

**Democratic Voice of Burma**  
**Political Prisoners News**  
2004 March

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## **Imprisoned Author Monywa Aung Shin health deteriorates**

*1 Mar 04*

Author Monywa Aung Shin, the vice-chairman of Sagaing Division National League for Democracy (NLD) who was sentenced to 21 years is suffering from acute asthma in Insein Jail in Rangoon where he is currently detained.

Monywa Aung Shin (aka) U Aye Kyu was arrested in September 2000 by military intelligence personnel, charged with 5J and sentenced to 21 years in prison.

According to his son Ko Thet Tun Linn he has been suffering from asthma due to bad weather and has lost weight considerably and he has to sleep in a sitting position as he is unable to breathe when he sleeps lying down. His family has to supply him with medicines from outside.

U Aye Kyu started to write poetry in 1962 for several popular magazines in Burma and in 1988 he was banned from publication after he got involved in the nationwide uprising.

He was first accused of getting involved in politics and sentenced to 3 years in 1967 by the then Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP). After the 1990 general election, he was often arrested and interrogated by the military intelligence.

He was then rearrested and detained again four months in 1998 while the CRPP (Committee for Representing People's Parliament) was formed. He wife died from malnutrition while he was in prison and her death was followed by the death of one of their daughters.

He had six children in all and the remaining ones told DVB that they are all proud of their parents who sacrificed their lives for their country and family. [TOP](#)

## **Ko Htay Kywe transferred to prison from hospital despite illness**

*2 Mar 04*

A Burmese student political prisoner Ko Htay Kywe who has been receiving emergency medical treatments at Insein Hospital was transferred to Insein jail without improvements.

He is neither able to sit nor speak properly, according to his family members. A doctor from Insein Hospital who doesn't want to be identified told DVB that from the medical point of view, it is not right to transfer a political prisoner who had just had a major operation.

According to the doctor, the ventilation system at the prison clinic is not good and there are HIV/AIDS sufferers in the clinic and he could contract unnecessary diseases from the assorted patients in the clinic. He added that he is extremely disappointed by the fact that he is unable to treat Ko Htay Kywe with all his talents.

Meanwhile, Ko Htay Kywe's mother Daw Mi Mi Lay sent a letter to General Than Shwe to release her son as he has served his sentence and his health condition is not good. [TOP](#)

## **Interview with Maung Chan Thar Kyaw**

*3 Mar 04*

16-year-old boy Maung Chan Thar Kyaw from Monywa in central Burma who was arrested in connection with 30 May Dipeyin assault was released on 26 February by the country's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) from Nget Awsan juvenile training camp near Rangoon.

Monywa Township Court sentenced Maung Chan Thar Kyaw to a juvenile training camp in violation of the provisions of the Child Law (1993, amended 2001).

He was a 15-year-old high school student at the time of sentencing on 7 July 2003, and was ordered to go into the custody of the Nget Awsan Training School, Rangoon Division, until 4 October 2005, when he will become an adult.

He was arrested with 13 other people at Oakpho area of Monywa near a protest in which one student and one monk was killed in the aftermath of Dipeyin assault. The remaining 13 people were all given long-term prison sentences.

He told DVB about his experience in an interview as follows:

A: The school (camp) official told me that I was released. He is the head of the school, Captain Myo Win Latt. He said that the Interior Ministry told him to release me.

Q: Could you tell us about the condition of Nget Awsan camp?

A: At Nget Awsan, we were kept well...they gave us freedom. When I had time, I read. When it was time for sports, I took part in sports. That's how I passed my time. They allowed us to play between 3pm-5pm. We took part in sports at these times.

Q: We heard that Nget Awsan camp is a juvenile training camp. Didn't they teach you something there?

A: They didn't teach us anything there. They did give education to orphans. They have a primary school there...

Q: How did you feel when you arrived at Nget Awsan camp?

A: I didn't feel good when they accused me of stoning when I didn't do so. But I did not feel dejected. I don't feel good while my friends are in the universities now and I am being left behind.

