



Women's League of Burma

HELP END IMPUNITY FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY IN BURMA.

The WLB calls on international support to prosecute General Than Shwe of Burma at the International Criminal Court.

A Long History of Grave Human Rights Violations

For over forty years the Burmese military regime has routinely employed **torture, rape, slavery, murder, and mass imprisonment** in order to silence any dissent within Burma and to maintain its power. Yet, the military junta has not been held accountable for these state-sponsored, widespread and systematic human rights violations.

In order to prevent systematic impunity from prevailing in Burma and to enforce the fundamental rights of the people of Burma, the UN Security Council must fulfill its obligation to maintain and restore international peace and security under Chapter VII of the UN Charter by referring the situation in Burma to the International Criminal Court.

Grounds for Referral

Articles 7 and 8 of the Rome Statute, the founding document of the ICC, prohibit many acts perpetrated by the SPDC, namely:

- Forced displacement;
- Extrajudicial killings;
- Sexual violence;
- The use of child soldiers; and
- Torture.

A UN Security Council referral would allow the ICC to investigate and prosecute General Than Shwe, who is responsible for these heinous crimes.

Rape as a Weapon of War

Crimes of sexual violence carried out by the military regime are part of a systematic strategy for destroying ethnic communities in Burma and constitute a threat to international peace and security. UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), and 1889 (2009) mandate criminal accountability for perpetrators of gender crimes in conflict situations.

Yet, despite its awareness that grave violations of international law and crimes of sexual violence are being carried out by the Burmese regime, the UN has failed take action to bring the perpetrators of these crimes to justice.

Promises of “never again” are not enough. It is time for the UN to take strong action on Burma. The WLB urges the international community to uphold its responsibility to protect innocent civilians by supporting the referral of Burma to the ICC.