

Five people who were artists and activists lead the Burma Affair talks regarding the current political situation, civil unrest, and the democracy restoration movement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Burma at Freedom and Art show, Beacon Art Gallery in New York on Feb 14.

Former News Week director and journalist Ms. Maura Stephens, Burma study and artist Dr. Daw Kyi May Kaung, photographer Ms. Stactie Freudenberg, documentary director and poet Mr. Jeffery Hellman, and one of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's former security personnel & 88 Generation student leader, Ko Nay Tin Myint who was currently in US were the main speakers.

Ms. Maura Stephens, who participated in the event said, Quote: frankly speaking, I have not seen such a successful event like this regarding Burma affair. Because of the amazing power of arts. Especially at this event, it attracted the audience of heart, the personal experience of Nay Tin myint, and the discussions of Jeffery Hellman and Stactie Freudenberg .

The leading artists of this event, Mirca Artists group was formed via internet and currently registered with almost four hundred artist as members. Over 50 artists whose paintings were at the show also attended the occasion.

One of the leading organizers of the event, who also was the publisher of Freedom and Art booklet, the American artist Ms. Carla Goldberg said that the issues of Burma, which has more than 70,000 child soldiers, over one million refugees, and the elected representatives who were chosen by people were denied their seats, were

humanitarian issues that should not be ignored. Even though she did not yet get a chance to visit Burma, she was proud of participating this artwork by internet which would help and support Daw ASSK whom she'd never met from Burma.

Mr. Stefan Tunedal, artist from Sweden, spoke that keeping the elected leader under arrest was something unthinkable to do. he, as from the art gallery from Stockholm, would be thinking of seeing how could he'd be part of the aid.

Ko Nay Tin Myint, who was the former security personnel of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and former political prisoner who spent 15 years in prison, and 88 Generation student said about the experience at the gallery as followed;

-I myself was staying close to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for quite

sometime, so I explained some of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's democracy

movements I knew. Then I pictured the worst scenario of Burmese

prisons, and talked about the brutal experience of my harsh 15 years

imprisonment. After that I answered the questions regarding Daw

Aung San Suu Kyi from the event attendees.

Another thing was, these artists from 26 different countries, there

were paintings of 51 artists at the show. The show was selling books

and paintings. The event ended around 9 o'clock in the evening. The major purpose of this event was these artists came here from different countries around the world, then they did the show of their paintings and sold the books. The event announced that some money it promoted by sale would donate to the democracy activity for Burma (thru Amnensty International).

Other major speaker of the event, a film director and a poet Mr. Jeffery Hellman said that helping activity concerned Burma democracy movements was helping heartfelt warm act. He talked about Burma and the display of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as followed;

There were the history of Burma and background of this country

displayed at the gallery. As was brief notes of Daw Aung San Suu

Kyi's powerful speeches, which were exhibited for public were

inspirational words to others.

In the poem he urged to spread the peace and the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Twenty years was long enough to brainwash the citizens, he read. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi would soon to be 64, and when she was first arrested, she was only 44 then.

Dr. Kyi May Kaung, who was an artist, an economist, and studied about Burma participated this event by phone from

Washington DC. She reviewed this Burma awareness event staged by artist as the extraordinary gallery event.

- There are many people who admire Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. So even though Daw Suu is under house arrest for years, people want her well being, then interested in Daw ASSK. Out of high regard in Daw ASSK lead to do something good for her. Then do something good for Burma affair. There are many who respect Daw ASSK. Then people should know there are many people who also want to see the success of NLD.
- Because, lately the media coverage does not have much about Daw Suu. Well not only about Daw Suu, but also other political prisoners. And outside world should know the current situations up until now. So from inside (Burma) and outside (the whole world) should do something connected by art. This event is one triumph of such effort.

This is the news gathering of Freedom and Art exhibition and discussion which was held in Beacon, New York by Miraca artists around the world for the contribution of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's political efforts to restore democracy in Burma.