

Benita Ferrero-Waldner
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Dear Dr Lucas,

Thank you for your letter of 19 May 2009, regarding Mrs Aung San Suu Kyi.

I am following this matter closely and with great concern.

We need to voice our criticism and our concerns loudly. The Commission was swift in doing this. President Barroso instantly issued a strong statement. I immediately called in the Myanmar Ambassador and told him in no uncertain terms what we expect and what we cannot accept. I met the Myanmar Foreign Minister on 25 May in Hanoi and repeated my concerns. There was also a meeting of the EU Troika with the Minister. Through these contacts I am certain that our messages have reached the relevant levels of the Government.

Regarding your question on dispatching envoys, I may advise you that SG/HR Solana has appointed Mr Piero Fassino as the EU Special Envoy for Burma/Myanmar. His main task is to work in support of the good offices of the UN Secretary General and he is working closely with the Commission Head of Delegation who is accredited to Burma. I associated Mr Fassino in my meetings in Hanoi, and he participated also in the EU Troika with the Myanmar Foreign Minister.

The EU Council of Ministers is keeping the situation under close review in order to be able to react appropriately when the outcome of the trial of Aung San Suu Kyi is known.

Yours sincerely,

Peter C. ...
[Signed in the Commissioner's
absence]

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