



## **FREEDOM WRIT LARGE** **English PEN Open letter to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi**

London  
25 October 2007

Dear Daw Aung San Suu Kyi,

Today was your 4,381st day under house arrest in a run down villa in Rangoon. 4,381 days without unauthorised phone calls or visitors, with your post intercepted and under constant surveillance from one of the most brutal regimes in the world.

Over the years, you have suffered repeated arrest, harassment and isolation from friends and family in your steady and dignified campaign to bring democracy to your beloved country. In May 2007, the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention declared you to be detained illegally by the military junta. In September, the focus of the world returned to Burma during the recent demonstrations and the crackdown by the military junta. The world watched horrified as peaceful protesters were driven from the streets by acts of violent repression. Today, following your meeting with Mr Gambari, you are speaking with former general Aung Kyi in the hope that your gaolers, the junta, are capable of constructive dialogue.

Our message to you today is simply this: we are with you.

PEN campaigns for the freedom of imprisoned and persecuted writers around the globe. In your courage, you have become one of the figureheads for this worldwide struggle for freedom of expression and association. You are joined in this struggle by the hundreds of men and women imprisoned in your own country, many of them writers as well as activists, such as the renowned journalist U Win Tin, now 77, or the historian of Burma's student movement, Ko Aung Tun.

We call on the Burmese generals to immediately release you and your fellow imprisoned writers and demonstrators. We call on neighbouring countries to oppose State repression of human rights in Burma. We call for your voice to once again be heard.

Yours in solidarity,

Harold Pinter  
Antonia Fraser  
Tom Stoppard  
Claire Tomalin  
Blake Morrison  
Alan Hollinghurst  
Lynne Reid Banks

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