



**Democratic Voice of Burma**

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### **Burmese prisoners sent to isolation cells for complaining**

Apr 5, 2005 (DVB) - The authorities of Mandalay Prison in central Burma sent political prisoners Myo Min Zaw, Maung Maung Myat and Kyaw Nyunt to darkened isolation cells to punish them.

The prisoners were punished because they complained to the prison governor that the yellow bean curry served to them were rotten.

“When we went to see them at the prison on 30 March, we were told that the permission to see them had been withdrawn,” a relative of the prisoners told DVB. “We didn’t know why, but later we learnt from another source that they had been sent to isolation cells”.

Ko Tate Naing, himself a former prisoner and the spokesman of Assistance Association of Political Prisoners (AAPP) said the continuing tortures of political prisoners are against the national reconciliation efforts.

Moreover, two more political prisoners Bo Bo and Ye Tun Kyaw were banned from routine meetings with their family members at the prison, according to a statement of AAPP.

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### **Torturers now tortured: Burma junta officers torture former comrades**

Apr 5, 2005 (DVB) - Former Burmese Military Intelligence Service (MIS) agents who are detained in “Special” cells of the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail, have been tortured by the ruling officers, according to their relatives.

The relatives wrote the letter to the chairman of the ruling junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) Gen Than Shwe to protest against the inhumane behaviours of the interrogators. According to a family member, the tortures on prisoners are carried out by the interrogation team formed by the commander of Rangoon Division Maj Gen Myint Swe.

Asked how they found out about the tortures, the unnamed relative told DVB that the information was obtained with the help of some special police force officers.

The letter of protest was sent to Than Shwe through health minister Kyaw Myint and they are waiting a reply from him.

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### **Another NLD leader, U Kyaw San is still not allowed to see family**

Apr 6, 2005 (DVB) - The elected representative of Tantse Township and Sagaing Division National League for Democracy (NLD) chairman U Kyaw San who has been detained with remand at Rangoon Insein Jail since 17 March, is still not allowed to see his family.

73-year old U Kyaw San is not only allowed to see his family, no medicine or food is allowed to be given to him, and his family members are said to be very worried for his health condition, according to his son Kyaw Thu Naing.

“We are worried for him and he needs medicines. He always has to take medicines for his eyes and nervous muscles,” he said.

Kyaw San was released in November 2004 and he was rearrested for allegedly accepting goods belonging to a ceasefire group called Karen Democratic Buddhist Army (DKBA).

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### **Taunggyi NLD MP, U Kyaw Khin to be tried by Burma junta**

Apr 6, 2005 (DVB) - The elected representative (MP) of Taunggyi who has been detained since 25 February, is being tried with political act 5J and printing act 17, and the trial is to be terminated by 8 April, it has emerged.

Kyaw Khin has been detained and tried at Taunglaylone (Four Mountains) prison camp, around 10 miles away from Taunggyi and the township's National League for Democracy (NLD) secretary Daw Khin Moe Moe, who is a lawyer by profession, has been defending him.

He was cross-examined the third time on 5 April at the "court" and the "judge" decided to pass sentence on his on 8 April.

The spokesman of NLD, U Lwin told DVB that Kyaw Khin was arrested because he gave a list of awards won by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from the international community, to a school girl who wants to know about her.

"The other charge is to do with the authorities "finding" a piece of paper on a chair previously sat by Kyaw Khin," said U Lwin. "That paper contains the predictions of the BBC saying what will happen in the next year and the like".

U Kyaw Khin attended a three month-long law course at Taunggyi in January and gave a leaflet containing the list of awards won by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to a girl and he was arrested later in connection with this.

In 1996, he was arrested for urging the military junta generals to talk to the NLD leaders and sentenced to 10 years in prison. He was released from Thayet prison on 3 January, 2005 and rearrested.

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### **Another Shan leader arrested by Burmese soldiers**

Apr 6, 2005 (DVB) - An assistant of detained Shan State Peace Council (SSPC) chairman Gen Hso Ten, has been arrested by soldiers of Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

Col Sa Kana and some members of Shan State National Army (SSNA) were arrested on 4 April at Wansa-u Village, Theinni (Hsenwi) Township in Northern Shan State near China.

