The Saffron Revolution in Burma

Anti-government protests began in Burma on August 15, 2007. The spark for the unrest was the decision of the ruling junta to increase the price on fuel dramatically. This then had a consequential effect on the cost of other things, like food. Although the hike of gas prices sparked the protests, they are based in deep-rooted dissatisfaction with the repressive military rule that has gripped the country since 1962.

"An injustice anywhere is an injustice everywhere."

~Samuel Johnson

More Fast Facts:

Approximately 100,000 protesters gathered in the streets of Yangon (also known as Rangoon).

Internet access in the country is currently blocked.

The term *saffron revolution* comes from the bright colors of the monk's robes.

The number of casualties is not yet clear. According to ABC, the military crackdown claimed hundreds of lives. The official toll remains at 13 killed, but the government likely lies about the numbers.

Effective September 26, the ruling junta imposed dusk-till-dawn curfews on the country's two largest cities of Yangon and Mandalay. Additionally, gatherings of more than five people were prohibited.

Thousands of heavily armed soldiers are reported to be patrolling the streets of Yangon. The troops are stopping pedestrians and car drivers and searching them for cameras.

China has used its veto power in the UN to protect the ruling military junta from a Security Council resolution, and China has declined to support the Burmese protesters. As a result, many people are calling for a **boycott of the Beijing Olympics next year**, and its sponsors. (China is also the leading supporter of Omar al-Bashir, the dictator of Sudan, who is committing genocide against the people of the Darfur region.)

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