

Democratic Voice of Burma
Political Prisoners News
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Burmese lawyer urges junta to release prisoners

3 November 2004

A prominent Burmese lawyer, Naing Ngwe Ya who has been defending political prisoners inside Burma, has urged the country's junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) to immediately release all old and sick prisoners and those who had served their terms, as there has been an increase in the deaths of prisoners while in detention.

Naing Ngwe Ya who defended Zaw Zaw also known as Zaw Myo Htet who recently died in prison told DVB that in order to prevent the tragic case like that of Zaw Myo Htet from occurring, the authorities should stop the practice of continuing detention of old, sick and pregnant prisoners with unfair acts such as 10a & 10b.

28-year-old geological student Zaw Myo Htet died in prison on 19 October after suffering from diseases relating to liver, and he is the 93rd political prisoner who died while in detention, according to Thailand-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP).

Zaw Myo Htet's father, U Tin Maung Oo who saw the dire condition of his son before he died insisted that the death of his son was caused by poor medical care within the prison and the indifference and insensitivity of the prison authorities.

"They gave him no medicine. I had to scrape and borrow to buy medicines for him", he said with a sense of sorrowful anger. [TOP](#)

Another Political prisoner Dr. Ne Win released in northern Burma

5 November 2004

Dr. Ne Win who had been detained at Myikyina Prison in northern Burma, had been released on 1 November.

Dr. Ne Win is a vet by profession and he was arrested and sentenced to 20 years in prison in 1989 for all allegedly having contacts with the Burma Communist Party underground members. In 1992, his sentence was reduced to ten years.

He was due to be released in 1999 but he had been detained unfairly beyond his release date with Act 10 (A). Dr. Ne Win spent nearly 15 years in Insein, Myingyan, Mandalay and Myikyina Prisons.

According to his family members, he is looking well physically.

Recently, Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) released another student leader Ko Htay Kywe who also had been detained with the same Act 10 (A).

Therefore, families and friends of other student leaders including Min Ko Naing are having high hope that their loved ones would be released soon as those who have been detained with Act 10 (A) tend to be released by the junta currently – once they have served their extended sentences. [TOP](#)

Burmese prisoner to be transferred due to ill health

11 November 2004

The elected representative (Member of Parliament) of Taungoo Township in central Burma, U Aung Soe Myint who has been imprisoned at Thayet Prison, is to be transferred to Rangoon for medical treatments, due to his deteriorating health condition.

U Aung Soe Myint, who is suffering from diabetes and other diseases, is to be transferred to the notorious Insein Jail in Rangoon for treatment of his eyes, due to the request of the ICRC.

A family member of his told DVB that he is to be transferred around 18-19 November. When he was arrested, his health was not good and he had to receive medical treatments wherever he was imprisoned. At the moment, he is receiving treatments for diabetes and other diseases.

U Aung Soe Myint was arrested in October 2003 in connection with a traffic accident and he was charged with possessing and using an unlicensed motorcycle and sentenced to seven years in prison.

According to the UK government and the Amnesty International, there are more than 1400 political prisoners including 15 MPs who have been detained unfairly by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

An exiled MP, U Maung Maung Aye recited the list of their names as follows:

1. U Ohn Kyaing - Taungoo Prison
2. Dr. Zaw Myint Maung - Myikyina Prison
3. U Yaw Si - Myikyina Prison
4. U Sein Hla Oo - Myikyina Prison
5. U Khin Maung Swe - Myingyan Prison
6. Dr. Than Nyein - Insein Prison

7. Dr. Daw May Win Myint - Insein Prison
8. U Ohn Maung - Insein Prison
9. U Toe Po - Insein Prison
10. U Soe Myint - Insein Prison
11. U Kyaw San - Insein Prison
12. U Aung Soe Myint - Thayet Prison
13. U Kyaw Kyaw - Thayet Prison
14. U Than Htay - Lashio Prison

Six MPs had already died in detention due to inhumane treatments and torture.

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NLD members' activities in Burma

15 November 2004

Burma's main opposition party National League for Democracy (NLD) wrote a letter to the "Prime Minister" of the military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), General Soe Win concerning the detention of three NLD leaders at Danubyu in the delta region of Irrawaddy Division, but there has been no response from the general.