Some "unlicensed" cars and over 20 assorted firearms and ammunitions were also confiscated, but it is not known where they were taken to. Some gunfire sounds were heard when they soldiers raided the village and there could be an exchange of gunfire between the two sides, according to sources close to the SSNA.

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## **Burmese activists at UN human rights meet in Geneva**

Apr 6, 2005 (DVB) - Burmese rights activists and pro-democracy supporters attending the UN human rights conference in Geneva, started to discuss political situations in Burma.

On 5 April, they discussed the situations of political prisoners.

Ko Bo Kyi of Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) told DVB that he mainly discussed the subjects of arbitrary detention and tortures, as the Burmese junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) is using them as an existing policy on political activists.

"I argued that these arbitrary detentions are deliberately used on political activists," he said. "I also discussed means of torture used by the junta from the lists we have compiled carefully."

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## **Prisoners in Rangoon Insein Jail in a bad shape**

Apr 7, 2005 (DVB) - The health condition of Burmese political prisoner Zaw Lin Tun who has been detained at Rangoon Insein Jail, is in a worrying state.

Zaw Lin Tun's heart is weak and he is suffering from gastric diseases, and to make the matter worse, he is suffering from depression because his family members are unable to come and see him at the prison, according to family members of other political prisoners.

Zaw Lin Tun was a student from Dagon University and he was arrested with other students Nanda Sit Aung, Kyaw Soe Moe, Lwin Ko Latt, Win Ko, Kyaw Kyaw and Han Win Aung in 2003 for distributing anti-military junta leaflets.

He was sentenced to 20 years in prison in February 2004.

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## **Taunggyi NLD MP Kyaw Khin given another 14 years in prison**

Apr 8, 2005 (DVB) - The elected representative (MP) of Shan State capital Taunggyi, U Kyaw Khin was sentenced to another 14 years in prison by a local district court on 8 April.

He was given seven years with political act 5J for giving a leaflet containing the list of awards won by Burma's democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to a girl and seven years with printing act 17(1) for a leaflet allegedly found at the seat used by him during a class.

Kyaw Khin was accused of distributing political leaflets and inciting people to take part in political activities, and arrested on 25 February.

Although witnesses including the girl testified that Kyaw Khin never canvassed for political support, he was given the prison sentence thus by the district judge Daw Hla Hla Yi, on the basis of accusations provided by the junta-sponsored litigants.

Daw Khin Moe Moe, Taunggyi Township NLD secretary and the defending lawyer told DVB that her client and colleague never knew about the leaflet containing the BBC's predictions allegedly found at his seat.

"He said he is an elected representative of the people. He insisted he will continue to serve the people of Burma and carry out his duties dutifully like a slave wherever he is," she said.

"It is like a nightmare, I don't know what to say," said Kyaw Khin's wife Daw Khin Ohn Myint. Their daughter Dr. Hnin Ei Phyu expressed her despair at the inhumane action of the authorities. "If he is to serve the whole sentence, I see no way of him coming out alive," she said. "As a Burmese

Buddhist, I am feeling saddened by the fact that they could do such a thing to an old man like my father because everyone has parents and everyone wants to look after their parents.”  
70-year old Kyaw Khin was released from Thayet Prison in central Burma on 3 January after serving a ten year sentence for urging the military junta, State Peace and Development Council to start political dialogues with NLD leaders in 1996.

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### **Heavy sentences for former Burmese army officers and spies**

Apr 8, 2005 (DVB) - More than 30 high-ranking agents linked to the now defunct military intelligence service (MIS) who have been detained at Rangoon Insein Jail, were handed down sentences ranging from 20 to 200 years in prison, by “special” tribunals.

Among those given the heaviest sentences were Brig-Gen Thein Swe, Brig-Gen Than Tun and personal assistances including Maj Tun Oo who are facing charges of corruption and conspiracy, according to staff from the High Court.

