

LAWASIA
THE LAW ASSOCIATION FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Founded in 1966

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LAWASIA CONDEMNS AUNG SAN SUU KYI DECISION

LAWASIA, the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific records its concern at the outcome of the recent trial of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi where she was sentenced to a further 18 months house arrest on charges of violating state security laws in Myanmar.

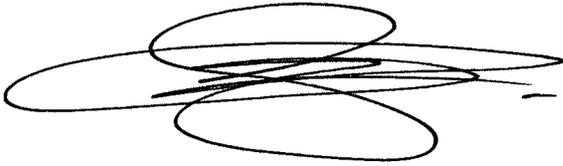
It notes in this context, the statement of United Nations human rights experts, including Vice Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on arbitrary detention, El Hadji Malick Sow, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Frank La Rue Lewy, Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders, Margaret Sekaggya and Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Tomas Ojea Quintana.

These UN experts have indicated their view that not only was the holding of the trial unlawful and the charges spurious but that there were numerous reports of irregularities in the way it was conducted.

The United Nations team has referred specifically to a lack of independence in the courts, the revocation of the licence of one of the lawyers on the defence team, limited access for Aung San Suu Kyi to her legal representatives and a refusal to hear all available defence witnesses as matters of particular concern in the conduct of the trial.

LAWASIA regards the extension of Aung San Suu Kyi's already lengthy incarceration in such circumstances to be unjust, unwarranted and an attempt to use the courts to further suppress opposition to the current military regime in Myanmar. LAWASIA understands the decision will go to appeal and calls on the Myanmar

courts to assert their independence and to provide accepted international standards to ensure fair and just conditions in which the appeal can be heard.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and horizontal strokes, positioned below the text.

Glenn Ferguson

PRESIDENT

13 August 2009