U Han Sein, U Win Maung and U Than Htut were arrested on 5 November by the local authorities and charged with distributing leaflets and documents.

Meanwhile, NLD Central Executive Committee members are meeting regional leaders on 16 November to discuss future activities.

NLD spokesman U Lwin insisted that the NLD leaders only issue directives to its members after listening to what they have to say first.

Recently, the formation of Rangoon Division NLD was restructured and transformed and other regional NLD organisations are likely to follow Rangoon's example according to their situations and needs, U Lwin noted.

Meanwhile, NLD members of Monyin Township, Kachin State held a fortnightly meeting on 15 November at the home of their vice-chairman U Pe Sein.

They mainly discussed the contents of the statement issued on the birthday of the party in September, and also demanded the unconditional release of all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her deputy U Tin Oo and the reopening of all NLD offices throughout the country and the urgent convening of people's parliament.

Burma's student leader Min Ko Naing released

19 November 2004

Min Ko Naing who had been detained since 1988 by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) at Sittwe (Akyab) Prison, Arakan State is released at 5:30 PM on 19 November according to his closed relatives.

"The authorities took him from Sittwe airport at 5:30 PM and he reached Rangoon at 6:30 PM by plane. Two and an half hour later, at 9:00 PM he reunited with his beloved family." the source said.

Min Ko Naing also known as Paw Oo Tun is the most famous student leader during the 8888 nationwide uprising in Burma.

He was a Zoology student at Rangoon University and he led the nationwide uprising in 1988 as the chairman of All Burma Federation of Students Union (ABFSU).

At the founding rally of the ABFSU on 28 August 1988, Min Ko Naing called on students throughout the country to struggle peacefully against military rule and for democracy and freedom of association.

Min Ko Naing was arrested on 23 March 1989 and sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment under Section 5(j) of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act, vaguely-worded legislation which is frequently used to imprison political prisoners.

For most of his imprisonment Min Ko Naing has been held in complete solitary confinement.

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Some Burmese political prisoners released

19 November 2004

Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) has released 21 political prisoners including 3 elected representatives (MPs) from National League for Democracy (NLD) on 19 November.

NLD MPs U Kyaw San, U Ohn Maung, U Toe Po were released from the notorious Insein Prison along with U Htay Myint and U Aung Zin a lawyer from Lashio.

The remaining prisoners were: 11 from Mandalay Prison, 1 from Shwebo Prison, 1 from Myaungmya Prison, 2 from Thayet Prison and 1 from Myikyina Prison.

The MP of Tantse Township, Sagaing Division U Kyaw San told DVB it seemed that prison authorities were preparing to release prisoners in a big scale but he was released on his own and arrived home at 11.45am.

The MP of Nyaunglebin Township, Pegu Division U Ohn Maung said he was released around 10.30am. He has almost served his seven year sentence and his health condition has been considerably weakened by the imprisonment.

It was also rumoured that the famous journalist U Win Tin was released with them but U Kyaw San said that he said goodbye to U Win Tin at his cell and he is also surprised by the news. Nevertheless, U Win Tin is still not seen at his home. His health condition is said to be ordinary despite the fact that he has not been allowed to come out of his cell for physical exercises.

Leaders of Democracy Party U Htway Myint and U Thu Wei, and NLD MPs Dr. Than Nyein and U Naing Naing have not been released yet.

A student leader Ko Min Zaw Thet who was released from Thayet Prison with U Nyan Hla, the NLD MP for Mindon Township said that there are still many political prisoners in the prison. [TOP](#)

Burmese released prisoners speak-1 (Min Zaw Thein)

19 November 2004

Some of the Burmese political prisoners who were released on 19 November by Burma's military junta, State peace and Development Council (SPDC) told DVB about their prison experiences and new found freedom as follows:

Ko Min Zaw Thein, a student leader released from Thayet prison in central Burma

"Today, on 19 November, we were released unconditionally in accordance with the telegram from the Directorate of Prison Administration Department issued at 23.00 hr, 18.11.2004, 1972, U1, La-Wa2.

I was released with U Nyan Hla, the MP of Mindon Township. U Nyan Hla himself was supposed to serve another year. Me too, I was supposed to serve two more years. They told both of us to prepare for our release and released us at about 10.45am.

