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Political prisoners beaten up inside Mandalay Prison

Feb 1, 2005

Burmese authorities at Mandalay Prison in central Burma, had been beating up and torturing political prisoners who have been detained unfairly.

Ko Aung Naing Thu, a second year economics student who was arrested and imprisoned for trying to form an "illegal" workers' union and some other political prisoners were beaten up by prison guards in December last year.

The problems started when the prisoners tried to enquire about the prospect for their release as the junta promised that it would released those who were detained unfairly by the defunct Military Intelligence Service (MIS), according to Ko Aung Naing Thu's father U Ba Aung.

Ko Aung Naing Thu was arrested during December 2003, with 9 other Mandalay National League for Democracy (NLD) members including his mother Daw Hnin Pa Pa and, they were given up to 17 years prison terms. U Ba Aung said he was still hoping that both his son and wife would be released soon as they have been detained unfairly by the MIS. [TOP](#)

Burmese political prisoner seriously ill in Thayet Prison

Feb 6, 2005

Ko Kyaw Zwa Lin who has been detained by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) at Thayet Prison in central Burma is suffering from heart diseases, and his hands and legs are shaking constantly and unable to walk properly.

Moreover, currently, he has an acute and severe stomach ache due to gastric diseases he has been suffering from, according to his wife Daw Tin Tin Maw who went to see him at the prison on 5 February.

She added that there is no proper doctor at the prison and only a low-grade "medical officer" is looking after the welfare of prisoners and she expressed her concerns for her husband.

Ko Kyaw Zwa Lin from Tamwe Township in Rangoon was arrested on 10 September 1999 by military intelligence (MI), and detained for allegedly participating in the 9999 uprising. He was charged with Acts 5J and 7/1 and sentenced to seventeen years in prison. [TOP](#)

Dr. May Win Myint given one more year imprisonment

Feb 8, 2005

Dr. May Win Myint, the MP of Mayanggone Township, Rangoon who had completed her prison sentence in the Insein Prison in Rangoon was given a one-year extension on 2 February.

Dr. May Win Myint, along with seven other NLD members, was arrested in October 1997 and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment for joining a trip with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to an NLD branch office in Rangoon.

Five from the group have been released and one member, U Khin Maung Myint, died of torture in prison. Only Dr May Win Myint and Dr Than Nyein, NLD MP are remained in prison from the group.

The prison sentenced for Dr Than Nyein has also been extended for one more year just a few weeks ago. [TOP](#)

Unfair detention of Daw May Win Myint says the husband

Feb 9, 2005

The one-year extension of the detention of Dr. May Win Myint, the elected representative (MP) of Mayanggone Township, Rangoon, is an unfair act from the part of Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), according to her husband U Win Myint.

He told DVB that the political situation in Burma has deteriorated since the releases of some prisoners in recent months. He also said that the authorities hadn't told him why his wife is continued to be detained, but he has been expecting her release as she had served her original sentence and those added on later.

Daw May Win Myint has been suffering from high blood pressure and heart diseases and she is currently suffering from throat disease, according to U Win Myint.

Daw May Win Myint was arrested in 1997 and sentenced to 7 years in prison for trying to form the local National League for Democracy (NLD) youth organisation. Once, she had served her sentence, she was repeatedly given extra sentences with Act 10a. Similarly, the MP of nearby Kyauktan Township Dr. Than Nyein was given one-year extended sentence recently.

According to the spokesman of Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) Ko Bo Kyi, the extension of sentences on political prisoners is one of the worse psychological tortures one could inflict on the political prisoners. [TOP](#)

Bogale NLD members sentence postponed again

Feb 9, 2005

Burma's military authorities are still not releasing 12 Members from Irrawaddy Division, Bogale Township National League for Democracy (NLD) who had been detained and tried for trying to celebrate the National Day.

A court at nearby Pyapon Prison had postponed the passing of the sentence on them for a third time to 22 February.

