



AUNG SAN SUU KYI

Aung San Suu Kyi born in 1945 in Rangoon, Burma/Myanmar. She was the daughter of a general and political leader who was assassinated in 1947 shortly after Burmese Independence. She grew up living with her mother and siblings in Burma/Myanmar and also lived in India for a short time while her mother served as ambassador to Nepal and India during the early 1960s. Aung San eventually went to college at Oxford and later worked for the United Nations in New York. While living in England she married and had two sons.

In 1988 she returned to Burma/Myanmar to take care of her mother, only to find the long time authoritarian leader General Ne Win stepping down from power. Aung San Suu Kyi became active in the democratisation movement that was spreading across Burma/Myanmar. At this time she helped to create the National League for Democracy and entered her party in the elections that took place in 1990. Despite winning 80% of the regions in Burma, the military junta blocked the party from taking power.

Aung San Suu Kyi could have chosen to leave Burma/Myanmar and live in exile, but has opted to continue the struggle for democracy. She has been placed under house arrest for several periods. In 1991 she was awarded the Nobel Prize for her extraordinary efforts to bring democracy to Burma/Myanmar. Because of her house arrest, her sons accepted the award on her behalf. She also received The Honorary Freedom of the City of Dublin award in 2000. She remained a strong figure for democracy during the 2007 protests in Burma/Myanmar, in which Buddhist monks took to the streets demanding an end to human rights abuses in the face of violence activity on the part of the authorities.