MIS Chief and former prime minister Gen Khin Nyunt and his two sons have not been sentenced yet, but Thein Swe’s son Sonny Swe received a 14-year sentence for violating censorship laws. Another court staff told DVB that the cases of around high-ranking 40 out of 300 MIS officers were ended on 7 April, and the cases of over 100 officers above the ranks of captain and major were examined on the following day. He added that the lightest sentence an MIS officer gets is 20 year prison term. The trials are to be continued and sentences to be handed down, according to another court staff.

A prison staff told DVB that other prisoners were either not allowed to see their loved ones or their meetings were delayed because of the trials.

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### **NLD Shwe Maung sent to isolation cell as punishment**

Apr 12, 2005 (DVB) - Burmese political prisoner Ko Shwe Maung who has been detained at Mandalay Prison in central Burma for moulding the Burmese khamauk, the symbol of National League for Democracy (NLD), was manacled and sent to an isolation cell again.

He was punished for complaining about the poor quality of prison split bean curry and not sitting on the haunches properly as ordered, and some political prisoners have also been tortured. Although it is not known why Shwe Maung was beaten up by prison authorities, his face and head were punched while his head was hooded, according to a family member of a political prisoner. Shwe Maung has not been allowed to see his family members since February and kept in an isolation cell. He is still being detained in the isolation cell with manacles and wounds he received from the beatings, according to a family member of political prisoner from Mandalay.

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### **U Kyaw Min being interrogated in Insein Jail**

Apr 12, 2005 (DVB) - The elected representative (MP) of Buthidaung Township, Arakan State, U Kyaw Min who has been detained since 17 March, is being interrogated behind closed doors at Rangoon Insein Jail and not allowed to see his family members.

It is still not known why Kyaw Min was arrested and what he is being interrogated on, according to a source close to his family. Despite repeated trips to the prison, his family members are still not allowed to see him.

As he is not allowed to see his family and receive basic things including medicines, his family members are serious concerned for the health condition of Kyaw Min who has been suffering from high blood pressures.

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### **Another NLD MP tried by Burmese authorities**

Apr 13, 2005 (DVB) - U Saw Hlaing, the National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative of Indaw Township, Sagaing Division in upper Burma, was tried at nearby Katha District Court on 13 April.

According to an NLD member from Katha Township, Saw Hlaing has been charged with Printing Acts 16, 17 /20. Recently, Taunggyi Township NLD MP U Kyaw Khin was sentenced to 14 years in prison with Emergency Provision Act 5J and Printings Act 17 / 20, and NLD members are worried that he might be given similar stiff sentence.

Saw Hlaing was arrested on 30 March at his Indaw home and sent to Katha Prison straight away. Saw Hlaing has been arrested and detained in connection with his political activities for five times in his life.

He was first arrested during 1974 U Thant Uprising as a university student, followed by the arrest in 1990 for attempting to set up a rival government. In 1998, he was arrested the third time for forming Committee for Representing People's Parliament (CRPP). He was arrested in 20003 for the fourth time, in connection with the brutal attack of NLD members and leaders including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 30 May at Dipeyin in upper Burma.

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### **Former Burmese spies transferred from Rangoon Insein Prison**

Apr 13, 2005 (DVB) - Former Burmese military intelligence service (MIS) officers who had been detained, tried and handed down stiff sentences inside Rangoon Insein Prison, were transferred to regional prisons on 12 April, according to sources close to prison authorities.

Apart from some high-ranking officers, the remaining agents were sent to Mandalay, Prome (Pyay), Taungoo, Thayet, Tharawaddy, Pegu, Thahton and Moulmein Prisons.

A prison official confirmed that nearly 150 prisoners were transferred within one day. When asked if there was any political prisoner among 150 people, the official refused to answer the question.

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### **Burmese prison authority uses thugs to beat up prisoner**

Apr 13, 2005 (DVB) - According to further reports received by DVB, the Mandalay National League for Democracy (NLD) member Ko Shwe Maung, who has been detained in the local prison for moulding a statue of Burmese hat "Khamauk", symbol of the NLD, was beaten up severely by thugs hired by a prison official named Thaug Myint.