The chairman of Irrawaddy Division NLD U Hla Pe who went to see the defendants told DVB that they are all well but he expressed his concerns on the postponements. He is convinced that all the defendants are innocent.

The 12 defendants were arrested on 6 December 2004 and had been detained since, as they were accused of trying to celebrate Burmese National Day while they had abandoned the plan to do so.

They are :

U Aung Khin Bo (The chairman of Baogale Township NLD)

U Aung Htay

U Khin Maung Chit

U Tet Tun

U Tin Oo

U Aung Myint

U Win Naing

U Hla Myint

Saw Pan Koo

Daw Mi Mi Sein

Daw Hnin Si

Daw Khin Khin Hlay

[TOP](#)

Shan opposition leaders detained

Feb 10, 2005

Several Shan ethnic leaders were detained during the past few days, according to the Shan News Agency, SHAN and DVB's sources inside Burma.

Khun Htun Oo, chairman of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) and Sai Nyunt Lwin, secretary of the SNLD were detained last night. A SNLD member from Rangoon told DVB that both of them were detained by the Special Branch Police. "I don't know why they were detained or where they have been taken," he said. "What I only know is they are still not yet back home."

Two other SNLD members from Kengtung were arrested on their way to Rangoon, another SNLD member told DVB. "They were on the train when they were arrested," he said. The two SNLD members were planning to join the 58th Union Day celebration on 12 Feb in Rangoon. The SHAN news agency based in Thailand also reported that 2 SNLD members were detained in Taungoo, central Burma on 8 Feb, making the total numbers of detained SNLD to six.

SHAN news agency and our sources in Taunggyi said some leaders from Shan ceasefire groups were also detained lately. They were Gen Hso Ten from Shan State Peace Council, Sai Hsu and Sai Oo Hseng from Shan State National Army (SSNA). "They were visiting Taunggyi when they asked to

come to military headquarters yesterday morning," the source said. "But when they arrived at the headquarters, they were told to wait for the military commander until now."

It is not clear why all these Shan ethnic leaders are being detained. But SNLD members believe that it was related to up coming National Convention. [TOP](#)

A Shan veteran politician put under house arrest

Feb 11, 2005

U Shwe Ohn, the Shan veteran politician was put under house arrest for one year on 11 February by the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) according to our sources in Rangoon.

The house arrest came after the arrests of 7 Shan ethnic leaders, 3 from Shan's ceasefire group and 4 from the 1990 election winning party Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) including U Khun Tun Oo, the chairman.

U Shwe Ohn went to Taunggyi, the capital of Shan State on 7 Feb where he had met with the New Generation (Shan State) and discussed about the future of the Shan State and the role of the ceasefire groups at the National Convention, according to local politicians in Taunggyi. The meeting was attended by several Shan politicians, representatives of Shan ceasefire groups and U Thu Wai, the chairman of Democracy party.

On the next evening, on 8 Feb he was put under house arrest with act 10 (B) at his brother Dr. Aung Myint's residence in Taunggyi, the source said. The organizer of the meeting U Myint Than from New Generation (Shan State) and some members were also arrested by Special Branch Police at the same day.

Three members from Shan State Peace Council including Gen Hso Ten were arrested at the guest house where the delegations were staying.

A well-known female politician Daw Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein and U Thu Wai who attended the meeting were allowed to return to Rangoon but it is not certain that whether they reach home safe and sound.

U Shwe Ohn, together with some other ethnic national leaders and General Aung San (father of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi) laid down the policies of the emergence of democracy in Burma and equal rights and autonomy for ethnic nationals in the union of Burma signed the Panglong Treaty in southern Shan State town of Panglong on 12 February 1947. [TOP](#)

At least 7 opposition leaders arrested in Burma

Feb 12, 2005

At least 7 opposition leaders have been arrested in recent days by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

They are; U Khun Tun Oo, the chairman of Shan National League for Democracy (SNLD), secretary Sai Nyunt Lwin, members Sai Hla Aung and Sao Kya Ut, Shan veteran politician U Shwe Ohn, New Generation Youth U Myint Than and the chairman of Shan State National Army (SSNA), General Hso Ten.

