



# Amnesty International

**Orange County**

GROUP 141 **ORANGE** • GROUP 175 **LONG BEACH**  
GROUP 178 **IRVINE** • GROUP 596 **HUNTINGTON BEACH**

August 2003

## Myanmar: Amnesty Calls for Independent Investigation of Violent Attack Against Aung San Suu Kyi and Supporters

*This article is taken from a July 29 AIUSA press release.*

In a report released July 29, Amnesty International called on the Myanmar government to permit an independent investigation into the physical attack that occurred exactly two months ago against National League for Democracy (NLD) leaders, and to prosecute those responsible. The report, presented to Myanmar government officials, calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, NLD General Secretary, U Tin Oo, NLD Vice-Chairman, and all other NLD members and supporters arrested for peacefully expressing their political views. The report also calls on officials to clarify the whereabouts of those who are missing or have been in detention since the May 30 attack.

"The Myanmar government's stranglehold on political opposition was crudely put on display by the recent violent attack against National League for Democracy members," said T. Kumar, Asia Advocacy Director for Amnesty International USA. "Amnesty International welcomes the US government's condemnation of the attack and arrests, and calls on US officials to urge Yangon to permit an independent, impartial, and prompt investigation into the physical attack and bring those responsible to justice."

In the new report, *Justice on Trial*, Amnesty International outlines its concerns about the administration of justice in Myanmar, highlighting correspondence between the human rights organization and the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), Myanmar's military government. Major concerns include: arrest and pre-trial detention; torture and ill-treatment; trials of political prisoners; laws in force relating to human rights; prison conditions; and mechanisms for the investigation of human rights violations. The report also provides detailed recommendations to the government about justice system reform.

"The attacks against the NLD send an urgent message that impunity must end in Myanmar," said Kumar. "The justice system must be significantly reformed for the people of Myanmar to enjoy even basic human rights protections."

An unknown number of people are still detained or missing in the aftermath of the May 30 attack, although—in a welcome development—the SPDC announced on July 23 that 91 people arrested in the May 30 violence had been released. However, more than 1,300 political prisoners remain in Myanmar's prison system, sentenced in trials that fall short of international fair trial standards by laws that effectively criminalize

the right to freedom of expression.

In the interest of finding a solution to the human rights crisis in Myanmar, Amnesty International supports the work of Ambassador Razali Ismail, the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy, and Professor Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, the UN Special Rapporteur on Myanmar. It urges the SPDC to cooperate fully with them in the fulfillment of their mandates.

For the full text of the report, please go to: [web.amnesty.org/library/index/engasa160192003](http://web.amnesty.org/library/index/engasa160192003).

### New Orange Group Meeting Location

Beginning with its September meeting, the Orange Group will be meeting at the Episcopal Church of the Messiah in downtown Santa Ana. The church is on the corner of Main Street and Civic Center Drive. Parking is on Bush Street and in the Helping Hands day care center parking lot. We will meet in one of the downstairs classrooms—enter through the wrought iron gate and pass through the garden.

The Orange Group #141 meets the third Tuesday of each month.

### Orange County Amnesty Picnic

The Orange Group is holding its annual summer picnic in the park this month on Saturday, August 16, 11:00 AM–2:00 PM, at Hart Park in Orange. This year the picnic will be a potluck. In order to facilitate proper eating according to the new USDA pyramid, we're asking that you RSVP to Deidre at [deidrejaxn@earthlink.net](mailto:deidrejaxn@earthlink.net) or Kevin at [xhuskr@aol.com](mailto:xhuskr@aol.com) with your dish of choice. This will also give us a more accurate idea of how many people will be showing up. Kevin and Deidre will provide plates, cups, and plastic utensils.

All members from other AI groups are welcome and encouraged to attend!

Hart Park is located between Glassell Street and Cambridge Street directly north of the 22 Garden Grove Freeway in Orange. See the map on the back of this newsletter. The Santa Ana River runs through the park. We will be at the east end of the park where the picnic tables are spread out (near the parking area). Look for our banner. If you need further directions, please email Deidre or Kevin for directions.

