

WRITTEN QUESTION E-2022/03
by Lennart Sacrédeus (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Arrest of Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi

Burma's leading advocate of human rights and democracy, the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, was detained on 30 May 2003 near Monywa in Burma. The country's military junta says that Aung San Suu Kyi and 19 other members of her National League for Democracy Party (NLD) have been placed in 'protective custody' following clashes between her supporters and pro-government demonstrators in northern Burma.

More than 100 students, NLD supporters and Buddhist monks were arrested in the early hours of 31 May 2003; a number of members of parliament were also detained. Seven high-ranking NLD officials were placed under house arrest and more than 50 local branches of the NLD party were forced to shut down. The arrests are viewed as the biggest defeat for democracy in Burma for many years.

What real pressure has the Commission and the EU exerted to persuade the junta in Burma immediately to release the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and the other detainees, including the members of parliament? How can the EU lend force to the demands that the military junta should break the spiral of violence and pave the way for a speedy transition to democracy?