Q: What do you think why they released you?

A: I think that I was released because of the international pressures and the helps of everyone. I will be remembering all the international organisations and all from the bottom of my heart and livers and I thank them all.

Q: What did they charge you with and how did they try you?

A: They asked me what had happened. After interrogating me, they wanted to charge me with stoning, and destroying flowering plants and traffic police stations. As I didn't do anything in reality, I was unable to answer anything and they forced me to answer at No.1, Police Station in Monywa...What they asked me were, 'When did you go and see near Okepho? What did you do?' I was just watching when the riot occurred. They accused me of supporting stoning for watching the riot.

Q: What did you see there?

A: The monks, students and people wanted to go towards where Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was but the army wouldn't allow them. People felt aggrieved by this. They threw stones and the riot started.

Q: How many soldiers were used blocking them?

A: From my investigation, three lines of soldiers were used. One at where the incident occurred. One over there, and one at where Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was. There were many of them.

Q: Was there any shooting from their side?

A: I heard that there were shootings but I didn't see them...after the shooting I saw them carry one GCT student...it was around 7pm when we regrouped.

Q: By then, they just carried one dead student.

A: They carried one dead student. We went to find out at a nearby teashop under a light in case he was one of our friends. They said that we were going to carry that corpse into town. We carried the corpse into the town. When we got to the copper statue of Bogyoke Aung San, the crowd split up because of the intimidation of the army. We had to leave the corpse behind in front the statue. We were unable to carry it. The army was blocking us with cars and guns. The people all scattered as soon as they heard the gun fires. They were shooting at us. Those who carried the corpse had to flee. When the army cars were driven towards us, we all had to run. [TOP](#)

### **Five political prisoners released**

*5 Mar 04*

Five political prisoners after completing their sentences have been released by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) on 1 March.

Those freed were members of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABSFU), Lower Burma branch, and the Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS).

They are Ko Toe Toe Tun, Ko Cho Seint, Ko Ngwe Lin, and Ko Aye Naing from Tharawaddy Prison in lower Burma and Ko Aung Zin Min from Thayet Prison in central Burma.

They were all detained for their involvements in the December 1996 student protest and were sentenced to seven years imprisonment each by the SPDC. They are all said to be in good health. [TOP](#)

### **Ko Thet Win Aung's health condition**

*6 Mar 04*

Ko Thet Win Aung, a Burmese student leader who was sentenced to 59 years in prison has been transferred from Mandalay Prison to Mandalay Hospital due to chronic malaria attacks, according to Thailand-based Association of Assistance for Political Prisoners (AAPP).

He was hospitalised with his fellow inmates Ko Tin Linn and Ko Ye Kyaw Thu. When DVB asked Ko Thet Win Aung's father U Win Maung, he said that he hasn't heard the news and he would be able to confirm the news after meeting with his son on 9 March.

Ko Thet Win Aung was sentenced in 1999 by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) for organising peaceful student protests.

Since 1988, when he was a high school student, Ko Thet Win Aung has taken part in organising student protests against the junta. Although students are not allowed to form unions, he became Vice-General Secretary of the unauthorised basic Education Student Union (BESU) in 1989.

He was first dismissed from school and imprisoned in September 1991 for nine months because of his activities. During this period of detention he was reportedly severely tortured.

Following his release he became a leading member of All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU), the unauthorised umbrella organisation for students unions in Burma.

He again became involved in publishing leaflets and organising demonstrations, and was forced to go into hiding after the authorities tried to arrest him in 1994. He nevertheless took part in student demonstrations in December 1996 and, in 1998, helped to organise student protests against the poor quality of education and denial of human rights.

[TOP](#)

### **My father is dead, my other brother is dead, and my mother is dying of cancer...please release my brother**

*16 Mar 04*

One of the Burmese student leaders Ko Htay Kywe who has been detained illegally by Burma's military junta for 16 years was recently transferred from Insein Hospital in Rangoon to the notorious Insein Prison soon after a major operation on his stomach.

