

ter of Canadian Friends of Burma that "When the spiders unite, they can tie down lion". So let us be united and let us work together in perseverance. Democracy will prevail in Burma.

CHRISTINE HARMSTON

- Coordinator, Canadian Friends of Burma

CFOB's current activities:

The "dirty clothes" campaign. Canada is importing million dollars worth of clothes from Burma and one sixth of the profits goes directly to help SLORC. There needs to be a complete ban on imports of clothing but the World Trade Organization hinders this as both Canada and Burma are signatories and have agreed to a certain import quota. However, immediate action can still be taken through consumer pressure, for example, telling store owners to stop sourcing clothes "Made in Myanmar" and launching grassroots campaigns to raise public awareness and put pressure on the retailing industry. It goes without saying that CFOB maintains a strong campaign against all investments in Burma, which is predominantly in the mining sector, and has begun research into Canadian laws to find ways to push for investment sanctions on Burma.

Heroin creates another link between Canada and Burma. Our message to those concerned about the effects of heroin in Canada is to get involved in the pro-democracy movement and help bring about political change in that country.

CFOB has been funding small relief projects on the Thai-Burma border such as programs coordinated by Dr. Cynthia. We should be pleased that the Canadian government immediately came through with \$25,000 for emergency relief after the cross-border attack on Huay Kaloke refugee camp by the Burmese army.

A lot of good fund-raising efforts derive from students and their activities. CFOB tries to connect student fund-raising activities with humanitarian relief work on the border as a means to facilitate strong connections with the movement. CFOB now has a website (www.web.net/~cfob).

Please give comments and constructive criticism to improve it. CFOB also greatly welcomes articles for our quarterly newsletter Burma Links.

CFOB continues to maintain good dialogue with the Department of Foreign Affairs. The Canada-Burma network has Minister Axworthy's interest and he wants creative ideas and opportunities to carve out a unique role for Canada in supporting the movement- a value added effort and not one that is repetitive of many other countries. We should push for Canada to become a leader at the multilateral level and coordinate efforts to support the struggle.

Where are we going? This conference is all about finding new strategies and action plans for the coming months.

Here are some suggestions:

Urge for a parliamentary envoy to visit the region. Visit the Thai-Burma border and New Delhi. Do we want the envoy to also go to Rangoon and try and see Aung San Suu Kyi?

Create an Urgent Response Mechanism. A fast and effective communication mechanism is needed to have our network respond to crises such as when a company is about to invest in Burma. We would be able to use the mechanism to call for a flurry of letters to be sent to the company and demand that they not go in. At the same time, if a company has withdrawn, the mechanism can be used to congratulate the company.

Organize a national/international day of action on Burma. Suggested date of Sept. 18th as it marks to the 10th year of the current regime coming to power. Have Burma activists across the country and/or around the world do an action on that day and make a specific demand on our respective governments.

The level of activism and commitment across Canada has grown immensely over the years and our concerted efforts have resulted in a good deal of progressive outcomes from government and civil society. Let us maintain that momentum and continue to challenge whatever blocks our path to achieving freedom in Burma.