

NOT ON OUR WATCH
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Leading Voices—Clooney, McCain, Bono, Tutu—Call for Release of Burmese Leader Aung San Suu Kyi

**Not On Our Watch unites politicians, entertainers, artists in support of
incarcerated Burmese freedom fighter**

(NEW YORK, NY – May 15, 2009) As the ruling Burmese military junta attempts to prolong the unlawful imprisonment of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, Not On Our Watch, the international advocacy and aid organization, has united preeminent voices from across the cultural, political, and social spheres in a call to the international community and the United Nations to press for the release of the Burmese freedom fighter.

“Nineteen years ago, the Burmese people chose Aung San Suu Kyi to be their next leader. And for most of those 19 years she has been kept under house arrest by the military junta that now runs the country. She is the world’s only incarcerated Nobel Peace Prize Laureate.

Yesterday Suu Kyi was taken to Burma’s Insein prison to face criminal charges as part of a concerted plan to deny her freedom.

*We must not stand by as she is silenced once again. Now is the time for the United Nations and the entire international community to speak clearly, and with one voice: **Free Aung San Suu Kyi.**”*

Endorsed by **George Clooney**, signatories to the statement also include **Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Bono, Madonna, Steven Spielberg**, Nobel Laureates **Professor Elie Wiesel** and **Archbishop Desmond Tutu**, Former Secretary of State **Madeleine Albright**, and **Senator John McCain**, among others.

The head of Burma’s leading opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), Aung San Suu Kyi was first placed under house arrest 19 years ago. Following nationwide elections in 1990 in which the NLD won 82 percent of the vote, the ruling Burmese military junta extended Suu Kyi’s imprisonment and refused to recognize the results. For 13 of the past 19 years, she has been under house arrest in the Burmese capital of Rangoon. The UN has declared that her incarceration not only “violates international law but also national domestic laws of Myanmar [Burma].”

Originally scheduled to be released at the end of May 2009, a bizarre turn of events has thrown Suu Kyi’s future into doubt. Earlier this month, an American unlawfully swam to her compound, staying there for two nights against Suu Kyi’s wishes. Upon the discovery of this visit, Burmese authorities arrested the intruder, and on May 14, took Suu Kyi to the Insein prison to face criminal charges aimed at further extending her incarceration. They have declared that she will stand trial on May 18.

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FREE AUNG SAN SUU KYI

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In support,

George Clooney
Sec. Madeleine Albright
Wes Anderson
Bono
Matthew Broderick
Sandra Bullock
James Carville
Anderson Cooper
Daniel Craig
John Cusack
Matt Damon
Robert De Niro
Jake Gyllenhaal
Václav Havel
Helen Hunt
Anjelica Huston
Scarlett Johansson
Nicole Kidman
Ashton Kutcher
Norman Lear
Madonna
Mary Matalin
Sen. John & Cindy McCain
Rose McGowan
Orhan Pamuk
Sarah Jessica Parker
Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro

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Brad Pitt
Julia Roberts
Robert Rodriguez
Salman Rushdie
Meg Ryan
George Soros
Steven Spielberg
Archbishop Desmond Tutu
Prof. Elie Wiesel
Owen Wilson

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