According to his family members, the stitches are not properly healed yet and he is suffering from the painful consequences of the lacks of medical equipment and electricity and mistakes made during the operation at Tharawaddy in central Burma where he was detained. When his condition deteriorated, the prison authorities transferred him to Insein Hospital in Rangoon.

His sister Ma Mi Mi Kywe who recently visited him at the prison told DVB about his condition as follows:

**Ma Mi Mi Kywe :** On 15 March, they took away my brother from the hospital to the prison and I was very worried. I went to see him because I wanted to find out his condition. His health condition was not very good. They discharged him from the hospital because the external stitches are healing, they said. He has more stitches inside. The doctor ordered him to be sent to prison straight away. I could not say anything to dissuade them. He is unable to walk properly. He is unable to eat properly. He has to eat bad rice given in the prison. We took cooked rice for him from home. They didn't allow us to give it to him. We only managed to give him some snacks. We cooked soft rice for him as he has just had a major operation on his stomach. They took it away at the entrance and I could say nothing. They told us that he is only allowed to eat the prison rice because he is a prisoner.

**DVB :** According to their (the junta's) law, he should be released in October...

**Ma Mi Mi Kywe :** He was supposed to be released in May 1999 but he was detained for 5 more years with Act 10a and he should be released in May this year. But I don't know how they added another six months on top of that. So, he is to be released in October...

**DVB :** As a sister, what kinds of worries do you have for your brother?

**Ma Mi Mi Kywe :** I am very worried. He is unable to move properly as they have opened the main gut in his stomach during the operation. I am feeling very sad that he is sent back into the prison when he is unable even to eat properly.

**DVB :** Your mother sent a letter to the authorities?

**Ma Mi Mi Kywe :** There is no response from them. Mother is not very well either. She is suffering from cancer and receiving treatments in a hospital.

**DVB :** You mean your mother's deteriorating health condition is due to her worries for your brother?

**Ma Mi Mi Kywe :** Her condition became worse when she went to stay at Tharawaddy for three days to see him. Now that mother is not well, I am the only one left in the family to see him. Yesterday, when I heard that he was to be transferred, I went to the prison and waited for him since 8am. I even didn't have a chance to eat my meal the whole day. I was worried that I might miss my chance to meet him while I was having my meal.

**DVB :** Did you see him when they took him from Insein hospital to the prison? How did they take him there?

**Ma Mi Mi Kywe :** Yes, I did. I gave him some fried dry mutton in a small box. I was not allowed to give him plates and spoons. They were plastic plates. How could he eat there? They didn't allow me. They came to pick him up from the prison in an ambulance. They didn't allow me to give him pillows and blankets. I was riding in our own car behind the ambulance. When we reached the prison, the ambulance was allowed to enter and they locked the gate. Our car was not allowed to enter. They told us to come and see him early this morning. So we went to wait for him early this morning.

**DVB :** When they closed the prison door, how did you feel?

**Ma Mi Mi Kywe :** As women, we cried. My cousins were there too. We felt very sad. He was only able to walk with his bent body. I told him not to carry heavy things. But I don't know how he will be treated in prison but I know that he will be treated like a criminal there.

**DVB :** His health condition is not good now and he has passed his releasing date. What would you say to the authorities if you are allowed to talk to them?

**Ma Mi Mi Kywe :** All I want to say to them is release him as soon as you could. As mother is not well herself and her remaining son is not with her. She wants to see him for the last time. When father died he was unable to be there. When my other brother died, he was not there either. We wrote to the authorities but they didn't allow him to come to the funerals. Now, mother is not well. He is not well himself. He should be released immediately. [TOP](#)

### **Ko Ko Gyi and Ko Zaw Minn given extended sentences again**

*17 Mar 04*

Two Burmese student leaders Ko Zaw Minn and Ko Ko Gyi currently detained in Thayet Prison in central Burma were each handed down an extra year prison sentence by the military junta of Burma, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

The two had served their original sentences but they were each given five extra years with Act 10a and now they are given yet another year just before they are to be released which goes against the junta's own existing laws.

