

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

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### **Ivanhoe's employee jailed**

*2 July 2004*

A Burmese employee of the Canadian mining company, Ivanhoe, was given a seven year long prison sentence with hard labour for attempting to help his boss meet with Burma's democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who has been under house arrest.

Ko Thet Lwin was arrested in December 2003 and punished for accompanying an official from Ivanhoe to the house of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Rangoon.

According to Ko Teit Naing of Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), the two were arrested as soon as they entered the compound of the lakeside home of Burma's democracy leader and taken straight away to an interrogation centre.

The Canadian official was later released but Ko Thet Lwin was continued to be detained and his family was told not leak the news of the arrest by the military intelligence agents.

The sentence was passed in February and Ko Thet Lwin was sent to a police controlled gulag and his family only learnt about it recently. [TOP](#)

### **Student fighter released in Burma**

*5 July 2004*

A member of the Burmese student armed group, All Burma Student Democratic Front (ABSDF) who had been imprisoned since 1991 was released on 2 July.

Saw Thar Aye, a Karen national was released from Putao Jail, Kachin State in northern Burma by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

He was arrested in 1991 at the age of 19 and sentenced to 15 years in prison in 1992 for his role in the fight for democracy in Burma.

He was transferred from Myeik (Mergui) Prison in southern Burma to Insein Prison in Rangoon and in May 1998, he was transferred to Kale Prison in northwest Burma.

He was then transferred to Putao Prison for staging a hunger strike and locked up in an isolation unit for a year before he was released, according to people close to him. [TOP](#)

### **Prisoners not allowed to see family members in Burma**

*12 July 2004*

Members of National League for Democracy (NLD) U Tin Myint and Daw Than Than Htay who have been detained for their democracy activities had not been allowed to meet their family members by the authorities despite a written request asking a meeting.

Family members of the two political prisoners went to Insein Prison in Rangoon with their lawyer from NLD Legal Support Group on 12 July and requested a meeting with their loved ones in writing.

U Tin Myint the secretary of Thinganggyun Township, Rangoon NLD and Daw Than Than Htay, a member of Magwe Division NLD Women were arrested on 7 June by the military intelligence agents and they had not been allowed to meet their family members.

Their family members wrote to the authorities because they were notified with a letter by the prison authorities that their loved ones were arrested by the military intelligence and no one has the right to ask where they were being detained, when they are allowed to meet their family members and where they are to be tried.

Although the existing law clearly says that anyone arrested with suspicion must be transferred to a police department and allowed to meet family members and lawyers within 28 days, the military intelligence has been violating the law, according to the lawyer of the families. [TOP](#)

### **Burma junta releases 3 more prisoners**

*14 July 2004*

Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) released three more political prisoners on 12 July.

They are Dr. Maung Maung Kyaw and lawyer U Thar Bann and Ma Suu Suu Win who were arrested for helping to write the history of political activities of Burmese students. They were all released from Insein Prison in Rangoon.

Among the released, the health condition of Dr. Maung Maung Kyaw is said not to be very good.

He was originally detained at Moulmein Jail, Mon State in southern Burma and transferred to Insein Jail earlier this year as his health condition deteriorated.

U Thar Bann was first arrested in 1990 and imprisoned at Insein Jail until 1995 and rearrested in 1998 for trying to help write the history of Burmese political activities compiled by Ko Aung Tun and given 7 years prison term.

Ma Suu Suu Win was first arrested in 1991 for her involvements in December 1991 student activities and released in 1992. She was rearrested again in 1998 with the other two. [TOP](#)

### **Released prisoner died of diseases**

*20 July 2004*

Ko Wa Nay Soe, the recently released Burmese political prisoner died at Asin Village, Ye Township, Tenasserim Division in southern Burma on 20 July with liver disease he contracted while he was imprisoned.

Ko Wa Nay Soe was a member of Ye Township National League for Democracy (NLD) and he was arrested at the end of 1998 and sentenced to 10 years in prison.

He was transferred from Insein Jail in Rangoon to Moulmein Prison in Mon State, and he contracted liver disease while he was there, according to people close to his family members.

His health condition deteriorated due to poor medical cares in prison and he was released in June 2004 because the doctor in the prison said his disease was incurable.

