

A Campus
Colloquium

The Center for International Programs presents

BURMA'S SAFFRON REVOLUTION: *A Peaceful Struggle Against the Odds*



Early September witnessed the beginnings of non-violent political struggle in Burma – officially called Myanmar – in which saffron-robed Buddhist monks took to the streets in increasingly large numbers to protest against one of the most long-lasting and brutal military dictatorships in the world. Over the next several weeks, thousands of ordinary people in the Southeast Asian nation rallied to the cause of resistance, culminating in huge anti-government rallies by the end of the month. After weeks of biding its time, the military junta ruling Burma struck back, clearing the crowds from the streets, forbidding further protest, invading Buddhist monasteries, arresting thousands, and killing untold numbers of people. Despite worldwide outcries against the government's repressive onslaught, little concrete support for the Burmese struggle has been forthcoming, as both the United Nations and Burma's regional neighbors have been frozen in a web of conflicting relationships with the country's military regime.

Join us in a panel presentation and discussion of Burma's "saffron revolution." Why did the Buddhist monks rebel, and why did so many people respond to their leadership? Why do the Burmese generals resist political change so doggedly, and what, if anything, can outside powers, especially the United States, do about the situation?

Martha T. Zingo,

Political Science, Oakland University

Susan Klimist

University of Michigan Hospital

Martha and Susan are directors of the Burmese Relief Center (USA), an organization working with refugees on the Thai-Burmese border. Both of them travel frequently to the region and are well acquainted with the background issues and ongoing current events. Both are thus well equipped to help members of the Oakland community understand what is happening in Burma and why we should care about it.



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Presented by the Center for
International Programs
Chaired by Peter Bertocci, Director

Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2007

Time: 12 Noon to 1 pm

*Room Lake Superior A
at the Oakland Center*