

Draft Press Release for Local Media

“Local Event One of Hundreds Planned Around the World to Support World’s Only Imprisoned Nobel Peace Prize Recipient on [date of event]”

(Your City Name, Your State, Your Country) - Local resident [your name] is planning one of hundreds of events throughout the world on [date of event] to call for action to free the world’s only incarcerated Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been held under house arrest in the Southeast Asian Country of Burma for 13 of the last 19 years. [Your name] will be placing [himself/herself] under house arrest at home in [your town] for 24 hours in solidarity with Aung San Suu Kyi. [Your name] will also invite friends, family, and members of the community to a celebration of Aung San Suu Kyi’s commitment and to raise awareness about ongoing human rights abuses, and war crimes in Burma.

During a portion of the event, from [time and duration of your party], [your name] will serve Burmese food and drinks and screen a documentary about Aung San Suu Kyi and the situation in Burma. Attendees will be asked to send letters to the UN Security Council urging the Council to refer Burma to the International Criminal Court. Aung San Suu Kyi, known to many as “Asia’s Nelson Mandela”, leads the struggle for human rights and democracy under one of the world’s most brutal military regimes. The United Nations, the United States government, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other groups have condemned the military junta for its horrific human rights abuses. The junta has forcibly conscripted more child soldiers than any other country in the world (approximately 70,000) and carried out an ethnic cleansing campaign that has led to the destruction of more than 3,300 villages of ethnic minorities leaving more than half a million displaced people struggling to survive in the jungle and more than one million refugees fleeing the country.

Aung San Suu Kyi has won numerous international awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize, Sakharov Prize from the European Parliament, United States Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Jawaharlal Nehru Award from India. She has called on people around the world to join the struggle for freedom in Burma, saying, "Please use your liberty to promote ours."

Grassroots citizens are pressuring the United States government to lead an effort for the United Nations Security Council to refer Burma to the International Criminal Court to end the impunity that Burma’s ruling generals have enjoyed for far too long.

Many celebrities, including musicians U2 and R.E.M. are also calling for Aung San Suu Kyi’s release. To attend the event, call [your number] or send an email to [your email]. Photos of Aung San Suu Kyi are available.

uscampaignforburma.org