[Urging our Federal Representatives to Denounce the Burmese Military Regime’s Illegitimate 2010 Election]

Resolution urging our Federal representatives to denounce the Burmese military regime’s illegitimate 2010 election and recognizing May, 27, 2010, as Burma Democracy Day in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the 1990 Elections.

WHEREAS, The City of San Francisco has a long history of supporting the democracy movement in Burma; and

WHEREAS, In response to the 1988 uprising, the military regime held elections in 1990, but when the National League for Democracy (NLD) won an overwhelming majority of votes, the regime arrested and imprisoned the democratically elected leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, the General Secretary of the NLD, who subsequently received the Nobel Peace Prize and the US Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of her courageous and unwavering commitment to peace, nonviolence, human rights, and democracy; and

WHEREAS, The regime refuses to abide by the results of the 1990 elections and has held Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest 15 of the last 20 years. In response, the US imposed sanctions by enacting the Burma Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003; and

WHEREAS, In August and September 2007, the people of Burma, led by Buddhist monks, took to the streets in peaceful demonstration to protest intolerable economic conditions resulting from a sudden 500% increase in fuel prices. The military regime killed hundreds of peaceful protesters and arrested, imprisoned, and tortured many thousands more including Buddhist monks. The violent actions taken against the peaceful protests were reported by Human Rights Watch (See December 2007 Report "Repression of the 2007 Popular Protest in Burma"), Amnesty International (See November 2007 briefing paper "No
Return to 'Normal"'), and the United Nations (UN) Special Rapporteur, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro,

based on numerous first-hand accounts by victims and eye-witnesses of: shootings, beatings,

and killings of protesters and monks, monasteries being raided, arbitrary detentions and

disappearances, torture, cruel and degrading treatment, and restraints on political activity and

access to the media; and

WHEREAS, On May 21, 2009, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton told senators at a

hearing that "If they (the generals) stay on the track they're on, their elections in 2010 will be
totally illegitimate and without any meaning in the international community;" and

WHEREAS, On April 2009, the NLD released the Shwegondaing Declaration, which
calls for the unconditional release of all political prisoners, review of a draft constitution,
recognition of the 1990 election results; and to establish a political dialog between the military,
the NLD and other stakeholders. However, in response, the military regime released the 2010
election law on March 9, 2010 which states that any political party with members in jail is
automatically disqualified. Given Burma's record of imprisoning dissidents, that makes political
participation for a legitimate opposition impossible. (429 members of Suu Kyi's party are
imprisoned.); and

WHEREAS, On March 9, 2010, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon urged the junta to
empty the jails of political dissident so that they can participate in the election. He also said
that "Without participation of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all key political prisoners, this
election will not be an inclusive one." He wrote to General Than Shwe "expressing my
concern about this lack of progress on democratic reforms, and emphasizing the importance
of ensuring this year's vote is most credible, inclusive and transparent"; and,

WHEREAS, On March 15, 2010, during the press conference at the UN headquarters
in Geneva, Thomas Ojea Quintana, UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma,
accused the Burmese military regime of systemic and gross violations of human rights and
called for an international commission of inquiry to look into serious cases of abuse, which he says entail crimes against humanity; and

WHEREAS, On March 10, 2010, at a briefing, US State Department spokesperson Philip J. Crowley told reporters "given the tenor of the election laws that they've put forward, there's no hope that this election will be credible." Crowley also added that, "The political party law makes a mockery of the democratic process and ensures that the upcoming elections will be devoid of credibility;" and

WHEREAS, Over 200 people attended the 10th Annual Burma Human Rights Day benefit on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at the Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalist Hall, organized by the Burmese American Democratic Alliance (BADA) and signed the BADA Burma Human Rights Day Statement denouncing the Burma's military regime for banning Aung San Suu Kyi and all political prisoners from participating in the election and calling for their immediate release; and

WHEREAS, On March 19, 2010, more than 150 pro-democracy organizations, including BADA, launched a global campaign on Burma's 2010 elections calling on the international community to denounce this election and refuse to recognize the results; and

WHEREAS, On March 29, 2010, Burma's main opposition party, the NLD, decided against registering for the general election; choosing to cease to exist as a legal entity, according to that law. U Win Tin, a founder of the NLD, stated, "For me, the decision was simple: No. We cannot expel Aung San Suu Kyi and others who are or have been imprisoned under this corrupt and unfair legal system. Without them, our party would be nothing. They are in prison because of their belief in democracy and the rule of law"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges our Federal representatives to denounce the Burmese military regime's 2010 illegitimate election and recognizing May, 27, 2010, as Burma Democracy Day in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the
Resolution urging our Federal representatives to denounce the Burmese military regime's illegitimate 2010 election and recognizing May 27, 2010, as Burma Democracy Day in honor of the 20th Anniversary of the 1990 Elections.

May 11, 2010 Board of Supervisors - AMENDED
Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Mar, Maxwell and Mirkarimi

May 11, 2010 Board of Supervisors - ADOPTED AS AMENDED
Ayes: 11 - Alioto-Pier, Avalos, Campos, Chiu, Chu, Daly, Dufty, Elsbernd, Mar, Maxwell and Mirkarimi

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was ADOPTED AS AMENDED on 5/11/2010 by the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco.

Angela Calvillo
Clerk of the Board

Mayor Gavin Newsom

5/21/2010 Date Approved