

CAPTIONS :

BURMA :

Two photo stories by
Manon OTT and **Grégory COHEN**

2003 - 2007

1- « PEOPLE'S DESIRE »

Large red billboards blend into the urban scenery. The army engraved the will of the Burmese people. These surprising sentences reappear on the first page of each publication, before a film and in newspapers. Its mention is compulsory. Behind the enchanting scenery of the "country of a thousand pagodas" lurks a more sinister reality, a heavy atmosphere like that of nights capturing the city.

In the street, the positions of the body at work, the dozing body, wandering, express something else. Maybe they tell silently what others dare whisper in the ear of a foreigner who looks a little.

The economic situation is getting worse every year. The gap is growing between the standard of living of the majority of the population and that of members of the military and their families.



Photo 01 -

Police officers in a market / surveillance – Yangon – 2004



Photo 02 -

Downtown Yangon – 2006



Photo 03 -

Propaganda billboard in a street in Mandalay – 2005



Photo 04 -
Teashop - Moulmein - 2006



Photo 05 -
Magasin d'électronique et de télévisions - Sittwe 2005



Photo 06 -
Back Portraits / *fear - surveillance - silence*
- 2005



Photo 07 -
Yangon - 2005



Photo 08 -
Sittwe - 2005



Photo 09 -
Surveillance – Yangon – 2006

Series « SOLITUDE » :



Photo 10 -
Yangon – 2006



Photo 11
Worker in a market in Yangon – 2006



Photo 12 -
Yangon – 2006



Photo 13 -
Yangon – 2006

2- « RESISTING TO CENSORSHIP AND PROPAGANDA »

With fifteen different names for feathers and a constant recourse to figures of speech, Ludu Sein Win multiplies subterfuge to circumvent censorship. He refuses to succumb to fear, but he admits that the freedoms the most "intimate" elude him. "They would like to control our thoughts". Propaganda, censorship and surveillance are part of the daily life of the Burmese. But beyond, it is also against the absurdity that the authors are forced to fight. Blackboard forbidden to have used excessive red chalk, seven years in prison for the Moustache Brothers as they joked about the corruption of law enforcement during one of their performances. For these coercive measures, the junta hopes to discourage any spirit of dissent.

Yet, to look more closely implicitly or in private, a number of attitudes and actions are an expression of a non-conformist politics. Also scattered and trivial they might seem, these behaviors are nonetheless signs of courage and insubordination. The sign that, little by little, dictatorship cracks.



Photo 14 -
Military ceremony in commemoration of Burma's independence – Yangon – 2006



Photo 15 -
Portrait studio in Yangon / Portrait of General Than Shwe – 2006



Photo 16 -
Propaganda billboard in a street in Hpa-an – 2006



Photo 17 -
Military supervision during a national event – lac Inle – 2005



Photo 18 -
Military ceremony in commemoration of Burma's independence – Yangon – 2006



Photo 19 -
Military supervision during a national event – Mandalay – 2005



Photo 20 -
Military supervision during a national event – Mandalay – 2005



Photo 21 -
Military supervision during a national event – Mandalay – 2005



Photo 22 -
New Light of Myanmar in a teashop, government-owned propaganda newspaper – Yangon 2005



Photo 23 -
Ludu Sein Win's apartment in Yangon – 2005



Photo 24 -
Portrait of Ludu Sein Win (famous writer and journalist) – Yangon – 2004



Photo 25 -

Newspaper stall in Yangon. Times cover with « 1984 by Georges Orwell » – 2004



Photo 26 -

Artist studio – Mandalay – 2005



Photo 27 -

House of the Mustache Brothers, famous actors and resisters in Mandalay – 2005



Photo 28 -

Portrait of the Mustache Brothers – Mandalay – 2004



Photo 29 -

Opponents exiled in Thailand with the portrait of Aung San Suu Kyi, symbol of hope and resistance for the Burmese–Nobel Peace Prize 1991 still under detention in Yangon – 2005