# Be a Hero for a Better World



"The people of my country want the two freedoms that spell security: freedom from want and freedom from fear."

"Please use your freedom to promote ours."

## Aung San Suu Kyi (1945-)

Aung San Suu Kyi is a pro-democracy activist and prisoner of conscience in Myanmar (Burma) who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991. Aung San Suu Kyi's father helped to negotiate Burma's independence from Britain in 1947 before he was assassinated. The newly independent country was a democracy until a military coup in 1962, and has been under military rule since then. In 1988, Aung San Suu Kyi helped to organize the National League for Democracy, which worked nonviolently for democracy in her country. When her party won a general election in 1990, she should have become Prime Minister, but was instead arrested. She has been either in prison or under house arrest on and off for the past 15 years, separated from her children, who live in Britain.

Aung San Suu Kyi's nonviolent struggle for freedom for her people has gained international attention. She has received numerous awards, including the prestigious human rights award, the Rafto Prize, the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought, and the Nobel Peace Prize. Her plight has become integrated into many aspects of mainstream culture -- the 2001 U2 song, *Walk On* was written about her, and she is featured in the 1995 movie, *Beyond Rangoon*. In 2006, the British Magazine *New Statesmen* compiled a list of 'Heroes of Our Time' and ranked Aung San Suu Kyi as number 1.

### Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was born on June 19, 1945 in Rangoon, Burma

#### Be A Hero For A Better World!

- 1. Find out more about this hero
- 2. Hold an event to raise awareness about human rights issues
- 3. Contribute to organizations working to defend human rights

#### Human Rights Organizations

- Amnesty International (amnesty.org)
- Carter Center (cartercenter.org)
- Human Rights First (humanrightsfirst.org)
- Human Rights Watch (hri.org)
- Rights International (rightsinternational.org)
- UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (ohchr.org)
- Witness (witness.org)
- Women's Human Rights Net (whrnet.org)

#### For more information: www.betterworldheroes.com/kyi.htm

#### BetterWorldHeroes.com

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