Ko Tate Naing of Thailand-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) said that Ko Ko Gyi, the vice-chairman of All Burma Federation Students Union (ABFSU) and Ko Zaw Minn, the secretary of Student Unions Re-emergence Committee were among 126 students who were arrested on 10 December 1991 for celebrating the Nobel Peace Prize for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

He added that these political prisoners should be released if the junta genuinely wants to improve the country's situation by holding the national convention.

According to U Aung Htoo of exiled Burma Lawyers Council (BLC), Act 10a is designed to protect the state from 'destructive elements' and the ruling junta was allowed to detain the accused only up to three years.

According to London-based Amnesty International, there are more than 1300 political prisoners still languishing in prisons throughout Burma despite the junta's promises of national reconciliation and the constitution drafting 'National Convention'. [TOP](#)

### **Ko Thet Win Aung's health condition not satisfying says parents**

*17 Mar 04*

The health condition of one of the Burmese student leaders Ko Thet Win Aung currently being detained at Mandalay Prison in central Burma is not 'satisfying', according to his parents who recently visited him at the prison.

Ko Thet Win Aung is not responding to the doctor who is treating him and his responses are not as prompt as it used to be and his parents are worried that he might be contracting cerebral malaria which is affecting his brain.

It was the first time the parents of Ko Thet Win Aung were able to see him since he was arrested and sentenced to 60 years in prison for his political activities.

'As we haven't seen him for ages, we were both feeling happy and sad at the same time. I felt better as I haven't seen him for ages. I am not feeling completely well yet. He seemed to be weak. He didn't seem to look right. The way he talked and the way his eyes moved didn't look that well,' said his mother mixed emotion. Ko Thet Win Aung responded to the queries from his parents with nods and shakes of his head, she added.

His father U Win Maung told DVB that his son needs to get more treatments for his illness. He confirmed that his son didn't look very well and that he looked dejected and confused.

Ko Thet Win Aung was first detained at Kale Prison near India and transferred to Khamti Prison in northern Burma. He was then transferred to Mandalay Prison in central Burma.

His parents think that the punishment handed down on him is too harsh and they are worried that he might never be released by the authorities. [TOP](#)

### **SPDC refuse to issue passports and business licenses to ex-political prisoners**

*18 Mar 04*

The military junta of Burma, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) is refusing to issue passports and business licenses to ex-political prisoners.

According to an ex-political prisoner who doesn't want to be identified, refusal letters tend to include the term 'suspended'. Some of the ex-prisoners currently being refused a passport are Dr. Hlaing Myint, Robert Sann Aung, Maung Maung Wan and Zar Ni Aung (a cousin of U Thein Than Oo).

Similarly, those lawyers who are ex-political prisoners are also banned from pursuing their legal careers, causing them and their families many kinds of difficulties.

Former high court lawyers U Khin Maung Than, U Thein Than Oo and Ko Sein Nyo Lwin Tun from Mandalay and Robert Saung from Rangoon are all refused the license to practise their profession by the Burma Bar Council which is controlled by the junta. They were released from Tharawaddy Prison in central Burma and Myikyina Prison in northern Burma last year.

The junta is deliberately and systematically destroying the lives of political activists who support the NLD and other opposition groups, and slowly killing political prisoners by various means of tortures and deprivations so that they will not have the courage to defy the junta by working for the betterment of Burma and its people. [TOP](#)

### **Another NLD member arrested and imprisoned**

*20 Mar 04*

Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) arrested another National League for Democracy (NLD) member despite its promise for the national reconciliation.

U Salin, a member of Maymyo (Pyin U Lwin) Township NLD, Mandalay Division in central Burma was arrested and sentenced to 2 years in prison on 15 March for allegedly shouting abuses at the junta-sponsored Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA).

