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November 12, 2007

## U.N. Examining Myanmar Crackdown

By THOMAS FULLER

BANGKOK, Nov. 11 — A [United Nations](#) envoy arrived in Myanmar on Sunday to begin the first independent investigation into the military government's September crackdown on protests led by Buddhist monks and students.

The envoy, Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro, the United Nations special investigator on human rights in Myanmar, who had been barred from entering the country for the past four years, will visit prisons and monasteries to try to establish an accurate count of the people detained and killed in the crackdown, United Nations officials said.

The ruling generals, formerly known as Burma, have shown tentative signs of reconciliation toward democratic dissidents. Last week, they allowed their chief political opponent, [Daw Aung San Suu Kyi](#), to meet with members of her party for the first time in three years. The New Light of Myanmar, a leading state-run newspaper, ran a picture on its front page on Saturday of Mrs. Aung San Suu Kyi shaking hands with a representative from the junta, a change in tone for a government that keeps her under house arrest and that for years has sought to play down her importance.

The government says 10 people were killed in September when troops opened fire on demonstrators and raided Buddhist monasteries. Myanmar's information minister, Brig. Gen. Kyaw Hsan, said last week that the government had detained 2,927 people accused of taking part in the demonstrations and released all but 91 of them. Burmese dissident groups say the death toll and the number of arrests were higher.

Mr. Pinheiro, who is scheduled to stay in Myanmar through Thursday, will report his findings next month to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Mr. Pinheiro, a Brazilian lawyer, has taken a tough stance against Myanmar over the years, and his visits have not always gone smoothly.

He cut short a mission in 2003 after finding a wireless microphone under the table in the room at the prison where he was conducting interviews with inmates. The government had denied him permission to visit since then. In late October, it said he would be allowed to enter the country once again.

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