In the prison block-1 where I was detained, there were 24 political prisoners including me. There are 17 in block-2. There are 14 in block-4. They kept political prisoners with religious prisoners.

The KNU (Karen National Union) group is still there. U Ko Ko Gyi, the vice-chairman of All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABSFU) was in our block-2. Ko Zaw Min of NDF (National Democratic Front) was also with us. He is being detained with Act 10A.

There are three political prisoners above 65 years old according to the reports: U Hla Shwe, U Thein Tan of Mandalay Division NLD and U Kyaw Khin, a MP from Shan State. They were expected by all political prisoners to be released. The prison authorities took their photographs, gave them health checks and took their details for the record. I am praying that all prisoners would be released like me. [TOP](#)

Burmese released prisoners speak-2 (U Ohn Maung)

19 November 2004

U Ohn Maung, the NLD MP of Nyaunglebin in Pegu Division released from Insein Jail in Rangoon

"I see the release of political prisoners from an optimistic point of view. I agree and support the right decision taken (by the junta) to release political prisoners.

Another thing – I have decided to dedicate my life, even sacrifice my life for the good of my country under the leadership of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD; to make the country more stable and peaceful." [TOP](#)

Burmese released prisoners speak-3 (U Kyaw San)

19 November 2004

U Kyaw San, the NLD MP of Tantse Township, Sagaing Division released from Insein Jail in Rangoon.

"The first thing I want to report is – I was detained with Act 5J and sentenced to 7 years and 7 months... Then, they detained me with Act 10A ...for six months and another year.

They have to do something about it. If they don't, it would not be in accordance with what they call the national reconciliation. I believe that they have to do something pragmatic to make the international community, the people, political parties and ethnic national groups accept them.

First and foremost, we want them to release our leaders Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo, to allow the NLD to carry out their duties freely and legally, and they must carry out the national reconciliation in practice, not for the outside view but from within and if they do that there would be no prospect for a better future..." [TOP](#)

List of political prisoners released by Burma junta so far

21 November 2004

Although Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) had released nearly 1000 prisoners including 28 political prisoners on 19 November, it hasn't continued the release on the following days.

Prison authorities said the reason for the suspension is due to the weekend and the closure of government offices, and the release would resume on the coming Monday, 22 November.

The relatives of the political prisoners are complaining that the authorities arrested their loved ones whenever they wanted and that they should not be choosing "auspicious" days to release them like the way they are doing now.

Hundreds of family members of political prisoners are going to Insein prison to demand for the release of their loved ones on 22 November.

Those who had been released so far are:

1. Min Ko Naing – Student leader (Akyab [Sittwe] Prison)
2. U Ohn Maung – NLD MP (Insein Prison)
3. U Kyaw San – NLD MP (Insein Prison)
4. U Toe Po – NLD MP (Insein Prison)
5. U Aung Zin – NLD member (Insein Prison)
6. U Htay Myint – NLD member ((Insein Prison)
7. Ko Yar Kyaw – student (Mandalay Prison)
8. Ko Zaw Zaw Lin – student (Mandalay Prison)
9. Dr. Soe Than Maung – doctor (Mandalay)
10. Ko Chit Ko (Mandalay Prison)
11. Ko Moe Kyaw (Mandalay Prison)
12. Ko Nyi Nyi Win (Mandalay Prison)
13. Ko Moe Zaw Tun (Mandalay Prison)
14. Ko Kyaw Win Swe (Mandalay Prison)
15. Ko Mya Thaug (Mandalay Prison)
16. Ma Ohn Mar (Mandalay Prison)
17. Ma Tin Mar Yi (Mandalay Prison)
18. Dr. Hkun Seng (Shwebo Prison)
19. U Nyan Hla (Thayet Prison)
20. Min Zaw Thein (Thayet Prison)
21. U Thet Naing – schoolteacher (Myikyina Prison)
22. Ko Aung Myo Tint (Myaungmya Prison)
23. Reverend Ashin U Pinnya Zawta (Tharawaddy Prison)
24. U Myo Myint (Tharawaddy Prison)
25. U Myo Shwe (Tharawaddy Prison)
26. Ko Khin Maung Cho (Tharawaddy Prison)
27. Ko Mya Soe (Tharawaddy Prison)
28. Sai Sithu (Tharawaddy Prison)

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Burmese student leader Min Ko Naing greets the free world!

