

PEN CANADA

for FREEDOM of EXPRESSION



The leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and writer was taken into "protective custody" following violent clashes between opposition and pro-government supporters on May 30, 2003. Aung San Suu Kyi sustained non-life threatening injuries during the demonstration. She is believed to have suffered cuts to the face and shoulder when the window of her car was shattered by a brick. Aung San Suu Kyi is thought to be held at a military camp just outside Yangon, and diplomats and United Nations officials have been denied access to her.

Suu Kyi was transferred to the Asia Royal Hospital in Yangon on September 17, 2003, and underwent a hysterectomy operation on September 19. She is thought to have made a good recovery.

Tensions between the military government and the opposition have intensified since the jailing on May 24, 2003, of ten NLD members. Most of the NLD's offices have been shut down and the government has ordered the indefinite closure of the country's universities and colleges. Aung San Suu Kyi was held under de facto house arrest for six years from July 1989 to July 1995, and again from September 2000 to May 2002. Suu Kyi was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in October 1991. She is the author of many books, including *Freedom from Fear*, *Letters from Burma* and *The Voice of Hope*.

PEN Canada considers Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to be detained in violation of Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We call upon the State Peace and Development Council to show its commitment to political dialogue in Myanmar by securing the immediate and unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all others detained in Myanmar for the peaceful expression of their views.

Please send appeals to:

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