



FREE BURMA'S POLITICAL PRISONERS NOW! CAMPAIGN UPDATE

April 26th – May 3rd 2009



Signature collection at the Burma VJ Screening in Brussels, Belgium

BURMA VJ FILM TAKES FESTIVALS BY STORM

Anders Østergaard's acclaimed documentary about the role of Democratic Voice of Burma's video journalists (VJs) during September 2007's Saffron Revolution has already won 18 awards at film festivals around the world. The documentary follows the story of 'Joshua', one of the Burma VJs, who co-ordinates the team inside Burma. After foreign media crews were banned from the country, it was up to people like Joshua and his team to keep the Saffron Revolution on TV screens all over the world. Some of those journalists are now political prisoners. The film opens in the United States on 20 May. For more information, click [here](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS CALL FOR THE RELEASE OF CYCLONE NARGIS VOLUNTEERS AAPP released a report highlighting the cases of 21 Cyclone Nargis volunteers who are still in prison, arrested for their efforts to help in the wake of the worst natural disaster in Burma's history. The 21 volunteers are currently facing up to 35 years in prison. Their activities included delivering aid, fundraising and gathering and burying dead bodies. "Their punishment is completely unacceptable. Their 'crimes' were to help people and tell the truth about the situation," said AAPP Secretary Tate Naing. AAPP, along with Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, called for their immediate release. Read more [here](#)

POLITICAL PRISONER NEWS THIS MONTH In AAPP's April report of political prisoner news, at least 15 activists were arrested, 7 were sentenced and 16 were transferred to remote prisons away from Rangoon. Several political prisoners are in bad health, including comedian Zarganar, sentenced to 59 years (reduced to 35 in February) for his role in co-ordinating Cyclone Nargis relief efforts. Zarganar has been suffering from liver problems, spondylitis, hypertension and heart disease. After losing consciousness for several hours on 16 April, he was finally allowed hospital treatment eleven days later on 27 April. Read more [here](#)

THAILAND: The Burmese migrant community in Southern Thailand has collected **15,962** signatures so far!

The Campaign video is available with English subtitles on the website. Click [here](#) to watch.

SIGNATURE COUNT: 286,024

Click [here](#) for latest media coverage of the campaign.

Click [here](#) to sign petition. The campaign has its own section on the [Avaaz](#) website. You can also sign at [Burma Campaign UK](#) and [US Campaign for Burma](#).