

## ELECTION MONITOR NO. 48

**FOREIGN DIPLOMATS, UN REPRESENTATIVES, & JOURNALISTS INVITED TO STUDY VOTE CASTING AND COUNTING ON ELECTION DAY (7 NOVEMBER)**

Ambassadors to the Union of Myanmar, acting charges d' affaires a.i. and officials, resident representatives of UN agencies, members of the Myanmar Foreign Correspondents Club and editorial staff and reporters of local journals and magazines were invited to study the systematic casting of votes by eligible voters at polling stations in States and Regions including Nay Pyi Taw and the counting of votes in elections for respective the Hluttaws on 7 November 2010. Arrangements were made for a tour by the authorities.<sup>1</sup>

**UEC ISSUES ANNOUNCEMENTS ON REPRESENTATIVES-ELECT**

In separate announcements made by the various Regional and State Election Sub-commissions, the following candidates have been announced as elected-representatives to the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House), Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) and the Region/State Hluttaws respectively according to provisions under the various Election Laws. All these candidates were declared as elected-representatives by default since they were the sole candidates contesting in their respective constituencies.

**AMYOTHA HLUTTAW<sup>2</sup>**

No.	Name	Constituency	Party/Independent Candidate
1.	U Saw Aye Myaing	No.8 (Kayin State)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
2.	U Saw Mya Win	No.11 (Kayin State)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
3.	U Mahn Aung Tin Myint	No.12 (Kayin State)	Kayin State Democracy and Progressive Party
4.	U Kyar Maung (a) U Maung Kyar	No. 8 (Taninthayi Region)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
5.	U Than Myint	No.10 (Taninthayi Region)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
6.	U Nay Win Tun	No.9 (Shan State)	Pa-O National Organisation (PNO)
7.	U Tun Kyaw	No.10 (Shan State)	Taaung (Palaung) National Party
8.	U Hlyu Kwe Shi	No.11 (Shan State)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)

**PYITHU HLUTTAW<sup>3</sup>**

No.	Name	Constituency	Party/Independent Candidate
1.	U Than Oo	Myawady	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
2.	U Hsa Mu	Lahe	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
3.	U Soe Thein	Kyunsu	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
4.	U Khun Thein Pe	Hopong	Pa-O National Organisation (PNO)

<sup>1</sup> Foreign diplomats, UN representatives, journalists invited to study casting votes and counting of votes on November 7 elections - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-11-05.pdf> (NLM) 5 November 2010

<sup>2</sup> List of Amyotha Hluttaw representatives-elect announced - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-11-08.pdf> (NLM) 8 November 2010

<sup>3</sup> List of Pyithu Hluttaw representatives-elect announced - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-11-08.pdf> (NLM) 8 November 2010 (p. 11 & 16)

5.	U Win Ko	Hsihseng	Pa-O National Organisation (PNO)
6.	U Khun Maung Thaug	Pinlaung	Pa-O National Organisation (PNO)
7.	U Maung Maung Swe	Namsang	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
8.	U Aik Mone	Mangtung	Taaung (Palaung) National Party
9.	U Kyaw Ni Naing	Laukkaing	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
10.	U Kyan Tei Win (a) U Kyan Te Wan	Kongyan	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
11.	U Aye Pe	Cocogyun	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
12.	Dr.Nay Lin	Seikkan	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)

**REGION/STATE HLUTTAW<sup>4</sup>**

No.	Name	Constituency	Party/Independent Candidate
1.	U Khin Maung Oo (a) U Bu Yei	Bawlake (1)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
2.	U Saw Win Htein	Papun (1)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
3.	U Saw Hsa Law La	Kyain-seikkyi (2)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
4.	U Thein Tun Oo	Debayin (1)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
5.	U Sein Win Hlaing	Budalin (1)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
6.	U Tha Aye	Budalin (2)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
7.	U Ru San Kyu	Lahe (1)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
8.	U Wah Lo	Lahe (2)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
9.	U Thein Lwin	Kyunsu (1)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
10.	U Tin Soe	Kyunsu (2)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
11.	U Aung Hsan Lwin	Taninthayi (1)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
12.	U Thet Naing	Taninthayi (2)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
13.	U Nyan Win	Zigon (1)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
14.	U Sein Hlaing	Sedoktara (2)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
15.	U Than Aung	Thabeikkyin (1)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
16.	U Tin Tun	Thabeikkyin (2)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
17.	U Aung Naing	Cocogyun (1)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
18.	U San Lwin	Hopong (2)	Pa-O National Organisation (PNO)
19.	U Khun Aung Naing Oo	Pinlaung (2)	Pa-O National Organisation (PNO)
20.	U Maung Kyaw (a) U Tun Kyaw	Namsang (1)	Taaung (Palaung ) National Party
21.	U Aung Tun	Namsang (2)	Taaung (Palaung ) National Party
22.	U Mai Ohn Khaing	Mantung (1)	Taaung (Palaung ) National Party