# Calendar

## August

16 Saturday 7:00 PM

**Orange County Amnesty Picnic** at Hart Park between Glassell Street and Cambridge Street north of the 22 Garden Grove Freeway in Orange. Everyone is invited! Bring a dish to pass. For further information about the Orange Group, contact Deidre Jackson at (562) 430-7381.

25 Monday 7:00 PM

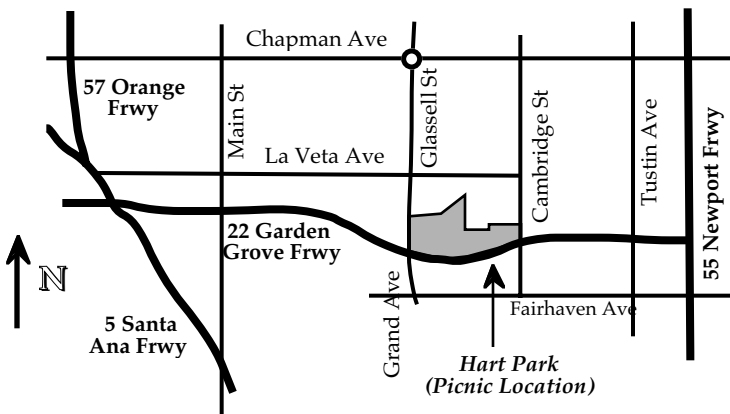
**Group #596 Huntington Beach Meeting** at Saints Simon and Jude Church, Room 7A, 20444 Magnolia Street in Huntington Beach. Group #596 meets the last Monday of each month. For further information about the group, contact Darcie Guy at (949) 650-5375.

26 Tuesday 7:00 PM

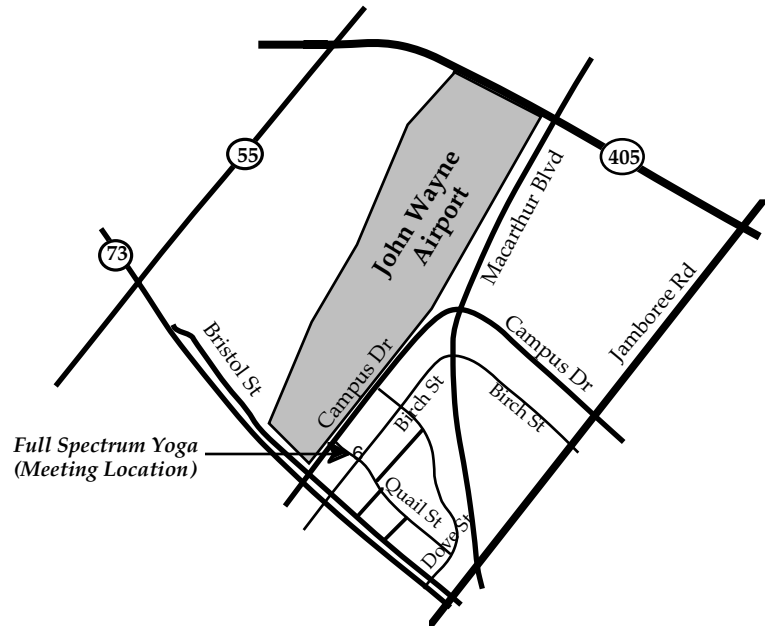
**Group #175 Long Beach Monthly Meeting** at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5450 Atherton Street, Long Beach. Letter-writing from 7:00–7:30. Group #175 meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. For further information about the group, contact Bobbi Kendig at (562) 420-1155.

26 Tuesday 7:30 PM

**Group #178 Irvine Monthly Meeting** at Full Spectrum Yoga, 2018 Quail Street, Newport Beach (across from John Wayne Airport). Group #178 meets the last Tuesday of each month. For more information about the group, contact Jacques Kilchoër at (714) 557-8427.



Orange County Picnic Location



Group #178 Irvine Meeting Location

AmnestyInternational  
Post Office Box 16243  
Irvine, California 92623-6243