He was sent to a private hospital in Rangoon for treatments with the help of his relatives and political friends.

But his liver was badly infected with cancerous cells and beyond repair and his health condition deteriorated further to such an extent that he was sent back to Asin Village where his family lives.

Ko Bo Kyi of Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) said that Ko Wa Nay Soe died unnecessarily as a result of the inhumane treatments he received in the hand of the military junta.

Ko Wa Nay Soe is survived by his schoolteacher wife Daw Khin Than Oo and two daughters. [TOP](#)

### **Ceasefire group members arrested by Burma junta**

*22 July 2004*

Eight members of New Mon State Party (NMSP) who have been active in Mon State's Ye Township in southern Burma were arrested by troops of Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) causing tension between the two sides which signed ceasefire agreements.

NMSP Secretary Nai Han Tha said the eight arrested led by Nai Lwin Naing were arrested while they were meeting people during an organizational tour of Ye Township on 29 June and they are being held in Moulmein Prison.

'We have tried to resolve the problem. This is a matter that both sides need to settle through talks', he said. The men went to the people on an organizational trip and to seek their help, but they were accused of coercing the people and threatening them by the SPDC authorities.

Three NMSP members were also arrested in Mudon Township just before the current arrests.

Another nine people were also framed, accused of possessing explosives and charged with conspiring to assassinate the leaders of the state.

Two Mon nationals; Nai Yekka and Nai Ba Myo Htwe were given death sentences and later had their sentences commuted to life. Their case is now being appealed.

At the same time, when asked about the adjourned constitution drafting 'National Convention' organised by the junta, Nai Han Tha refused to make comment on it.

And when pressed by DVB to comment about the general feeling about the convention, he said, 'we have submitted what needs to be submitted but their side said what we presented was not in accord with the principles laid down and they did not allow our proposal to be presented at the plenary session.

Our side - 13 organizations - have jointly asked the matter to be placed on record. We were able to agree on one point with the others and the matter was submitted through the "specially invited guests" delegates group. We will have to ask details about the matter only when we meet our representatives. We will then consider the matter'. [TOP](#)

### **Renowned Burmese poet, Kyi Tin Oo passed away**

*24 July 2004*

The renowned Burmese poet and former political prisoner, U Kyi Tin Oo passed away at Rangoon General Hospital on 24 July.

He was suffering from a combination of diseases including diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease.

Kyi Tin Oo was released from prison on 26 March 2004 when his health condition deteriorated beyond repair.

He had been detained illegally for many years by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) and his sufferings were the results of lack of proper medical care inside the prisons and inhumane treatments he received in the hand of the military authorities.

U Kyi Tin Oo was arrested, sentenced to ten years in prison in early 1994 and held beyond his release date. 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 and fellow poet, 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 claimed that she was not embittered by her experiences.

She was on her way to Kale Prison in northern Burma to visit her imprisoned son when her husband died and her friends tried to get in touch with her without success.

Before he died, Kyi Tin Oo thanked all his literary friends who helped him through thick and thin, and he expressed the sorrow of not being able to say goodbye to his faithful beloved wife before he died.

When he was released, Kyi Tin Oo told DVB that he was likely to die more than a year after his release and that he had the urge to write poetry all the time despite having to struggle for his survival constantly.

'With these diseases, I won't last long,' he predicted in a prophetic way. He added that the way the junta treated him and his fellow political prisoners, it was clear that the generals want them to be extinct.

Political observers say that the junta tends to release political prisoners only when they are about to go mad or die.

He also expressed his feelings on his life and the situation in Burma as follows: '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 (the 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.'

May U Kyi Tin Oo rest in peace!

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### **Pagan Than Naing's health condition deteriorates**

*26 July 2004*

The health condition of Pagan Than Naing who has been detained at Moulmein Prison in southern Burma is said to be deteriorating.

He has been detained since 1989 and his mental and physical deterioration is said to be the result of the injuries he sustained during the brutal interrogations in prison. His condition further deteriorated due to poor healthcare inside the prisons.

Ko Ngwe Lin of Democratic Party for New Society (DPNS), himself a former prisoner told DVB that Pagan Than Naing was arrested in July 1989 and sentenced to 20 years.