<sup>4</sup> UEC issues Announcement on list of representatives-elect for Region or State Hluttaw - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-11-08.pdf> (NLM) 8 November 2010

23.	U Aik Kha	Mangtung (2)	Taaung (Palaung ) National Party
24.	U Khun Tun Lu (a) U Tun Lu	Hopan (1)	Wa Democratic Party
25.	U Sai Hla Pe	Hopan (2)	Wa Democratic Party
26.	U Pei Sauk Chein (a) U Bay Hsaw Chein	Laukkai (1)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
27.	U Myin Shaw Chan (a) U Myi Shauk Cha	Laukkai (2)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
28.	U Wai Shauk Yin	Kongyan (1)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
29.	U Kyauk Tei Chan	Kongyan (2)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
30.	U Khun Tun	Metmung (1)	Wa Democratic Party
31.	U Hsan Hsint	Yekyi (1)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
32.	U Thein Aung	Ingapu (1)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
33.	U Thein Tun	Laymyethna (2)	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
34.	U Ni Pun	Shwebo (1)	National Unity Party (NUP)
35.	U Sein Oo	Bamar national for Kayah State Hluttaw	Union Solidarity and Development Party(USDP)
36.	U Ko Ko Naing	Chin national for Rakhine State Hluttaw	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)
37.	U Ba Kyu	Rakhine national for Ayeyawaddy Region Hluttaw	Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP)

### MORE THAN 640,000 VOTERS IN NAY PYI TAW SAYS GOVERNMENT

Dr. Aung Than, chairman of Nay Pyi Taw district election sub-commission, announced at a meeting of officials from the Union Election Commission (UEC) and district, township and village-tract sub-commissions on 25 October that there are more than 640,000 eligible voters residing in the eight townships that make up Nay Pyi Taw district and that 541 polling booths would be set up on Election Day for the voters who reside in the capital. He added that including the 226 wards/villages, 1082 ballot boxes would be required on Election Day for the district and that the commission had already received 1090 ballot boxes.<sup>5</sup>

### ELECTORAL PROCESS CLARIFIED IN KUNGYANGON TOWNSHIP

Kungyangon Township sub-commission of Yangon Region held a meeting to clarify the electoral process for polling station officers at Kungyangon Township on 29 October. Township Sub-commission Chairman U Hla Win, other sub-commission members and township sub-commission secretary U Zaw Thein discussed the electoral rules and regulations and laws. The meeting was attended by over 400 polling station officers and ward/village-tract sub-commissions members.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> More than 640,000 voters in NPT, says government - <http://www.mmtimes.com/2010/news/547/news54714.html> (Myanmar Times) 1 November 2010

<sup>6</sup> Electoral work clarified in Kungyangon township - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-11-03.pdf> (NLM) 3 November 2010

## COORDINATION MEETING ON ELECTORAL PROCESS HELD IN YANGON SOUTH DISTRICT

A coordination meeting on the electoral process by Yangon South District sub-commission took place at Thanlyin on 1 November. Yangon Region Sub-commission Chairman discussed the electoral process, Chairman U Myat Soe of Yangon South District Sub-commission explained the preparations for the elections in the townships, and the township sub-commission chairmen submitted their reports, which were reviewed by the Yangon Region Sub-commission chairman and officials.<sup>7</sup>

## ANALYSIS

Early indications of the 7 November elections show the junta-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) gaining the upper-hand as expected. Party spokesmen have even claimed on 9 November that they have won 80% of the seats<sup>8</sup>, although the vote-counting process is still on-going in some states and regions.

While some opposition and ethnic national parties did seem to have won in many constituencies, these victories have been overturned. This apparently happened when 'advanced votes' were taken into account. There is no scrutiny over the 'advanced votes' and there does not seem to be any oversight mechanism on how they are used by the election commission. The use of 'advanced votes' is massive and widespread. Candidates who lost to 'advanced votes' are lodging complaints and are considering calling for a review of the 'advanced votes' and possibly annulling them.

