

28 October 2005 British C

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Sem To Fernando,

I refer to your letter dated 19 October concerning Ma Su Su Nwe. I copied your letter to Victoria Bowman, who is the British Ambassador in Rangoon. I have now received a reply from her.

She raised Su Su Nwe's case when she met the Burmese Home Minister Maj-Gen Maung Oo yesterday, and called on the SPDC to refrain from harassing her and other human rights defenders in Burma. This was part of a world-wide lobbying exercise conducted by the EU on behalf of human rights defenders.

The UK Government and the EU is also likely to draw attention to the harassment and imprisonment of Su Su Nwe and others who have been involved in bringing complaints about forced labour to the ILO when the ILO Governing Body meets in November. We believe that such harassment is inconsistent with the SPDC's declared commitment to cooperate with the ILO.

We welcome the interest of the Asian Human Rights Commission in this case. I hope that they will also draw it to the attention of governments and lawmakers in the Asian region.

Stephen Bradley

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