When he was transferred from Rangoon Insein Prison to Taungoo Prison, his nerve system was not good and he tried to commit suicide by jumping into a well to drown.

And in 2003, he was given another 7 years and transferred to Moulmein prison.

Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) is still detaining political prisoners like Than Naing out of spite, according to Ngwe Lin.

For example, 81 year of U Saw Ne Dun, Saya Maung Thway Khaing and U Win Tin are still being detained despite their deteriorating health conditions.

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### **NLD leader in Karen State arrested and imprisoned**

*27 July 2004*

While National League for Democracy (NLD) leaders and members throughout Burma are actively campaigning for the release of all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, an NLD leader from Karen State was arrested and imprisoned for seven days for failing to report to the authorities as a guest to a place he visited.

The vice-chairman of NLD Kawkaik Township, Karen State U Ye Myint was arrested on 26 July by military intelligence agents while he was on a rallying tour within the township.

He is being detained in Pa-an Prison but the prison authorities refused to let the NLD members to meet him. [TOP](#)

### **At least 3 more activists arrested in Burma**

*29 July 2004*

Three more people including one National League for Democracy (NLD) member from Kyaikhto Township, Mon State in southern Burma had been arrested by the military intelligence agents of Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

The NLD spokesman U Lwin said, the arrests are connected to U Tin Myint and Daw Than Than Htay who were arrested in June.

They were accused of arranging the escapes of political activists to Thailand and currently being detained at a detention centre in Rangoon.

According to the reports from Mon State NLD, the name of the NLD member is said to be Ma Yi Yi Win and could be more than three people who were arrested. [TOP](#)

### **Political prisoners health conditions deteriorate in Burma**

*29 July 2004*

The health conditions of Dr. Than Nyein, the elected representative of Kyauktan Township National League for Democracy (NLD), Rangoon Division, and U Thu Wai and U Htway Myint, leaders of Democracy Party who are being detained in Insein Prison, are said to be deteriorating again.

According to those who are close to their family members, Dr. Than Nyein is suffering from liver complaints and U Thu Wai and U Htway Myint are suffering from heart disease and high blood pressures.

Despite their deteriorating conditions, the authorities of Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) show no sign of releasing them.

The prisoners' family members are increasingly worried for their loved ones because of the increasing number of political prisoners who die after their releases.

U Ngwe Lin, himself an ex-prisoner and a members of Democratic Party for New Society (DPNS) said there are many political prisoners including those from armed groups such as Karen National Union (KNU) and Arakan Communist Party (ACP) are languishing in Burmese prisons in Burma who had been detained since early 1980s, and it is time they are released due to their deteriorating health conditions. [TOP](#)

### **Kachin youth arrested in upper Burma for reporting floods**

*31 July 2004*

Burma's military intelligence agents have arrested two Kachin youths who shot a documentary video about the devastating flood in Myitkyina in northern Burma recently.

A Kachin Internet news report stated that the two youths - Lazing La Htoi and No Htoi - were arrested on 27 July.

They were arrested for shooting footage of last week's flood and recorded 300 copies on to video compact disc (VCD).

Furthermore, authorities have also shut down Cyber Computer Centre, the computer shop which produced the documentary, for an indefinite period.

Colonel Nu Ying from the New Democratic Army-Kachin (NDA-K) confirmed that La Htoi is from Myitkyina while No Htoi is from Bhamo.

And he added that the VCDs which contain footage of the devastating flood in Myitkyina were also confiscated

The military authorities have so far remained silent about the arrest.

In a report on the Myitkyina flood they claimed that the flooding was a normal occurrence and denied reports of casualties or damages.

Dr Tu Ja from the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) who personally took part in the Myitkyina flood relief efforts contradicted the junta's report by confirming that there are more than 10 casualties so far.

Col Nu Ying said the casualty in NDA-K controlled region (Special Region-1 in Northeast Kachin State) alone amounted to more than 20 dead.

'The destruction and loss is huge...Nine villages were inundated with water. The situation was further worsened by the landslides that followed after the rains,' he said.

Although the cease-fire groups are systematically helping their own people in the flood-ravaged regions, local townspeople said Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) authorities in Myitkyina are not doing enough.

Furthermore, as the accurate news is not disseminated, it is rather impossible to receive assistance from international organizations.

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