

To the Honourable speaker and members of the House of Representatives

This petition of Australian citizens who support democracy in Burma draws to the attention of the House the upcoming election in Burma.

The election has been condemned globally as an attempt to entrench and legitimise military rule. The constitution and election laws contain a number of undemocratic measures, including the effective military veto over decisions made by the new Parliament and Government.

Over 2,100 political prisoners, including Aung San Suu Kyi, remain detained for their political beliefs; political parties are not free to campaign in a democratic manner; and the election date remains unknown.

All major political parties in Australia have expressed concern about these elections and the Australian Senate unanimously passed a motion calling on the Australian Government to refuse to endorse the outcomes of the election unless the political climate in Burma improves. It is clear that nothing has changed.

The United Nations Security Council, General Assembly, Secretary General and Human Rights Council have all stated the solution to the problems in Burma lies in dialogue between the dictatorship, the National League for Democracy and ethnic representatives.

We therefore ask the House to clearly state that Australia cannot recognise the election in Burma as either credible or legitimate unless the following benchmarks are met in advance:

- All political prisoners are unconditionally released;
- All political stakeholders participate in a transparent review of the 2008 constitution; and
- Restrictions preventing candidates from campaigning freely are lifted.