

SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF BURMA

MAKE A GIFT

A MESSAGE FROM VEN. BHIKKHU BODHI Buddhist scholar-monk and author

The impassioned marches for democracy in Burma recently led by Burmese Buddhist monks called the world's attention to this neglected country where, for the past forty-five years, a harsh military junta has ruled with an iron hand. As a consequence of their rulers' isolationist policy, the Burmese people suffer not only from a brutal autocratic government but also from grinding poverty.

Earlier one of Asia's most prosperous and promising new nations, misguided rule over the past five decades has plunged Burma ever downwards to become one of the world's most destitute lands, where two-fifths of the population suffers from malnutrition, where health services are terribly inadequate, and where even well-educated people find each day a challenge just to meet the bare costs of survival.

The charities listed here all provide essential services to Burma. Each in its own way is attempting to ameliorate the immense suffering that daily haunts the lives of this country's citizens. Some of these charities provide economic and medical assistance to the Burmese people; others are intended to protect their human rights against the encroachments of an authoritarian regime. The list on the Just Give website includes brief explanations of the services each charity provides. Please arouse a heart of generosity and give to one or more of these worthy charities, out of compassion for the people of Burma, who are known to be so gentle and devout.

Amnesty International . Burma Border Projects . Doctors Without Borders (Medecins Sans Frontieres) . Earthrights International, Inc. . Foundation for the People of Burma . Friends of the World Food Programme . Human Rights Watch . International Campaign to Ban Landmines . Planet Care . Radio Free Asia . Refugee Relief International

To make a gift to one of these charities, go to www.justgive.org
Under "Charity Wish Lists," enter "Jennifer Wheeler"

A MESSAGE FROM VEN. THICH TRI HOANG Vietnamese Buddhist monk and teacher

As you know, the Burmese government has suppressed the peaceful struggle led by the Burmese sangha for the wellbeing of the Burmese people. In the past this Sangha contributed greatly to the independence of Burma. Now the Sangha has sided with the poor people to fight for a just society.

The country is very poor while a handful people in the government is very rich. Life gets harder each day. The Sangha shares that suffering with the people, therefore they have led the struggle to improve the living condition in Burma. Although demonstrations are now prohibited, the movement still continues.

As a friend in the Dharma we should show our compassion to our brothers and sisters in Burma, and find every means to save the monks and nuns and to support the Sangha there in their fighting for righteousness.



For additional resources on the situation in Burma, visit www.cloudbanner.com/Burma.html