

## **UN envoy to visit Indonesia to discuss Myanmar crisis**

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Jakarta - Ibrahim Gambari, the UN special envoy for Myanmar, was scheduled to arrive in Indonesia Wednesday night as part of an emergency regional tour to seek consensus on how to deal with Myanmar in the wake of a bloody crackdown by its military junta on peaceful anti-government protestors. Gambari, who has already met with the prime ministers of Thailand and Malaysia, was expected to meet with Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirayuda and possibly President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono during his visit, which is to last through Saturday.

Last month, Myanmar's military-run government shot and beat Buddhist monks and pro-democracy activists and arrested thousands after they had taken to the streets to protest the country's dire economic situation.

After a UN Security Council statement last week denouncing the junta's actions, the United States and European Union are trying to rally international consensus to force the junta to release political prisoners and open talks with detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi about moving toward democracy.

Gambari, who met separately with both junta leader General Than Shwe and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Suu Kyi during a visit to Myanmar two weeks ago, has returned to Asia to hear the views of Myanmar's South-East Asian neighbours as well as regional powers China and India. He expected to visit Myanmar again before mid-November.

"He is getting a consensus on moving forward and on what action should be take, and make sure all ASEAN countries are involved and fully and 100 per cent behind it," David Lazarus, director of the UN Information Centre in Jakarta, told Deutsche Presse-Agentur dpa.

ASEAN is the Association of South-East Asian Nations, a 10-member political and economic group that includes Myanmar.

Gambari was scheduled to also visit Japan, India and China during his regional visit, Lazarus said.

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