

## Workshop #3

### Canadian campaigns - what are the next steps?:

***How can we strengthen the Canadian network to become more effective in our campaigns and what should be our main campaigns for this year?***

#### *Recommendations:*

##### 1) National awareness-raising campaign

- Begin the campaign on August 8 to commemorate 8/8/88 in which thousands of people were massacred during peaceful pro-democracy demonstrations and end on September 18 which marks the tenth year of rule by the current regime. **Each participating group should remind the public that the killings and oppression have gone on for almost half a century and not just over the past ten years.**
- Due to the disadvantageous time of year to begin such a campaign, each participating group can do as many or as few actions throughout the forty days as they wished, depending on resources and availability of people.
- Activities can include demonstrations, information tables, letter-writing campaigns, cultural nights etc. and the themes of the actions will be left up to the discretion of each group - it does not have to be a one-slogan campaign. CFOB staff will be responsible for providing materials and videos to those who require it and coordinate the overall campaign, including media coverage.
- On September 18<sup>th</sup>, in order to make it a truly "national day of action", each participating group will do a public event in their respective areas. Broad approval was given that the demand on this day be for the Canadian government to take the lead in pushing for United Nations sanctions on Burma. (The issue of sanctions and its surrounding controversies were discussed. It was decided that each participating group should remind the public that Aung San Suu Kyi and the democratic forces have called for sanctions to be imposed on their own country and that since the military

regime opened up the economy in 1988, oppression and human rights abuses worsened).

Groups could put this appeal in any materials that are published for public distribution.

Participants suggested that each group get other locally-based organizations involved throughout the time period, such as the Council of Canadians, Citizens for Public Justice, the anti-Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) groups, National Action Committee on the Status of Women and local refugee-sponsorship groups etc. Activists could ask to speak at local organizations' annual general meetings to highlight the campaign and gather support.

Groups could make giant "Boycott Made in Myanmar" labels and use it as their logo to make the campaign recognizable to passers-by.

Suggested themes to adopt over the forty days:

- Honour 1990 election results
- Call for tripartite dialogue
- Call for full investment sanctions by Canada - focus on Canadian mining companies in Burma
- Open Burma's universities and colleges
- Congratulating companies which have withdrawn from Burma
- De-seat SLORC from UN
- Release political prisoners Links between SLORC, drug trade and Canada
- Stop imports of "Made in Myanmar" clothing
- Highlight SLORC's use of forced labour and other human rights atrocities
- Highlight student prisoners in Thailand and forced repatriation of migrant workers
- Implement UN resolutions on Burma