20 November 2004

Burma's most famous student leader Ko Min Ko Naing who was released on 19 November from Sittwe (Akyab) Prison in Arakan State urged all the parties concerned to work sincerely towards the national reconciliation.

Ko Min Ko Naing who has been incarcerated for nearly 16 years said that he needs time to study all aspects of the situation in Burma before he decides to do anything. He added that he is feeling as if he has just woken up from the dark dream world, and he will be trying to fit in with the free world. He gave special thanks to all those who worked hard for the release of all political prisoners including his.

At the moment, he is unable to sleep properly and finds it hard to tolerate the sunlight. As he had spent his imprisonment alone in isolated cells, he is finding it hard to speak or communicate with people.

He told well-wishers including representatives from foreign embassies who came to greet him that he will deliver a proper speech to the new generation of students and the people of Burma after studying the situation properly. In the evening, he was reunited with some of his student activist friends who took part in the 1988 nationwide uprising with him.

Meanwhile, four security personnel in civilian clothing are watching Ko Min Ko Naing's home, according to those who went to see him. [TOP](#)

Min Ko Naing's greetings to international students

21 November 2004

Greetings to international students

Because of the prayer you have been sending,

Because of the supports you have been giving,

The opportunity to greet you thus arises...

To all the "students"

Who have been studying

With all your physical and mental powers,

In order to serve the interests of the society...

By recognising your assistances given to fellow students,

And your efforts with the intention for the benefits of humanity...

It has been worth it for me to carry out my duties.

With loyalty,

Yours,

Min Ko Naing

[TOP](#)

More political prisoners released by Burma junta

20 November 2004

Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) has released six more political prisoners including a Buddhist monk from Tharawaddy Prison in the evening of 19 November.

They are Reverend U Pinnya Zawta also known as U Myint Maung Maung, U Myo Myint, U Myo Swe, Ko Khin Maung Cho, Boothee (aka) Ko Mya Soe and Sai Sithu. According their relatives and loved ones, their health conditions are considerably good.

After announcing that it is releasing nearly 4000 prisoners who were wrongly imprisoned by the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB), the junta had released nearly 1000 prisoners on 19 November. According the list compiled by DVB, only 27 political prisoners had been released so far.

According to family members of political prisoners who have been awaiting the release of their loved ones at the gate of the notorious Insein Jail in Rangoon, more are likely to be released on the coming weekdays. [TOP](#)

NLD MP U Toe Po describes his release

20 November 2004

The National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative (MP) of Yephyu Township, Tenasserim Division, U Toe Po who was released from Insein Prison on 19 November told DVB how he was released as follows:

"...As usual, they didn't tell me the reason when they came to summon me. It looked as if they were going to discuss something with me... When I was at the main gate, I was allowed to meet with the prison governor and the chief director, and they talked to me a little bit, and released me. When I said they talks, I mean they told me that I should be a bit careful in the future not to re-enter the prison etc..."

On the paper, U Toe Po still needs to serve one more year of his sentence before he is to be released. He was arrested on 4 October, 1998 for arranging a meeting between Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and students.

He also gave the list of political prisoners who were detained with him:

"In Block-5 where I was detained, there were about 20 political prisoners. Four or five days ago, they summoned 13 prisoners. They were Maung Maung Latt, Ye Thiha, Thang Co Wa who was arrested with Ko Ye, Khin Maung Than, Kyaw San Hlaing a 15-year old novice monk from Arakan State who has been detained with me, Ko Aung Zin, four students; Nandar Set Aung, Zaw Lin Tun, Ko Kyaw and Lwin Ko Aung, and Mya San Htoo a youth who staged a lone protest." [TOP](#)

U Toe Po suggested that it would be too early to say whether the release of political prisoners would improve the political situation in Burma.

15 political remain in Myikyina Prison says released leader

20 November 2004

15 political prisoners are still languishing in Myikyina Prison, Kachin State in northern Burma, according to U Thet Naing a school teacher from Pegu who was released from the prison on 19 November.