Before he was arrested at the Shan State capital Taunggyi on 8 February, U Shwe Ohn told DVB in a distressed voice that he was charged with Acts 10b and 11 for holding a meeting with other politicians.

The chairman of Democracy Party U Thut Wei and Daw Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein who attended the meeting and allowed to return home to Rangoon, still have not arrived at their homes yet. [TOP](#)

Detention of leader will affect SPDC's convention, warns Shan leader

Feb 12, 2005

The vice-chairman of Shan State National Army (SSNA), Col Gaifah, told DVB that if his leader, General Hso Ten is continued to be detained by Burma's military junta, his organisation which signed the ceasefire agreement with the junta and attended the previous National Convention meetings, will not resume their participation at the next week convention.

The warning came after the Burmese military authorities detained SSNA's chairman, General Hso Ten, on 9 February after holding a meeting with other Shan leaders. At the moment, Col Gaifah is negotiating for the release of his leader. But he himself doesn't know where Hso Ten is being detained.

"Some people say that he was taken to Rangoon as he is not at Taunggyi anymore," he said. He added that Hso Ten was summoned to the army base on the pretext of meeting with the regional military commander. He was detained for the whole day and transferred to another location on the next day. Two people who were detained with him, are now back at the SSNA HQs.

Hso Ten was allegedly told by the commander of Eastern Military Command that he violated one of the terms of ceasefire agreement in which SSNA leaders were not allowed to have contacts with political parties. But Col Gaifah insisted that the arrested Shan leaders only attended a Shan "Advisory Expert Group" meeting which was nothing to do with politics.

When asked if the detention would have a repercussion on the attendance of the convention, he replied: "How could we attend the convention if they are detaining our leader? It is very clear. If they are not releasing him within these days, we will not resume the attendance." [TOP](#)

Famous Burmese artist detained by authorities

Feb 14, 2005

The local authorities of South Okkalapa Township in Rangoon arrested Ko Thet Oo the leader of a famous pop band from Pegu on 19 January.

Ko Thet Oo was the bass guitarist of Pan Hninsi (Rose Flower) Band and also a film director for San Yadana film company based in Rangoon.

According to his family members, he was arrested for allegedly having telephone contacts with Ko Min Naing of Thailand-based, outlawed All Burma Federation of Student Unions - Foreign Affairs Committee (ABFSU - FAC),. But Ko Min Naing told DVB that he didn't have any kind of contact with Ko Thet Oo.

Ko Thet Oo is currently being charged with Act 17 (1) for having illegal contacts with exiled "subversive" organizations. Although he has been detained for nearly a month, Ko Thet Oo is still not allowed to meet with his family members and they are very concerned for his welfare. [TOP](#)

U Tin Oo given one year extended detention by Burma's SPDC

Feb 15, 2005

The vice-chairman of National League for Democracy (NLD) U Tin Oo who is currently under house arrest, was given a one-year extended detention with Act 10 (B) by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

On 13 February, a police officer car came to U Tin Oo's home and an officer read out an edict stating that he is to be detained until 13 February 2006 in accordance with the act.

NLD spokesman U Lwin told DVB that the report is true, and that residents from the neighbouring houses confirmed that uniformed policemen entered U Tin Oo's home and only came out again awhile later.

Asked why U Tin Oo was given a one-year extension later, even if he was arrested the same time as Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Lwin said that it is to do with the differences in the position of detention. "Unlike Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Tin Oo was kept inside prison. It was Act 10 (A). Now that he is under house arrest, it is Act 10 (B)," he told DVB.

