

Looters shot dead in Rangoon

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In recent days soldiers have spent their time reinforcing defensive positions around Radio Rangoon, the Defence Ministry, a key railroad bridge, the homes of the ruling elite and small command posts on the outskirts of the city.

Until yesterday's action against looters, the army had stood by impassively since August 12 as anti-government protests continued, government control disintegrated and

economic activity came to a halt.

August 12 saw the end of the 18 days in power of Sein Lwin, the chosen successor of long-time ruler General Ne Win who ordered soldiers to fire on demonstrators.

Three thousand died in Rangoon alone, doctors say, but for each who died hundreds more joined the protests.

Aung San Sun Kyi, the 43-year-old Oxford-educated daughter of inde-

pendence hero Aung San, said the government had made "a great mistake" in refusing to listen to the people.

"The situation can't go on for very long and if the government is sensible they should bring it to an end very quickly by forming an interim government acceptable to the people," she said.

Sixteen soldiers held a news conference in the afternoon to call on their army comrades to join the pro-democracy forces.

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