U Thet Naing had been arrested and imprisoned twice. The first was while he was working as a school teacher in Pegu and arrested with nine pupils of his for their political activities and given a four year sentence. When he was eventually released, he demanded proper salary, medical and social rights for workers at a garment factory in front of the Pegu College from the governing body, and he was charged with Act 5A&J and given a seven year sentence. He had six more days to serve his sentence when he was released.

He gave the list of remaining political prisoners in Myikyina as follows:

U Sein Hla Oo (MP for Insein Township)
 U Zaw Myint Maung (MP for Amarapura Township)
 Dr. Khin Zaw Win (Rangoon)
 Ko Kyaw Kyaw Htay (Rangoon University, English Major)
 Ko Aung Naing Oo (MSc)
 Ko Kyi Lin (South Dagon)
 Ko Tun Lwin (Myikyina)
 U Kyaw Nyein (Monyin)
 (Saya) U Khin Maung Win (Mokaung)
 Ko Myint Cho (Mokaung)
 Ko Tin Soe (Mokaung)
 Ko Than Naing
 Ko Myo Aung Thant (Rangoon)
 U Myo Nyunt (Rangoon)
 15. U Myint Hlaing? (Myikyina)

[TOP](#)

Dr Than Nyein continues to be detained by Burma junta

22 November 2004

Dr. Than Nyein, an elected representative of National League for Democracy (NLD) who has been detained by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), was given another extended sentence with Act 10A.

He was supposed to be released on 19 November 2004 as he had served his previous sentence and his family members were very much hoping that he would be released along with other political prisoners.

According to his wife Daw Khin Aye, Dr. Than Nyein was said to be very furious by the decision and planned to stage a hunger strike to protest against the unlawful action.

The prison authorities told him not to be rash and pleaded with him to wait for another week. Therefore, he is waiting until 26 November for his release and planning to stage the hunger strike until his dies if he is not released. Daw Khin Aye expressed her concerns on her husband's health condition.

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No political prisoners released on 23 November

23 November 2004

Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) which promised to release around 4000 prisoners still haven't released any of them this week after the initial release of about 1000 on 19 November including 28 political prisoners.

But the prison authorities had transferred more than three truckloads of petty criminals to the notorious Insein Prison from nearby Taik Gyi Prison on 23 November in preparation for their release.

Meanwhile, family members of political prisoners are sorely disappointed by the lack of news about their loved ones' prospect for release. The fathers of student leaders Ko Thet Win Aung and Ko Nay Lin Soe who are being detained unjustly at Mandalay Prison, told DVB that they are feeling depressed by the continued detentions of their children by the authorities despite the clear fact that they were unjustly imprisoned.

Ko Thet Win Aung's father U Win Maung said he is living with a very faint hope as his son's health condition is not good, and planning to demand the release of his son officially within legal boundary.

But U San Win, the father of Ko Nay Lin Soe expressed his opinion more bluntly. He insisted that it is the inevitable duty of the military authority to release his son as he was arrested unjustly from the beginning. "I feel that the junta is deliberately insulting the family members of political prisoners internationally", he said. [TOP](#)

RSF demands the release of Burmese journalists

24 November 2004

Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontiers (RSF) on 24 November demanded Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) to release all 12 Burmese journalists including the old and ill U Win Tin from detention.

74-year old U Win Tin was a renowned journalist and a senior leader of National League for Democracy (NLD). He has been imprisoned in the notorious Insein Prison for more than 15 years and RSF is said to be particularly concerned for his condition.

Other 11 detained journalists are

U Aung Pwint
U Sein Hla Oo
U Ohn Kyaing
Phyapon Nilon Oo (aka) U Aung Myint
Monywa Aung Shin
Zaw Thet Htway
U Nay Min
U Myint Thein
U Thaug Tun
U Thein Tan and
Lasang La Pae

RSF has sent a letter to the SPDC, calling for the release of all these journalists and the life story of U Win Tin was discussed at the "support for detained journalists day" event in Paris. [TOP](#)

Some criminals have been freed in central Burma

24 November 2004

Although no political prisoner has been released by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) on 24 November, it has released some criminals from Mandalay Prison in central Burma.

According to the relatives of political prisoners, prison authorities told them that their loved ones would be released on 1 December.