The extension came amid calls for their immediate release by the international community including the US government. [TOP](#)

Junta confiscated U Hkun Htun Oo's computers

Feb 16, 2005

The authorities of Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) returned some of the personal belongings of the chairperson of Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) U Hkun Htun Oo who was arrested recently, as his detention has lasted more than a week.

Although U Hkun Htun Oo's mobile phone and other valuable personal items were returned to his family members by Special Police Force agents, the computer was not returned. A police officer explained to them that U Hkun Htun Oo has been transferred to another place. But the officer refused to say where he had been detained, where he is to be transferred, when he is allowed to see his family members and how long he is going to be detained.

Meanwhile, the authorities closed down his company Overseas Courier Service on 15 February. The company was founded in 1984 and all the staff were told by the authorities that they didn't need to go to work anymore and that the company has been closed indefinitely.

Those who have been detained along with U Hkun Htun Oo were :

Sai Nyunt Lwin

Sai Hla Aung

Sa Tha Ut

General Hso Ten

Shwe Ohn (Shan veteran politician)

U Myint Than (New Generation - Shan State)

U Nyunt Maung

U Ba Thin

U Thu Wai (Democracy Party)

Daw Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein (AFPFL)

Ma Ohmar (Daughter of Daw Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein)

[TOP](#)

Wa leader among recent arrests in Taunggyi

Feb 17, 2005

A leader of Wa United State Army (UWSA) was among those who were arrested by the authorities of Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), in connection with a meeting in Shan State capital Taunggyi on 7 February.

An UWSA representative from its Taunggyi office was arrested after he returned from the meeting with other Shan "ceasefire" leaders, according to a Wa leader who doesn't want to be named.

He also refused to comment on the name and rank of the detained UWSA official, but he insisted that the official is still being detained at a guest house in Taunggyi. He expressed his despair at the lack of success in the negotiations with the junta for the release of his comrade.

According to the Wa leader, nearly 20 people could have been arrested in connection with the meeting and he is still trying to find out the exact number.

According to the list compiled by DVB, Shan State Peace Council (SSPC) chairman General Hso Ten and his two personal assistants, Shan veteran politician U Shwe Ohn, U Myint Than, U Nyunt Maung and U Ba Thin from New Generation - Shan State, Democracy Party chairman U Thu Wai, Daw Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein of AFPFL party and her daughter Ma Ohmar were arrested at Taunggyi.

Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) chairman U Hkun Htun Oo and secretary Sai Nyunt Lwin were also arrested around the same time in Rangoon. Two other SNLD members Sai Hla Aung and Sa Kya Ut were arrested at Taungoo Station while they were travelling from Taunggyi to Rangoon.

It is not known why they were arrested and where they are being detained. But according to sources from their family circles, apart from the UWSA official, all other people were transferred to a special detention centre in Rangoon on 17 February.

[TOP](#)

Shan leaders still not released

Feb 17, 2005

The vice chairman of Shan State National Army (SSNA) Sa Gaifa who has been negotiating unsuccessfully for the release of his leader General Hso Ten in Rangoon, still hasn't given up his efforts for a peaceful solution.

On the eve of 16 February, he met with General Thein Sein, Sec-1 of Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) again and urged him to release General Hso Ten.

A Shan news source told DVB that Thein Sein gave him no solid answer and told him that his leader was arrested because he was found to be infringing one of the laws of the country.

All 8 Shan representatives denounced the SPDC's action and boycotted the ongoing junta-sponsored "national convention". Moreover, the situation is quite tense at SSNA's HQs near Thibaw and the ordinary Shan fighters are saying that they should resume hostility and fight against the junta if their leader is not released.

Other veteran politicians and ethnic national leaders are saying that "ceasefire groups" should not resume the attendance of the convention while some ethnic national leaders are being arrested and detained. [TOP](#)

Burmese artist Ko Thet Oo released by Burma junta

Feb 18, 2005

Ko Thet Oo, a film director and a pop band leader was released on 15 February. According to his family members, he was detained at Rangoon Thuwunna interrogation centre for 28 days before he was released.

