

democracy & security

PRAGUE, JUNE 5-6, 2007

FREEDOM PETITION

Today, we, the participants of the Democracy and Security conference, gathered here to promote freedom and democracy, wish to acknowledge a Nobel Laureate, who cannot join us. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has spent 11 of the last 17 years jailed for her belief in liberty and democracy. Many here have petitioned the regime to release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners in order to start a genuine process of irreversible national reconciliation. As is typical of tyrannical regimes, the military junta ruling Burma, responded to the pleas of 59 former heads of state, UN experts, the UN Secretary General as well as governments in their region, and elsewhere, by extending her unlawful jailing for another year.

We want to say this to the Burmese people and Daw Aung Aung Suu Kyi: You are not forgotten. History is on your side. Your noble and legitimate cause will emerge from the political darkness that surrounds you.

We are inspired by your courage. We pledge to continue to support your aspirations for freedom because we know that truth and justice are on your side. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "We shall overcome because the arc of the universe is long but it bends toward justice."

Prague, June 6, 2007

The petition was signed by Václav Havel, José María Aznar and Natan Sharansky and over 100 other conference participants.