

11/08/2009

Statement

**José Manuel BARROSO
President of the European Commission**

on the extended house arrest of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

The sentence of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to further detention is unjustified and unacceptable on all accounts. Keeping Daw Suu under arrest under fabricated reasons violates her fundamental freedoms and does not serve the proclaimed national interest either. If the authorities of Myanmar consider the sentence which was commuted to a period under house arrest as a humanitarian gesture, political wisdom would have required her release.

The Commission will continue to press for Daw Suu's unconditional and immediate release, like that of all other political prisoners. We will continue to work with the UN and the international community for that purpose. The promised multi-party elections in Myanmar could be a chance for the country, but the process will seriously lack credibility if stakeholders remain in prison or under house arrest. Moreover, the worrying political and socio-economical problems facing Myanmar require national unity and cooperation with the international community.