Ko Thet Oo was arrested on 19 January by The local authorities of South Okkalapa Township in Rangoon. He was the bass guitarist of Pan Hninsi (Rose Flower) Band and also a film director for San Yadana film company based in Rangoon.

He was arrested for allegedly having telephone contacts with Ko Min Naing of Thailand-based, outlawed All Burma Federation of Student Unions - Foreign Affairs Committee (ABFSU - FAC). But Ko Min Naing told DVB that he didn't have any kind of contact with Ko Thet Oo. [TOP](#)

Taunggyi meeting arrest and Shan fighters prepare for war

Feb 20, 2005

The number of people arrested in connection with a meeting held in Shan State capital Taunggyi on 7 February, has increased.

According to a list obtained by DVB on 20 February, three more people have been arrested and they are U Tun Nyo of Shan New Generation, U Seng Taung of United Nationalities League for Democracy (UNLD) and U Kyaw Win (Intha). Apart from the three, around 20 unnamed people have been arrested by the army since 9 February and sent to a special detention centre in Rangoon, according to reports from political circles in Taunggyi.

The known detainees are,

- U Hkun Htun Oo (Chairman - Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD))
- U Sai Nyunt Lwin (Secretary - SNLD)
- Sai Hla Aung (Member- SNLD)
- Sa Tha Ut (Member- SNLD)
- General Hso Ten (Chairman - Shan State Peace Council (SSPC))
- Wei Htin Kyoe (United Wa State Army's Taunggyi representative)
- Unnamed (Wei Htin Kyoe's assistant)
- U Shwe Ohn (Shan veteran politician)
- U Myint Than (New Generation - Shan State)
- U Nyunt Maung (New Generation - Shan State)
- U Ba Thin (New Generation - Shan State)
- U Tun Nyo (New Generation - Shan State)
- U Seng Taung (UNLD)

- U Kyaw Win -Intha (UNLD)
- U Thu Wai (Democracy Party chairman)
- Daw Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein of AFPFL
- Ma Ohmar (Daughter of Daw Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein)

Meanwhile, members of Shan State Army – North (SSA-N) and Shan State National Army (SSNA), both under the supervision of SSPC, held emergency meeting during recent days, according to reports from Lashio and Thibaw (Hsi Paw) near the Sino-Burmese border. Moreover, their fighters on leave and those who are away, have been called back to their HQs at Hsengkeo (Sein Kyawt), and ordered prepare for war. [TOP](#)

Bogale NLD members released by a Burmese court

Feb 22, 2005

12 National League for Democracy (NLD) members from Bogale Township in the delta region of Irrawaddy Division, who had been detained and tried for trying to celebrate the Burmese National Day, were released by a court in nearby Pyapon on 22 February.

Pyapon Township court postponed the sentencing three times, and the accused were released after they were found not guilty of Act 3/90 with which they were charged.

Irrawaddy Division NLD chairman U Hla Pe told DVB that the NLD members are innocent all along and they were deliberately trapped and arrested by the township authorities, causing them and their family members many kinds of problems. Extraordinarily, the township authority chairman himself drove the accused and their family members home in Bogale.

Bogale Township NLD chairman U Aung Khin Bo, secretary U Aung Htay and youth members Saw Pan Koo were arrested on 16 December by the local authorities and had been detained in Pyapon Prison.

Shan leaders charged by Burma junta

Feb 24, 2005

Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) chairman U Hkun Htun Oo and three other members who have been detained since 9 February, were charged with defaming the State by the ruling junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), according to a report by Reuters.

But the spokesman of National League for democracy (NLD) U Lwin told DVB that it is not clear whether they have already been charged or not.

DVB tried to contact U Hkun Tun Oo and Secretary Sai Nyunt Lwin's family members for comments, but was unable to do so as the phone connections to their homes had been cut off.