In one constituency, the SNDP candidate got over 20,000 votes and it was clear that he had beaten his military-backed USDP candidate when the votes were counted at the polling station. When the election commission took into account 'advanced votes', the USDP candidate won with 43,641 votes including 10,140 advanced votes. The SNDP candidate reportedly only got 271 advanced votes<sup>9</sup>.

Reports of intimidation, irregular advanced voting, forced voting, ballot stuffing, obstruction of opposition supporters and fraud were rampant. A letter from the election authorities instructing the township election commission to make sure that the opposition candidate loses was reportedly found in one township. Many are disappointed that in spite of all the unfair practices adopted by the SPDC in the run up to the elections, the military still felt the need to cheat with 'advance votes'.

This is certainly not in line with what the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon expects of the junta. According to a UN spokesman, *"Ban believes that the Burmese authorities... have a responsibility to demonstrate that the ballot is part of a credible transition..."*<sup>10</sup>

China seems to be more positive about the elections. An article in The Global Times lectured the West for mocking the elections and encouraged the Chinese government to protect Myanmar from Western isolation. It said *'the West should encourage Myanmar to progress towards democracy'*.<sup>11</sup> Liaowang News reported that the PLA had been put on high alert on the Burma border after the fighting with the Karen started. It warned the Myanmar military not to launch a large scale attack, saying that if the Myanmar military enters into a war now, it will be digging its own grave<sup>12</sup>.

ASEAN was also positive, issuing a statement embracing the elections and welcoming them as a significant step forward in the implementation of the 7-point Roadmap for Democracy.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Coordination meeting on electoral works held in Yangon South district - <http://www.burmalibrary.org/docs09/NLM2010-11-03.pdf> (NLM) 3 November 2010

<sup>8</sup> USDP wins '80 percent of seats' - <http://tiny.cc/9eemd> - (DVB) 9 November 2010

<sup>9</sup> Lions beat white tigers with advance votes in Lashio - <http://tiny.cc/szb52> - (SHAN) 9 November 2010

<sup>10</sup> Ban calls on Junta to Commit to New Beginning - [http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art\\_id=20008](http://www.irrawaddy.org/article.php?art_id=20008) - (Irrawaddy) 9 November 2010

<sup>11</sup> <http://news.qq.com/a/20101109/000694.htm>

<sup>12</sup> <http://lwgcw.com/NewsShow.aspx?newsId=15895>

<sup>13</sup> Statement by the Chair of ASEAN on the 7th November General Elections in Myanmar - [http://asean2010.vn/asean\\_en/news/36/2DAA2B/](http://asean2010.vn/asean_en/news/36/2DAA2B/) - 8 November 2010

India is less optimistic about the elections, but is hopeful that some provisions in the 2008 constitution and the new administrative set up may provide opportunities for change.<sup>14</sup>

The European Union regretted that the authorities had not taken *'the necessary steps to ensure a free, fair and inclusive electoral process'*, however it acknowledged the decisions of the opposition parties who chose not to participate, as well as of the parties, including ethnic groups, who did participate, *'hoping that this could represent an opportunity for change'*, also noting that *'civil society could partially organise itself politically, notwithstanding the many difficulties'*.<sup>15</sup>

The US has said that the elections *'were neither free nor fair... nor legitimate...'*<sup>16</sup> This was echoed by Canada and Australia. Canada also expressed concern about the renewed violence in the border areas.<sup>17</sup>

Renewed fighting between SPDC troops and Karen forces on the Thai-Burmese border reminded everyone that the elections will not resolve Burma's longstanding ethnic problem.

Whatever, the outcome of the elections, the ethnic problem still needs to be resolved. It remains to be seen whether the Burmese military will heed China's warning and enter into negotiations, or resort to an all out war.

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<sup>14</sup> Myanmar: The November 2010 Elections, Udai Bhanu Singh, Institute for Defence Studies & Analysis, New Delhi, 8 November 2010 ([http://www.idsa.in/system/files/IB\\_MyanmarElection2010.pdf](http://www.idsa.in/system/files/IB_MyanmarElection2010.pdf))

<sup>15</sup> Declaration by the High Representative Catherine Ashton on behalf of the European Union on the elections in Burma/Myanmar - [http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/117548.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/cfsp/117548.pdf) - 7 November 2010

<sup>16</sup> Statement by President Obama on Burma's November 7 Elections - <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/11/07/statement-president-obama-burmas-november-7-elections> - 7 November 2010

<sup>17</sup> Minister Cannon Expresses Concern over Burmese Elections - <http://tiny.cc/rc77i> - 8 November 2010