According to a Maymyo resident, U Salin was, in reality, imprisoned for his active role in Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's previous trip to southern Shan State. U Salin was transferred from the police detention centre in Maymyo to Mandalay Prison. [TOP](#)

### **My father is unfairly imprisoned**

*21 Mar 04*

The daughter of U Salin, Ma Mee Mee told DVB that her father was unfairly imprisoned by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

U Salin is a member of Maymyo (Pyin U Lwin) Township National League for Democracy (NLD), Mandalay Division in central Burma. He was recently sentenced to 2 years in prison for allegedly hurling abuses at the junta-sponsored United Solidarity Association (USDA).

'They sentenced him to 2 years in prison without swearing at the USDA as they alleged. It is a deliberate ploy. He is not allowed to say anything. Daddy was going out on a bicycle to attend to some businesses when he was accosted by the police and told to 'follow them to the police station for some questionings'. They never released him. They detained him. We have evidences on our part but they never allowed us to speak,' said Ma Mee Mee.

Local Maymyo residents say that U Salin was, in fact, imprisoned for his active role in the arrangement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's previous trip to southern Shan State.

Meanwhile, U Nyein Maung a petroleum industry worker from Chauk in central Burma who was released on 12 March told DVB that he was imprisoned unfairly in December 1996 by the junta and beaten up badly by prison authorities while he was detained. [TOP](#)

### **NLD member imprisoned for not reporting presence to the authority**

*23 Mar 04*

A member of Insein Township National League for Democracy (NLD) Ma Than Than Suu Win who has been temporarily residing in Dagon New Town for a year was sentenced to seven days hard labour for failing to register herself as a guest to the local authority.

The local military authorities arrested and imposed the sentence on her after she failed to report her presence to them. Friends of Ma Than Than Suu Win said that she was unable to report to the authority because she was worried for her safety as it was getting dark.

At the court, in order to trick Ma Than Than Suu Win into acknowledging her 'crime', the prosecuting authorities asked her if she respects the laws of the nation and when she said she did, she was given the sentence, according to Naw Ohn Hla of central NLD Women.

The authorities in Rangoon have been placing tight security measures throughout the capital Rangoon in preparation for the forthcoming Army Day (known to the people of Burma as Anti-Fascist Revolution Day) celebration.

They are particularly targeting NLD members by checking the guest list of each home and punishing those who violate the draconian law which forces all hosts to report the presence of guests in their home even if they are close relatives. [TOP](#)

### **Political prisoner – Poet Kyi Tin Oo's health condition**

*24 Mar 04*

The renowned Burmese poet U Kyi Tin Oo who has been detained illegally for many years by Burma's military junta is receiving medical treatments at Insein Prison clinic for his deteriorating health.

U Kyi Tin Oo was arrested, sentenced to ten years in prison in early 1994 and he should have been released with normal practice. His son Ko Aung Kyaw Hein (aka) Kyaw Kyaw was also sent to Kale Prison in northern Burma with a 14 year sentence.

His wife, Daw Yi Wei, a fortune-teller by trade told DVB that her husband is suffering from high blood pressure, heart condition and diabetes and he had been hospitalised for more than three times.

Daw Yi Wei has been supporting her family and looking after her imprisoned husband and son by telling the fortunes of other people but she is not embittered by her experiences. [TOP](#)

### **Political Prisoner's health condition – Saw Ne Dun**

*27 Mar 04*

The health condition of 81 year old Burmese political prisoner Saw Ne Dun who is currently detained at Thayawaddy Prison in central Burma is said to be deteriorating.

U Ne Dun, the chairman of Pauk Khaung Township National League for Democracy (NLD) has been suffering from high blood pressure and heart diseases. During last week, the authorities allowed him out to attend the funeral of his wife.

