



DEAR FRIENDS,

At the last One World festival the film *Burma VJ* had a fantastic reception on the part of the spectators. The film filled many times halls in Prague and another twenty-eight festival towns and won the Václav Havel Special Award for a film that contributed in an exceptional manner to the protection of human rights. After watching the film many viewers asked us what they could do for Burma. They asked again after the Burmese military junta put on trial Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Burma is a country where more than 2,100 political prisoners languish behind bars, where one of the most oppressive regimes has been ruling for more than forty years and where the longest civil war in the world has been going on for more than forty years. At the same time, Burma is one of the most enchanting countries of the world with unbelievably charming people and everyone who has visited it fell in love with it. People in Need has operated in Burma for four years, helping people persecuted by the regime. A considerable part of aid comes from the resources of Club of Friends of People in Need.

With this in mind we thought of something simple but quite effective, as we believe: To offer people that the film appeals to and want to do something for Burma an opportunity to **organise by themselves a screening of the film *Burma VJ*** for their friends, to discuss with them the situation in Burma and **help us raise more aid through Club of Friends of People in Need.**

If you are interested **we will send you a free DVD with the documentary film *Burma VJ***. It will be then up to you to invite your friends or people from your neighbourhood, screen the film and discuss Burma. In addition to the DVD we will provide you with **instructions for conducting the debate and basic information on Burma**, so that you can prepare for the debate.

You can screen the film anywhere – at home, school or university, your local club or favourite restaurant, at work, in church, in a garden, wherever you can attract spectators. We would only ask you (and this is an important notice) not to put the film on the Internet and not to sell tickets for the screenings. This would be a serious breach of copyright and an expression of ingratitude for the filmmakers and producers who invested much effort and money in making the film and who were willing to grant us the rights for the free distribution of the DVD.

We would also ask you to tell your friends after the screening of the film and the debate **how they can help people in Burma through Club of Friends of People in Need**. We don't want to force the people to whom you screen the film to contribute to us at any price. It suffices if they show interest in the film and in Burma and attend your screening. If among the people for whom you have organised a screening there are some interested and able to make a contribution for the operations of People in Need through Club of Friends, we will be grateful. We will hand over the aid in Burma to families of political prisoners, defenders of human rights, local reporters operating in secrecy, and small civic initiatives. You will see in the enclosure how we help in Burma and how the Club of Friends of People in Need works.

Of course, you can offer to your friends after the screening the DVD so that they organise further screenings or ask them to get in touch with us with a request for the DVD. We would only ask you not to make pirate copies. It would be a breach of our agreement with the film producers.

Let us know when and where your screenings took place, how many people attended and what the outcome was. We will collect the responses and count the screenings and viewers and inform about them. Register also with Facebook to share with other people your experiences from the screenings and the responses to the film.

We hope you will share with us the first film experiment ever in the Czech Republic.

What we can do together:

- We can let people in our neighbourhood watch a very powerful documentary film, which will inspire them to do something together with us for Burma.
- We can create a chain series of film screenings and substantially increase the number of people who know what is happening in Burma.
- We can substantially increase the number of people who are connected to the Burmese social network and who can take part in different events in support of Burma we prepare.
- We can inspire with what we do in the Czech Republic colleagues in other countries.
- We can give people in Burma strength and awareness that they are not forgotten. They will find out about our actions through the exile media and this will strengthen them. Solidarity with people in need is not forgotten and help overcome bad moments. At the same time, it enriches us.
- We can jointly gather on the account of Club of Friends of People in Need money that we will then get to Burma to help families of political prisoners and people facing the brutality of the military regime despite great risks for themselves and their families.
- We can further stiffen the position of Czech foreign policy on Burma to help the Burmese democratic movement.
- We can endeavour to influence European and world politics.

Thank you in advance for your support. I look forward to your responses from the screenings,

Igor Blažević
Director of Festival One World

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