The organising committee member of Mandalay Division National League for Democracy (NLD) who has been waiting for the release of political prisoners at the gate of the prison for the whole day, told DVB that she came home after she was assured by the authorities that political prisoners would be released on 1 December and taken to their respective homes.

In Magwe Division, more than 100 criminals who nearly finish serving their sentences have been transferred from police-controlled gulags to Thayet Prison on military trucks in preparation for their release, according to local residents.

Meanwhile, an NLD central executive member U Khin Maung Swe was recently transferred from Mingyan Prison to Mandalay Prison. [TOP](#)

Released Burmese prisoners explain why they were imprisoned

24 November 2004

Three elected representatives (MPs) who were released on 19 November by Burma's military junta explained to DVB how they were arrested and detained unfairly.

U Ohn Maung, the MP of Nyaunglebin Township in Pegu Division, a former student leader of Rangoon University Union said that the reason for his 7 year imprisonment was nothing to do with the current regime. He was arrested because he explained his role as student leader in a strike in 1953 to a student who was researching the history of Burmese student political activism.

"The government's lawyer told me they are afraid that future students might copy my actions", he said with a touch of anger. He said that the junta dared not try him in public because the arguments of its lawyer were so laughably ridiculous and ordinary people would have jiggery fits when they hear them.

65-year-old U Toe Bo, the MP of Ye Phyu Township, Tenasserim Division was arrested in 1998 for arranging a meeting between Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and some students. He only found out the reason of his arrest and subsequent imprisonment when he was inside prison because a student told him.

72-year-old U Kyaw San, a former army officer and the MP of Tantse Township, Sagaing Division was arrested because he wrote a congratulatory letter to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for winning the 1991 Nobel peace Prize. He served his original sentence and continued to be detained for two more years before he was released.

They all expressed their anger at being treated inhumanely inside the prisons. U Kyaw San never ate any food or medicine provided as they were unsuitable for human consumption. "Apart from boiled water, I survived on food and medicines sent from my home," he said. They all agreed that the healthcare was very, very poor and they were treated like malingerers by prison "doctors" when they requested medicines for their serious illnesses. [TOP](#)

U Win Tin is one of the political prisoners to be freed says junta

25 November 2004

The renowned Burmese journalist U Win Tin is included in the list of those who are to be released, confirmed the deputy foreign minister of Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

The minister, U Kyaw Thu insisted that the junta officially announced the news of mass release because it has the genuine desire to free all those who were imprisoned unjustly.

He added that if the junta knows well that if it doesn't do as said, it would face pressures from within and without Burma, and therefore, the release of prisoners would be resumed. The release has taken so long because prisoners have to be transferred to Rangoon from outer regions, argued U Kyaw Thu. But he didn't say when exactly they are to be released. Moreover, he was unable to say as to when the leader of National League for Democracy (NLD) Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her deputy U Tin Oo, who are under house arrest are to be released.

But western diplomats in Rangoon are said to be depressed by comments of the minister. If the student leader Min Ko Naing was released from remote Sittwe Prison the day after the announcement was made, why can't those who are detained at Insein Prison in Rangoon such as U Win Tin, Dr. Than Nyein, U Thu Wai and U Htway Myint be released, they questioned.

By looking at the reluctance of the SPDC to release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, it is clear that the junta still has no desire for national reconciliation, said a western diplomat speaking on condition of anonymity. [TOP](#)

Some people bought their freedom, said a Burmese prison officer

25 November 2004

12 prisoners were released from the notorious Insein Prison in Rangoon on 25 November by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) in accordance with its announcement to release those who were imprisoned unjustly by the National Intelligence Bureau (NIB).

Nevertheless, no political prisoner was among them. They were mainly those convicted with charges of bootlegging, black-marketing and theft, according to a witness who waited at the entrance of the prison.

A prison officer who doesn't want to be named told DVB that it is certain some political prisoners are to be released but he was not able to confirm when.

According to unconfirmed reports, National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representatives (MPs) U Zaw Myint Maung, U Sein Hla Oo, U Khin Maung Swe and Dr. Khin Zaw Win are included in the list of those to be released. There have been reports that they are to be transferred to Insein Prison from regional prisons before they are freed.

Those from political circles in Rangoon said that the junta's action boils down to the humiliation and demoralisation of political prisoners and their family members.

