



Burmese American Association of Texas

PRESS RELEASE

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BURMESE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS (BAAT) ANNOUNCES EFFORTS TO SUPPORT MYANMAR (BURMESE) PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CYCLONE NARGIS

On May 2, 2008, the Irrawaddy delta region of Myanmar (Burma) received a direct hit of a giant Category 4 Cyclone that resulted in an enormous loss of life and livelihoods. Hundreds of farming communities have been wiped off the face of the earth. According to U.S. State Department and United Nations' estimates, the current death toll has reached about 100,000, and is quickly rising. Over a million remain homeless and hopeless. About 2,000 square miles of the delta region remain flooded and wasted with brackish, contaminated sea water and will be unusable for months without immediate assistance. Survivors lack basic shelter, drinking water or food. The lives of many survivors remain threatened, particularly children, as they are beginning to suffer from illnesses due to unsafe drinking water and the lack of medical care. The delta area is the largest rice growing and meat producing area of the country and its devastation is likely to have a long term impact on the country's food supplies and economy.

In support of the people suffering inside Myanmar (Burma), and the local non-governmental aid workers who are struggling to meet pressing needs, the Burmese American Association of Texas (BAAT) is urging all Texans to support relief efforts in the country. The BAAT is embarking on a campaign to lead Texas based relief efforts. A press conference will be held on **Tuesday, May 13th at 10:00 am in the banquet hall of the Savoy Restaurant located at 11246 S. Wilcrest, #145, Houston, Texas 77099.** At that time, the BAAT will announce its local relief efforts and ask for assistance from the greater Texas community. Public officials in support of BAAT's efforts are invited to participate. The press conference will include a short presentation and update about the situation on the ground from our contacts inside the country, and there will be time for questions and answers. We strongly encourage all media to attend.

*The **Burmese American Association of Texas** is a non-partisan, cultural and social organization. We have served the Myanmar (Burmese) community throughout Texas for over 25 years and work to educate the wider Texas community about the beauty of all things Burmese. For more information about BAAT and its Cyclone Relief efforts, please go to www.baatx.org.*

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