According to people who met him at the funeral, U Ne Dun was still strong mentally but his physical condition has deteriorated considerably. He was given 20 years' imprisonment in 1991. [TOP](#)

### **Five students arrested for wearing NLD uniform**

*27 Mar 04*

Five university students were arrested by the authorities of Burma's military junta for wearing traditional Burmese 'pinni' jacket (usually worn by members of National League of Democracy) on 13 March, Burma's Human Rights Day and the 16th anniversary of the death of Rangoon Institute of Technology student Ko Phone Maw.

The junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) arrested the five students including a Physics major student Ko Kyaw Zeya from Dagon University residing at No.3 Ward in Hlaing Township, Rangoon.

They are being detained at Insein Jail and booked under disorderly conduct at the university campus while under the influence. [TOP](#)

### **Poet Kyi Tin Oo released**

*27 Mar 04*

Renowned Burmese poet, Kyi Tin Oo who has been detained unfairly by Burma's military junta for more than 10 years was released from Insein Prison in Rangoon on 26 March.

'My freedom amounts to nothing at the moment. At present I would like to try and improve my health condition to be able to go and see the face of my son. We have been separated for six years. I want to go and see him. I was in Thayawaddy Prison for a year and when I was returned to Insein Jail, he was already sent to Kale Prison. We didn't meet. I have seen all the sufferings of the people with my own eyes and if possible I want a general amnesty for all political prisoners. I should be feeling happy but I am feeling sad. Once I am outside, I see these sad things for my family. I am not alone in this matter. I know that they are also suffering like my family. I knew about it when I was

inside prison. I know about it when I am outside. Even so, I have not been travelling widely yet. I am only staying at home. I am not crying for myself. All are feeling melancholic with wounds,' U Kyi Tin Oo told DVB.

U Kyi Tin Oo was arrested and sentenced to ten years in prison in early 1994. His son Ko Aung Kyaw Hein (aka) Kyaw Kyaw was also sent to Kale Prison in northern Burma with a 14 year sentence.

His wife, Daw Yi Wei, a fortune-teller by trade told DVB that her husband has been suffering from high blood pressure, heart condition and diabetes and hospitalised for more than three times.

She has been supporting her family and looking after her imprisoned husband and son by telling the fortunes of other people but she is not feeling embittered by her experiences. [TOP](#)

### **Three sentenced to death in Burma for contact with the ILO**

*29 Mar 04*

Three people have been convicted of high treason and sentenced to death by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) for having contacts with the UN's International Labour Organization (ILO).

The ILO has worked for years to end forced labour in Burma. Officials from Burma's junta were not immediately available for comment.

The three were among nine people found guilty of high treason and sentenced to death in November 2003 and they were identified as Min Kyi, Aye Myint and Shwe Mahn.

ILO officials met with Min Kyi and Aye Myint at Rangoon's Insein prison on March 19 and the two men described being interrogated by military intelligence officials for several days, beaten, deprived of food, water and sleep.

Burma's junta currently faces widespread international disapproval for its poor human rights and anti-democracy record. Allegations persist that villagers are forced to work on government projects or used as army porters, despite banning forced labour in 1999.

Washington-based EarthRights International, a human rights group, said in a report last year the army forces villagers in eastern Burma to carry supplies, act as guides, and sweep for land mines - all without pay. [TOP](#)

### **Buddhist monks given long-term prison sentences**

*29 Mar 04*

26 Burmese Buddhist monks including an abbot who have been detained since December 2003 were given long-term prison sentences lasting up to 18 years by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

The sentences were handed down to the monks at a court inside the notorious Insein Prison in Rangoon at the beginning of February and the families of the monks were only informed recently, according to legal circles in Rangoon.

The monks were arrested by the junta because they refused to accept the donations offered by the generals and their families during a religious festival called Kahtein (Kathina) and some of the monks were forcibly expelled from their monasteries by the military authorities.

Among the monks given sentence are 25 novice monks and one senior monk, and the leading monk is said to be Reverend U Sanda Zawti. Some of them had already been transferred to Tharawaddy Prison in central Burma and the remaining monks were allowed to see their family members.