According to the prison officer, some top prison authorities are making lots of money because of the announcement of the release. Although the junta announced that prisoners are to be released, it didn't specifically say who are to be released from which prison. Some criminals who could afford to pay, are bribing prison governors and directors with hundreds of thousand and millions of kyat for their release. [TOP](#)

Only 10 political prisoners released by Burma junta on 26 November

26 November 2004

Only 10 political prisoners are among approximately 5000 prisoners to be released by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) on 26 November.

Two political prisoners are to be released from Myikyina Prison;

Ko Kyi Soe from Mogaung and

Ko Lin Ko from Rangoon.

Two to be released from Mandalay Prison are

U Sein Ohn and
U Naing Myint.

Ko Kyaw Thet Aung is to be released from Shwebo.

U Thauang Lwin, a National League for Democracy (NLD) township leader is to be released from Lashio Prison.

Those who are to be released from Pegu Prison are

U Khaing Myint
U Myat Ko
Ko Aung Myint Oo
Ko Aung Moe.

Meanwhile, the SPDC announced on 25 November that it is releasing more than 9000 prisoners and their loved ones have been waiting for their release at the gates of prisons.

Nearly 1000 prisoners were released from Insein Prison in Rangoon, but none of them are said to be political prisoners.

The chief director of Prison Service personally told foreign correspondents that the renowned journalist U Win Tin is not included in the list to be released, according to his friend U Maung Maung Khin.

The news severely dampened the hope of the family members of political prisoners who have been hoping for the imminent release of their loved ones. [TOP](#)

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi continues to be detained by Burma junta

29 November 2004

Burma's pro-democracy leader and Nobel Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is continued to be detained for another year under house arrest, said the country's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

On 27 November, some police officers and civil authorities went to her house and told her of the news of the extension. The news was confirmed by a SPDC security officer in Rangoon, and the spokesman of National League for Democracy (NLD) U Lwin.

He added that three carloads of police officers entered Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's home and spoke to her but it was not known what was said to her. According to sources from foreign media, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's house arrest is to be extended for another year under Act 10B.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been detained since the notorious 30 May Dipeyin (Tabayin) incident in upper Burma and she has been under house arrest for a year on 28 November. Despite the latest setback, the NLD leaders are continuing with their duties as usual, insisted U Lwin.

Security measures around Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's house are still tight and the barriers placed in front of her house are also continued to be maintained, according to eyewitnesses.

Political analysts in Rangoon said it is clear that the junta has no intention to release her. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's deputy and NLD vice-chairman U Tin Oo is also still under house arrest. [TOP](#)

Only a small number of NLD members released by Burma junta

29 November 2004

The spokesman of National League for Democracy (NLD) U Lwin told DVB on 29 November that only a handful of NLD members had been released recently despite the release of nearly ten thousand prisoners and criminals from prison throughout Burma.

U Lwin said that 28 NLD members were released in the first batch and only 8 more were released subsequently but he is not sure whether the latter are all NLD members or not.

"It is true that they are political prisoners, but we are checking whether they are NLD members or not," he said.

U Lwin admitted that he himself doesn't know how many political prisoners had been released recently and that he got information from released prisoners. He estimated that less than one percent of the recently released prisoners are political prisoners.

According to the list of prisoners to be released by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), the renowned journalist U Win Tin and one of the top NLD leaders, is included. [TOP](#)

NLD Dr. Than Nyein transferred to Paung-te Prison in Burma

30 November 2004

The National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative of Kyauktan Township, Rangoon Division, Dr. Than Nyein was transferred from the notorious Insein Prison to Paung-te Prison on 26 November.

The prison authorities didn't tell his family of the news of his transfer because they only found out about it when they went to see him at Insein Prison on 29 November.

Dr. Than Nyein was preparing to stage a hunger strike in the prison on 26 November as the authorities failed to release him when he had served his original sentence, and gave 2 month long extended sentence with Act 10.

At the beginning, he was told to wait and see the situation before he carried out the threat as he might be released with other prisoners. By looking at how he was transferred on the day he threatened to stage the hunger strike, it is clear that he did carry out his threat, according to his family members. They are extremely worried for him as his health condition is deteriorating with age. [TOP](#)