Someone who went to their homes on 24 February told DVB that the family members have heard nothing about the charge and they have not been informed by the authorities on the matter. He added they are also unable to send clothing or medicines for their loved ones.

Despite the uncertainty over the charge, the authorities are still unable to find the incriminating evidence against them, in the form of a speech to be delivered by U Hkun Htun Oo on the 12 February Burmese Union Day. They are urgently searching the "missing" documents within two computers confiscated from U Sai Nyunt Lwin and interrogating other ethnic national leaders.

A letter dated 14 February was sent to SPDC chairman Gen Than Shwe by NLD demanding the immediate release of their leaders. [TOP](#)

Another Shan member arrested by Burma junta

Feb 25, 2005

Another member of Shan State Army – North (SSA-N) U Ba Myaing from Maington Township in eastern Burma was arrested with his wife Daw Nang Nu by Burmese soldiers on 22 February, according to Shan Herald Agency for News (SHAN).

It is not known whether the arrest is related to the recent arrests of Shan State peace Council (SSPC) chairman Gen Hso Ten and other Shan leaders or not.

Shan leaders including Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) chairman U Hkun Htun Oo and some other political party leaders were arrested for holding a meeting at the State's capital Taunggyi on 7 February. They are still being detained at unidentified locations in Rangoon and Taunggyi for interrogation. [TOP](#)

Dr. Than Nyein's condition deteriorates in Burmese prison

Feb 26, 2005

The health condition of Dr. Than Nyein, the elected representative (MP) of Kyauktan Township in Rangoon Division is deteriorating due to lack of proper medical treatment within the prison, according to his wife who went to see him recently at Prome (Pyay) Prison in central Burma.

Dr. Than Nyein's blood vessels to his livers are in danger of bursting again and his stomach is also swollen. He is in danger of developing cancers and in urgent need to go to a specialist doctor, his wife Daw Khin Aye told DVB.

While he was in Rangoon Insein Prison, two of his blood vessels burst open and he was recommended to see a specialist once a month for check-up but he hadn't seen a doctor for more than six months. On 18 February, a GP from Prome came to check Dr. Than Nyein and reported to prison authorities on his worrying condition, but no action has been taken by the authority.

Daw Khin Aye insisted that her husband was wrongfully arrested by the now defunct military intelligence service and he should be released immediately. [TOP](#)

NLD youth and Daw Suu's bodyguard to be tried

Feb 27, 2005

Tun Lin Kyaw, 28, a youth member of National League for Democracy (NLD) and a former security staff for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, is to be tried at a court on 28 February for staging a solo protest in Rangoon.

He staged the protest on 14 December 2004 because he was very unhappy with the way the ruling junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) continued to detain Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for another year.

He has not been allowed to meet with any of his family members, according to a NLD youth from Rangoon Dagon Township. It is still not known what he is to be charged with.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi look after Tun Lin Kyaw when both his parents died when he was young and he took the responsibility for the security of her Rangoon home since 1999 until November 2004.

Meanwhile, nothing has been heard about the case of Rangoon Ahlone Township NLD chairman U Ba Myint, member U Ba Tint and youth members Ko Aung Myo San and Ko Khin Kyaw who were arrested around the same time as Tun Lin Kyaw. [TOP](#)

NLD youth sentenced to seven years for solo protest

Feb 28, 2005

Tun Lin Kyaw, former bodyguard of Burmese democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and a youth member of National League for Democracy (NLD) who staged a solo protest in front of Rangoon City Hall was sentenced to seven years in prison.

Tun Lin Kyaw staged the protest to demonstrate his anger against the one-year extension of the detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi by Burma's ruling military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

In the past, a university professor, Salaing Tun Than who staged a similar protest was also given seven years in prison by the junta. On the other hand, U Ohn Than who staged a solo protest in front of UNDP office was given two years in prison.

Legal circles in Rangoon are wondering if the junta fixes the sentences to seven years for protest in front of City Hall and two years in front of the UNDP office. [TOP](#)

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