



For immediate release – 7 August 2009

PRESS RELEASE

Burma: Launch of *Simmering Under Ashes*

ARTICLE 19 is marking tomorrow's anniversary of 8888 – the date that marks the violent suppression of demonstrators in Burma – by launching *Simmering Under Ashes*, a collection of essays, poems, stories and articles written by Burmese journalists, writers and ordinary people (see invitation below).

*“Published to commemorate both the 21st anniversary of the democracy protests of 8th of August 1988, and the 20th year since Aung San Suu Kyi was first imprisoned, *Simmering Under Ashes* celebrates the struggle for freedom in Burma against the military regime's repression and international complicity, ineffectiveness or indifference,”* says Dr Agnes Callamard, ARTICLE 19 Executive Director.

The publication, through a multitude of voices, uncovers the different shapes of repression in Burma: rape, imprisonment, torture, exile and displacement, and the abuse of the land. It reveals its many victims: democracy activists, women, minority communities and artists. It highlights the longing and desire for change and freedom for all its people.

“The contributions by recognised poets and writers, or anonymous Burmese people, tell us of the catastrophic human costs and absolute cruelty of their military regime. They also remind us all that we are all made the lesser by the continued denial of freedom to the people of Burma”

The publication will be launched on Saturday 8 August, at an event entitled *Burma: Between the Lines, a Celebration of Art and Survival* celebrating the ongoing resistance of Burmese writers, artists and activists and featuring Burmese food, performance art, photography, theatre and poetry.

The event and launch also aims to draw attention to the ongoing trial, and possible Tuesday verdict, of human rights defender Aung San Suu Kyi, ARTICLE 19's honorary board member. Aung San faces a possible sentence of five years, and the end of July marked 20 years since she was first imprisoned for calling for democratic reform.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- To attend Saturday's event, or for further information about *Simmering Under Ashes*, please contact Oliver Spencer, oliver@article19.org, +44-20 7324 2500
- *Simmering Under Ashes* is available in hardcopy and on ARTICLE 19's website at: www.article19.org/advocacy/campaigns/burma/simmering-under-ashes.html

- ARTICLE 19 is an independent human rights organisation that works around the world to protect and promote the right to freedom of expression. It takes its name from Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which guarantees free speech.

INDEX ON CENSORSHIP AND Article 19 PRESENT

BURMA: BETWEEN THE LINES A CELEBRATION OF ART AND SURVIVAL

**SATURDAY
AUGUST 8TH 2009
6.30PM**

**FREE WORD CENTRE
60 FARRINGTON ROAD
LONDON**

EC1R 3GA [view map](#)

FREE ENTRY

A programme of theatre, performance, poetry, film and photography celebrating the ongoing resistance and imagination of Burmese artists, writers and activists.

Numbers limited: to reserve your free place, email julia@indexoncensorship.org

THEATRE

'Seven years with hard labour' first UK performance of documentary play by iceandfire theatre co, featuring the stories of Htein Lin, Ko Aung, Nita May & Khun Saing.

PERFORMANCE

New performance by Htein Lin and friends

POETRY READINGS

Burma Anthology - Article 19 launches a new collection of poetry and writing, expressing the desire for change in their homeland. The Wolf poetry magazine launches a special feature on contemporary Burmese poetry with Hmya Ein, Manorhary and Phone Thet Paing

FILM

A short portrait of Zarganar based on footage filmed in 2007 by Rex Bloomstein

PHOTOGRAPHY

Burma: Darkness in the Golden Land - Dean Chapman
Ordinary Places: Extraordinary Lives - Enigma Images
Burma/UK - Martin Le Santo-Smith



INDEX
ON CENSORSHIP

XIX
ARTICLE 19

ice & fire

open

THE WOLF

The **co-operative**