

Howe slams Burma's military government

BRITISH Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe on Wednesday denounced the Burmese Government's armed action to crush demonstrators fighting for democracy.

"In Burma we have been appalled at the killing of unarmed demonstrators, women and children, which has taken place over the past three months," he said at the UN General Assembly.

"The Burmese authorities must recognize that the only way to a lasting solution to the country's internal crisis lies in meeting the desire of the Burmese people for greater freedom and multi-party democracy," he added.

The main Burmese opposition party, the National League for Democracy, has asked foreign governments to use the assembly as a forum for complaints about human rights abuses.

The league, including supporters of General Tin Oo, Brigadier Aung Gyi and Aung San Suu Kyi, on Wednesday night sent a letter to Prime Minister General Saw Maung asking again for a face-to-face meeting.

He has so far refused to meet them.

Win Htain, an aide to Tin Oo, said he believed the opposition would take part in elections proposed by the military "despite a strong possibility we may be cheated" because that was their only alternative to change things.

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