Shwe Maung's wife Daw Than Than Win told DVB how her husband was beaten up:

"He was dragged out of his cell and stripped off. His head was covered with a black hood and they beat him up severely. Those who beat him up were said to be of "Balagyi" group. "Balagyi" people are the henchmen of U Thaug Myint. That group beat him up quite severely. His chest was also slammed with knees. And, prison officials also kicked him with shoes. At the moment, he is being manacled systematically."

Shwe Maung has been sent to an isolation cell, barred from seeing his family and tortured by U Thaug Myint since January for not sitting on his haunches as ordered. He was again taken out of his cell, tortured and sent to isolation cell again with manacles. Asked why her husband was tortured again by Thaug Myint, Than Than Win said:

"I assume that Ko Shwe Maung was arrested and sentenced in a court within the prison. They say that he is entitled to four months (amnesty) out of each year of the sentence. They arrested Ko Shwe Maung on 7 November 2002. He believes that he had served his sentence in November 2004 but they still haven't released him. He requested them to release him and they replied that they could not do so... The way they forced him to sit on his haunches was quite bad. They wanted him to sit like a criminal, and I think, Ko Shwe Maung didn't want to do that. So, he refused. Therefore, they beat him up very violently thus."

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### **NLD MP Kyaw San taken to court in Rangoon amid hunger strike**

Apr 13, 2005 (DVB) - The National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative of Tantse Township, Sagaing Division, U Kyaw San was taken to Rangoon Insein Township court on 12 April, and he was charged on two counts.

The charges are said to be Act 5/1 for trading with overseas and Act 5/3 for aiding and abetting trading activities.

According to his wife Daw May Nwet, 73-year old Kyaw San is physically very thin and weak as he has been staging a hunger strike since he was arrested to protest against the unfair actions of the authorities.

"He has not been eating anything for 26 days. He only drinks water. He is quite thin and lost quite a lot of weight. His hands were shaking quite a bit. I was very saddened to see his condition. His eyes were squinting. He was able to walk but he seemed to be very weak," May Nwet told DVB.

She added that Kyaw San intended to carry on with the strike for a full month but she forced and persuaded him to eat something. "He drank a cup of coffee and ate a slice of bread and a banana. I forced him to have them in front of me. He only did so because I forced him."

Kyaw San insists that he never committed any crime as charged and he is said to be feeling aggrieved by the way the authority trapped and arrested him thus.

The proper trial will start on 18 April and Kyaw San is to be defended from within the rule of law by NLD lawyer U Thein Nyunt. The court also rejected a request for bail by the defending.

Kyaw San is also suffering from high blood pressures. He was arrested on 17 March in connection with goods kept at his Rangoon home, which belonged to some members of Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA).

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### **Burmese authorities plotting to trap and arrest Su Su Nway**

Apr 14, 2005 (DVB) - The authorities of Htan Manaing Village, Kawmoo Township, Rangoon Division, have been plotting to trap and arrest Ma Su Su Nway, the villager who successfully sued her local authorities for forced labour practices on the villagers, with "criminal" charges.

The authorities have been bearing grudges on Ma Su Su Nway who has been firmly standing up for the causes of her fellow villagers. She told DVB how she was threatened by the authorities as follows:

“While I was crossing the road near the chairman’s house with my aunt, a line car entered the road from behind us. In the front seats were the village chairman and secretary. So, I just pushed my bike. Then, they uttered on the car. I want to alight from the car and it would be good to beat that girl to death. It will be alright only when I beat her to death. It would be peaceful only when she is dead. She is such a bother, he said thus. I was about to retort at his remarks, when my aunt who was behind me said it is very dark, or else, we would end up in a brawl. So, she dragged me away into her home and told me that I would be a victim as I am only a girl. Then, I went home. On the next day, I was told that I went to swear in front of the chairman’s house and that I will be sued. They want to trap me and arrest me unfairly. They villagers also told me that they are preparing to sue me. They are going to arrest you and they are preparing to sue you. Or, they are going to arrest you with charges connected to guest-list.”

