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Statement by Ambassador Susan E. Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative, on Aung San Suu Kyi of Burma

I am deeply concerned about Aung San Suu Kyi's current situation and the new charges being levied against her for supposedly violating the terms of her house arrest.

Aung San Suu Kyi has been under illegitimate house arrest for more than thirteen of the nineteen years since her party was overwhelmingly elected by the people of Burma to lead their country. Her current period of detention is due to expire on May 27. The Burmese authorities must not use the current situation as a pretext to extend her detainment.

The U.S. Government calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Aung San Suu Kyi and the more than 2,100 other political prisoners currently held by the Burmese regime.

We stand in solidarity with all those who struggle for the cause of democracy and freedom in Burma, and we strongly urge progress towards a democratic Burma that respects the rights of all of its citizens.

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