

Radio phantom keeps taunting Burma leaders

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A BLOODY army crackdown has silenced most of Burma's opposition, but a determined and foul-mouthed phantom broadcaster keeps breaking in on official radio broadcasts to denounce the military rulers.

"You... The country has drowned completely because of you...Ne Win, and now you've gone and done it again, you...Ne Win."

The male voice in the Burmese language was clearly heard on the army-run radio's main short-wave broadcast of a speech by military ruler Saw Maung monitored in Bangkok by Reuters on Tuesday night.

Veteran leader Ne Win founded the 26-year-old military-based power structure and is widely believed to have orchestrated the September 18 army coup and crackdown which killed an estimated 1,000 civilians and ended free speech and association.

The phantom broadcaster made his debut on Saturday night, and his daily intrusions made him an instant hero among the anti-government Burmese community in Bangkok.

Rangoon residents contacted by telephone said they heard a similar intrusion into a television broadcast on Saturday, but not on the medium-wave broadcasts of the

government station generally listened to by Burmese.

"It probably comes from one of the insurgent radios. We love it and hope he keeps it up," said one Burmese expatriate here.

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