When DVB asked her if she is worried by the intimidations of the authorities, Su Su Nway replied: “I was told they informed by phone that they are preparing to sue me since yesterday. I told them that it is their duty to arrest and sue. I know that they will try to trap and arrest me by various means since 27 April 2004 for suing them for forced labour practice. I knew that they will do that. Even my brother told me not to go ahead and not to investigate. If you dare to do you must dare to endure. They will do that. I am waiting for them while eating my meal, I said so. They will do that. They told me not to interfere with the affairs of the village. I said, shall I just watch them damage the villagers with folded hands. I can’t do that.”

The National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representatives (MP) of Kawmoo Township U Ba Swe said that the villagers are also giving careful protection to Su Su Nway:

“The authorities are doing intimidating activities and the like. They will not succeed every time they do that. She is being watched 24 hours, non-stop.”

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### **The trial of NLD Kyaw San postponed**

Apr 18, 2005 (DVB) - The trial of Sagaing Division Tantse Township National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative (MP) U Kyaw San, has been postponed from 18 April to 22 April by a court in Rangoon.

Only the litigants, a local police chief Than Tun and another police officer were cross-examined at the court, according Kyaw San’s wife Daw May Nwet. She added that her husband only started to eat solid meals on 17 April, one month after he started the hunger strike when he was arrested.

“He told me that he would start to eat only yesterday, and he drank a little bit of rice soup. But his health didn’t seem to be good. He looked dark and thin. His hands are still shaky a little bit...I gave him a little bit of rice. But he is quite old and he is living in a prison cell with the weather this hot. He won’t be regaining his strength that easily... His eyes were operated on three times. He was released from prison less than four months ago,” she said.

Kyaw San was released from the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail in November 2004 and he was re-arrested on 17 March 2005. He has been detained inside the same prison and the authorities are planning to prosecute him with Act 5/1 for allegedly trading with overseas.

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### **Another detained NLD MP, May Win Myint not well**

Apr 18, 2005 (DVB) - The health condition of National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative (MP) Daw May Win Myint, who has been detained at Rangoon Insein Jail, is said to be deteriorating.

She was taken to Rangoon General Hospital on 12 April, for the treatments of the worsening throat diseases she has been enduring, according to her husband U Win Myint.

Moreover, she has been suffering from eye, blood and heart diseases, and she has to be taken to the hospital monthly for medical check-ups.

May Win Myint is the MP of Rangoon Mayangone Township and she was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment for attempting to form the local NLD youth organisation. She had served her sentence but she is still being detained with Act 10 (A).

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### **“Fearless” Su Su Nway charged with disrupting the authorities on duty**

Apr 22, 2005 (DVB) - The village authorities at Htan Manaing, Kawmoo Township in Rangoon Division, are preparing to sue Ma Su Su Nway, who successfully sued them for forced labour practices, with the charge of disrupting them on duty.

Kawmoo Township court accepted the authorities’ request for the trial but the accused Su Su Nway still has not been notified.

“Up to now, I still don’t know why and on which count or act they are going to sue me. They are still covering it up,” she told DVB. “I heard that they have charged me. A secretary from the office told me. They tend to do that kind of thing, so that we have no time to prepare for the case. If they want to try me tomorrow, they will only notify me this evening.”

She added she knew that the authorities would take revenge on her thus out of spite and that she is well prepared for it without fear.

“I sued them because I wanted to come forward as the guide for the people of the country including my fellow villagers who have been subjected to forced labour practice. I knew that they will plot for my downfall. If I am “assassinated” thus and have to go to prison, I regard myself as the martyr for my people and country...and I have decided to fight on thus”.

She also urged the people of Burma to fight on against injustice, thus:

“What I want to say is, I will be sent to jail one day or another. If I go to prison thus, I want to urge all those have been subjected to forced labour like me not to feel dejected but fight on bravely. Everyone is afraid, but be afraid with your eyes open,” she said.

Su Su Nway informed Rangoon-based International Labour Organisation (ILO) office of the local authorities’ design on her.

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### **Trial of NLD Kyaw San begins in Rangoon**

Apr 22, 2005 (DVB) - The trial of Sagaing Division, Tantse Township National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative (MP) U Kyaw San started on 22 April at Rangoon Insein Township court. At the court, two litigants were cross examined and the lawyer of Kyaw San stated that their accusations lacked solid evidence, according to his wife Daw May Nwet who went to see the trial.

