

# Aung San Suu Kyi

## The Voice of Hope

### A Brief Overview of both the Crisis in Burma and the Audio Book

Burma: Enter one of the most politically ravaged yet spiritually vibrant societies on Earth. Ruled for decades by a ruthless dictatorship with a military machine of 400,000 soldiers, Burma is a prison within prisons where there is no regard for human rights. The 65-year old Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi symbolizes the hope and determination of her people's struggle for freedom, justice, and decency. In the "free and fair" 1990 national election, held in the aftermath of the infamous "8-8-88" massacres when soldiers loyal to the dictator killed 3,000 unarmed democracy activists as they marched peacefully in the streets of every city in the country, Aung San Suu Kyi's political Party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), won 82% of the parliamentary seats. Despite being incarcerated at the time, and most of her key party members imprisoned, the people of Burma overwhelmingly rejected military rule and elected Aung San Suu Kyi as Prime Minister. Yet the military to this day refuses to transfer power to the country's elected leaders. Subsequently, Aung San Suu Kyi has spent most of the last twenty years either in prison or house detention.

To protest her illegal incarceration and the harsh treatment of her colleagues, Aung San Suu Kyi has undergone numerous hunger strikes. Nearly starving at times, often malnourished, mostly without medical care, she has been held incommunicado and for years prevented from seeing her husband and children.

She is not alone: the prisons are filled with 2,100 fellow political prisoners, including Buddhist monks and nuns; many suffer torture, others disappear, some are killed. Aung San Suu Kyi's message is clear: "Be free. Nobody can imprison your mind. They can imprison your body, but they cannot imprison your mind. We must always remember this. Free your mind."

This is the voice of freedom the regime aims to silence.

"Fearlessness may be a gift but perhaps more precious is the courage acquired through endeavor, courage that comes from cultivating the habit of refusing to let fear dictate one's actions, courage that could be described as 'grace under pressure' - grace which is renewed repeatedly in the face of harsh, unremitting pressure."

~ Aung San Suu Kyi



54 University Avenue, Rangoon, Burma, the heavily guarded home of Aung San Suu Kyi where she is at this moment under house arrest.

*The Voice of Hope* carries this renowned woman's illuminated vision, in which politics and spirituality are inseparable, past the confines of one of the most oppressed and closed nations on Earth, into the world community, with a power to transform the very way we perceive life and liberty. By providing rare insight into Aung San Suu Kyi's philosophical and spiritual beliefs, this thought-provoking and inspiring audio book will inspire listeners with its conciliatory message for all of humanity from the world's most honored political prisoner and her impassioned call for action. Aung San Suu Kyi, as the living embodiment of the power of forgiveness and reconciliation, maintains that true dialogue is the most effective means of engaging dictatorship. That is, if enough of us become voices of hope ourselves.

Become Inspired, Download the Unabridged Audio Book  
The Voice of Hope Conversations with Aung San Suu Kyi

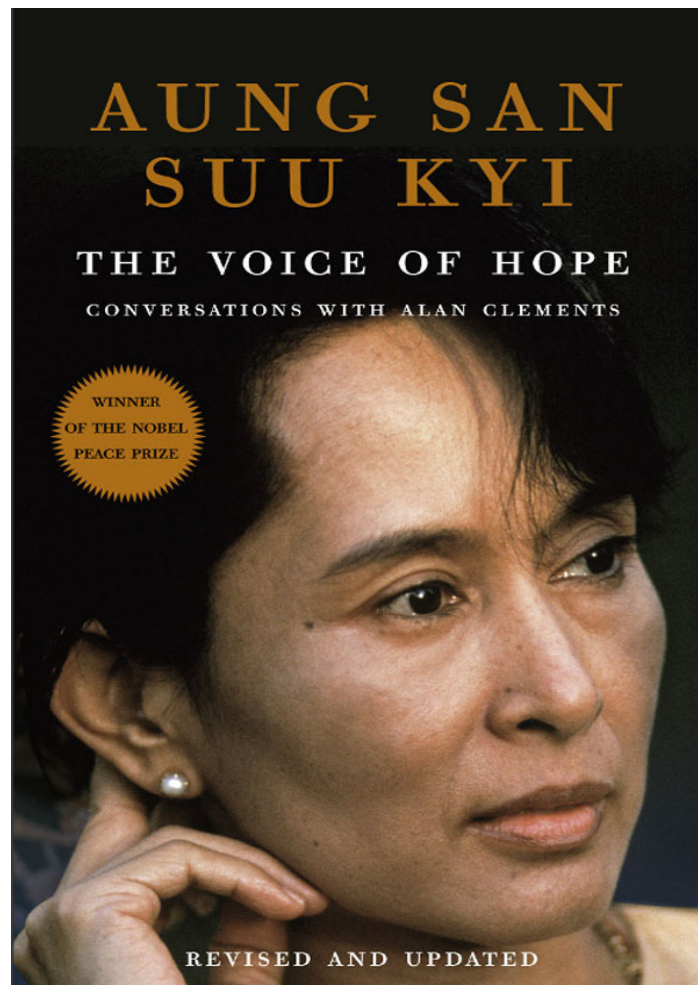
“The Voice of Hope is a message the world should hear.”  
~ President Jimmy Carter

“One of the very few people Aung San Suu Kyi trusted enough to take her message to the wider world is Alan Clements. The Voice of Hope is the result of the secret and dangerous meetings they had over the course of six months, and offers unquestionably the most wide-ranging collection of her views on the political situation inside Burma, her nonviolent approach to democracy and human rights, her Buddhist beliefs, her family, and how she keeps a sense of meaning and purpose under the most appalling conditions.”

~ Publisher’s overview.

“Whatever the future of Burma, a possible future for politics itself is illuminated by these conversations.”

~ The London Observer



Due to Aung San Suu Kyi ongoing incarceration the audio book is narrated by co-author Alan Clements, a journalist and former Buddhist monk in Burma.

The final question Alan Clements asked Aung San Suu Kyi  
in the making of their book, *The Voice of Hope*:

Clements: “On the chance that you are re-arrested and held incommunicado,  
may I invite you to speak to those of us in the world who wish to support you  
and your people’s aspirations for democracy and freedom?”

Aung San Suu Kyi: “It’s very simple. You must not forget that the people of  
Burma want democracy. Whatever the authorities may say, it is a fact that the  
people want democracy and they do not want an authoritarian regime that  
deprives them of their basic human rights. The world should do everything  
possible to bring about the kind of political system that the majority of the  
people of Burma want and for which so many people have sacrificed  
themselves. Burma should be helped at a time when help is needed. And  
one day we hope to be ourselves in a position to help others in need.”

The Nobel Peace laureate, Elie Wiesel, in summoning dozens of fellow Nobel  
laureates in support of Aung San Suu Kyi said, “I swore never to be silent  
whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We  
must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence  
encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”

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**Thank you.**