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## LI Presidential Statement

### The Release from House Arrest of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

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On behalf of all the member parties of Liberal International, I welcome the news of the release from house arrest of Nobel Peace Prize and 1995 LI Prize for Freedom Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during the meeting of the LI Executive Committee this past weekend in Cape Town, South Africa.

As liberals we are proud of their perseverance and we commend the peaceful struggle of all the members of our member party the National League for Democracy (Liberated Areas) inspired by Burma's key democracy figure Aung San Suu Kyi.

Liberal International fully concurs with the statement of our regional sister organisation, the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD) and insists that the release Aung San Suu Kyi is unconditional and permanent. This is an important step in the democratisation of a country that has for decades suffered under the military junta. The freedom, civil rights and liberties of all Burmese people must be guaranteed.

LI will continuously work with its partners in Burma and Asia, as well within the framework of UN and the international community to pressure the military junta to organise open, free and democratic elections that will reflect the will and aspirations of all Burmese citizens and of all different ethnic communities.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

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Liberal International (LI) is the world federation of over 100 liberal and progressive democratic political parties. LI was founded in 1947 to strengthen liberal protection from totalitarianism and communism. The founding "Oxford Manifesto" is widely considered as one of the most important political documents of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It has since become the pre-eminent network for promoting liberalism, individual freedom, human rights, the rule of law, tolerance, equality of opportunity, social justice, free trade and a market economy.