Kyaw San was arrested on 17 March in connection with some goods left at his home by some “friends” of his son, and he is being detained in nearby Insein Jail. He protested his innocence by staging a hunger strike which lasted nearly one month from the day he was arrested. [TOP](#)

## **NLD Saw Hlaing was arrested for political reasons, says daughter**

Apr 22, 2005 (DVB) - The National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative of Indaw Township in upper Burma, U Saw Hlaing was deliberately trapped and arrested by the authorities for political reasons, according to his daughter.

Saw Hlaing, who is being detained at nearby Katha Prison, was charged with keeping broken "unlicensed" computers and he is still not allowed to see a lawyer. His daughter, Ma May Phyu Hlaing told DVB that no other people in her town except her father, has been arrested for keeping computers.

"He was arrested by the authorities because they are worried that unlike other people, my father had been politically active," she said.

She added as a daughter, she is very upset by the arrest of her father as she knows that the action of the authorities is unjust.

"It is useless to feel sad and dejected about it. I want to be the helper of my father always, as he is working for the country and the people."

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## **Interview with wife of U Saw Hlaing, Indaw Township NLD MP**

Apr 25, 2005 (DVB) - The National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative (MP) U Saw Hlaing was arrested recently by the local authorities at Indaw Township in upper Sagaing Division in northern Burma, for possessing "unlicensed" broken computers. He is currently detained at nearby Katha Prison. He still has no access to legal representatives to defend himself.

**DVB :** As a wife, how do you feel about the unfair arrest and detention of U Saw Hlaing?

**Daw Nyunt Nyunt Tin :** Of course, I am feeling saddened by it...

**DVB :** As far as we know, U Saw Hlaing's health was not good when he was arrested. How is his health condition?

**Daw Nyunt Nyunt Tin :** Yes, he has backache, arthritis and the like. His nerve is weak...That's it.

**DVB :** As far as we know, U Saw Hlaing was often imprisoned...

**Daw Nyunt Nyunt Tin :** Yes, it is true. He kept on coming in and going out. It has been five times. Four times after he married me and once when he was a bachelor as a university student... He married me in 84. In 90-91, I think, I am forgetting it myself, he was arrested once then. Then, in 96, he was arrested once again. 96-97? I can't remember it properly. Then, he was arrested again in 2003. Now, he was arrested again in 2005.

**DVB :** Do you despair at how often your husband had been arrested? How do you feel?

**Daw Nyunt Nyunt Tin :** I don't despair. My husband is a political activist and moves in and out of the lips of prisons. That's how I see it. I have two children; a daughter and a son. The older child daughter finished her first year honours and preparing to attend the second year. My son is only sitting his matriculation exams this year.

**DVB :** When U Saw Hlaing was arrested in 90-91, the children must have been very young?

**Daw Nyunt Nyunt Tin :** Yes, my daughter was only 4-5 years old. My son was only 7-8 months old...

**DVB :** How did you have to struggle with the two young children?

**Daw Nyunt Nyunt Tin :** At the time I was a nurse at Indaw Hospital. Now I have no job. At the time, I had to struggle my life with a nurse salary. I am a "parami" virtue fulfilling partner. Yes, I am. I have been to almost every prison to see him. I always had to go to the prisons to see him.

**DVB :** But you never despaired or felt dejected?

**Daw Nyunt Nyunt Tin** : Not really. I never feel dejected. We are working for the majority.

**DVB** : How do the people of Indaw understand the actions of U Saw Hlaing?

**Daw Nyunt Nyunt Tin** : They do understand us. I myself think that my husband never did anything bad. I survive with the thoughts that people will always encourage and understand us. He was in and out of prison. The people also support me by buying my goods.

**DVB** : Before, he was in and out of prison often. Do you expect that he might be detained a long time, this time?

**Daw Nyunt Nyunt Tin** : I expect that. I also listen to the radio. I have to calculate it in advance. I don't know yet how long he will be detained. I am expecting the worst. I have nothing else to say. I don't want to talk about it. It depends on the military authorities as he is in their hand. Apart from feeling saddened, I have nothing else to say.