According to an abbot who doesn't want to be identified, many monks who are currently taking religious examinations are feeling aggrieved by the action of the junta. He added that the abbots are not allowed to help the monks who had been arrested. Many monks are forcibly disrobed once they are sent to prison by the military junta.

Meanwhile, the Police Directorate in Rangoon has ordered all the abbots throughout Burma to submit the list monks in their monasteries including their personal particulars and details to the junta's Department of Religious Affairs. [TOP](#)

### **Dr. Maung Maung Kyaw's health condition**

*30 Mar 04*

The health condition of Dr. Maung Maung Kyaw who has been detained unfairly at Moulmein Prison in southern Burma by the military junta of Burma, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) is said to be deteriorating.

78-year-old Dr. Maung Maung Kyaw was arrested and sentenced to seven years in prison with Act 5J for helping write the history of political activities of Burmese students by describing his role as the chairman of the student union in the 1950s.

According to someone close to him, Dr. Maung Maung Kyaw is suffering from heart disease, diabetes and breathing problems but the prison authorities are taking no action for him despite his request for the treatments five or six days ago.

Although criminals in Burmese prisons are allowed to receive medical treatments when they are ill, political prisoners first need to get the permission of military intelligence to receive the same treatment.

A political prisoner, Mai Ai Pan of Palaung State Liberation Front died while he was in prison in 2002 because the authorities didn't act promptly when the patient was fatally ill.

Ko Bo Kyi of Thailand-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) said that there are many old and ill political prisoners inside Burmese jails who need urgent medical treatments including U Win Tin, U Thu Wei, U Saw Ne Dun and U Htway Myint.

The junta is deliberately and slowly torturing and killing political prisoners this way to break their resistance and morale and many prisoners died or went mad soon after they were released because of the inhumane treatments they received inside the prisons.

Similarly, the health conditions of prisoners recently transferred from Paung Tae and Tharawaddy prisons to Insein Prison including Ko Thet Naung Soe, Ko Khin Maung Oo, student leader Ko Ko Gyi and Pagan Than Naing who was accused of having underground contacts with the communists, are said to be deteriorating, and the authorities are not only refusing to release them but they are also denying them medical treatments. [TOP](#)

### **Extended sentences given to Ko Ko Gyi**

31 Mar 04

The military junta of Burma, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) has extended another 6 months the prison sentence of a Burmese student leader Ko Ko Gyi who has been unfairly detained with Act 10a at Thayet Prison in central Burma.

The junta's military intelligent agents arrested and imprisoned the vice-chairmen of All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) Ko Ko Gyi and Ko Zaw Min in 1991 for voicing their support for the winning of Nobel Peace Prize by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and they have been repeatedly given extended sentences without proper charges or hearings.

According to the existing laws of the junta, the authorities are allowed to detain Ko Ko Gyi for only five years with Act 10a.

Ko Ko Gyi's brother Aung Aung Tun told DVB that his brother was released in September 1999 after serving the original sentence with Act 5J but he was rearrested within a day and imprisoned with Act 10a. He should have been released on 5 March 2004 but the junta extended his sentence to another year. Ko Ko Gyi wrote to the authorities to complain about the unfair sentence imposed upon him.

Aung Aung Tun added that Ko Ko Gyi has been suffering from gastric, liver and skin diseases and medicines had to be sent to him from home the lack of medical care in the prison.

A Burmese legal expert U Aung Htoo of Thailand-based Burma Lawyers Council said that originally the authorities were allowed to detain political prisoners for only three years and the extension to five years is against the principles of the constitution, law and order.

Ko Min Naing, the foreign affairs spokesman of ABFSU based on the Thai-Burma border urged the junta to immediately release its chairman Min Ko Naing and the vice-chairman Ko Ko Gyi and denounced the junta's unfair actions.

A spokeswoman from London-based Amnesty International also denounced the junta's unfair actions on Ko Ko Gyi and Zaw Min by extending their sentences without charges and trials. [TOP](#)

