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Supreme court set up, more warnings issued

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BURMA's military rulers have set up a supreme court and issued more rulings, warnings and statistics in their attempt to regulate the restive country, the state radio said yesterday.

Army-run Rangoon Radio called on student activists in hiding to report to authorities and promised no action would be taken against them.

But in a broadcast monitored in Bangkok by Reuters, it also warned: "Those who establish contact, join insurgents and return as hardcore saboteurs will be treated as insurgents and decisive action will be taken."

Hundreds of students and other activists prominent in the six-week uprising have fled to ethnic minority rebel-held areas near Thailand, Rangoon residents said.

The uprising collapsed in the face of an army takeover on September 18 and the ensuing crackdown by the military.

On Monday night, the radio announced formation of a supreme court with a chief justice and up to five other judges. The supreme court would set up lower courts, it said.

On seizing power, the state Law and Order Restoration Council effectively imposed martial law on the impoverished population of 38 million, scrapped courts, banned gatherings of more than four people, ordered an overnight curfew and told striking workers to return to work by next Monday.

Diplomats and other residents estimate that the army killed about 1,000 civilians in the crackdown and arrested opponents all over the country.

Diplomats said most workers and civil servants were still not back at their jobs yesterday and that despite shootings and arrests of labour and student leaders, activists continued efforts to maintain the strike which has brought the state-run almost to its knees.

"The strike and passive resistance are the only weapons the opposition has left," a Western diplo-

mat said.

The rigidly controlled state media in the past week have been full of reports indicating a return to normality, including statistics down to two decimal places of the number of people back at work in government offices.

The *Working People's Daily* said yesterday that in one southern town 85.54 per cent of workers had gone back, a Rangoon resident said by telephone.

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