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### **NLD U Kyaw San refused bail**

Apr 25, 2005 (DVB) - The trial of the elected representative of Tantse Township and chairman of Sagaing Division National League for Democracy (NLD), U Kyaw San continued at Rangoon Insein Township court on 25 April.

Kyaw San's wife Daw May Nwet told DVB that three prosecuting "witnesses" were cross-examined at the court. Then, NLD lawyer U Thein Nyunt applied bail for Kyaw San, pointing out that he is old and not healthy with medical evidences provided by doctors.

"But bail was refused on the ground that there could be unnecessary problems, if he is outside," Daw May Nwet told DVB.

The defending Thein Nyunt insisted that the refusal of bail goes against the legal procedure. The trial will continue on 27 April.

U Kyaw San was released from prison in November 2004, but he was re-arrested on 17 March. He is being detained at Insein Jail.

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### **Burmese lawyer and poet Tin Aye Kyu released after 16 years**

Apr 26, 2005 (DVB) - Tin Aye Kyu, a poet and lawyer who has been detained since 1989, was released from Mandalay Prison in central Burma on the morning of 26 April.

Tin Aye Kyu (a.k.a) Maung Hmaing Lwin was the General Secretary of National Political Front (NPF) party before he was arrested on 12 July 1989 and given 20 years imprisonment. In 1992, his sentence was reduced to 10 years with general amnesty, but continued to be detained with Act 10A by the authorities, when it was time for him to be freed.

According to his family members, although Tin Aye Kyu's health condition is not that bad, he needs to have a proper medical check-up. A cousin of his told DVB that Tin Aye needs to re-examine the current Burmese political situation and reacquaint himself with his family before he decides to do anything.

"When Ko Tin Aye Kyu was arrested on 12 July 1989, his wife Ma San remained pregnant at home," the cousin told DVB. "The baby was born in October and named October Hmaing Lwin. He returned home after 16 years when his daughter was taking the matriculation exams...We are feeling happy with the family."

Tin Aye Kyu is a native of Inwa (Ava) Tada-U region near Mandalay in central Burma. He went to study at Rangoon Institute of Technology (RIT) and arrested for the first time in 1976 in connection with the centenary memorial of Burmese poet and nationalist Thakhin Kodaw Hmaing. When he

was released from prison, Tin Aye Kyu took a distant education correspondence course and became a lawyer.

He actively took part in the 1988 nationwide uprising against the one party-system and became the general secretary of NPF when political parties were allowed to be formed in early 1989.

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### **Burmese political prisoner Tin Aye transferred to Rangoon Insein Jail**

Apr 26, 2005 (DVB) - A Burmese student leader and political prisoner Tin Aye who has been detained at Mandalay Jail in central Burma, had been transferred to Rangoon Insein Jail recently, according to a relative of a political prisoner.

The move caused a stir among his family members and relatives as another student leader Ko Ko Gyi was transferred from Thayet Prison to Insein Jail before he was released.

"If he is going to be released, we are happy," said Ko Ko Gyi.

"He deserves to be free as he had to pay for his political belief with long-term imprisonment. He will be reunited with his family in the outside world and be free. I myself went through this emotional experience. If possible, the remaining political prisoners should be released too. We have been saying this all the time" Ko Ko Gyi added.

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### **Burmese political prisoners' conditions**

Apr 27, 2005 (DVB) - The condition of Ko Zaw Min Oo, a political prisoner who has been detained at Rangoon Insein Jail is said to be in a critical state after he was beaten up by prison authorities, according to sources close to the prison.

Zaw Min Oo was taken out of his cell and beaten up by prison authorities including warders for reacting sullenly to them and he was locked up in another cell.

Political prisoners from nearby cells are said to be concerned for his condition as he was said to be unconscious when they last saw him. Zaw Min Oo has been detained since 1998 with Emergency Provision Act 5J.

At the same time, National League for Democracy (NLD) member Ko Shwe Maung who has been detained at Mandalay for moulding a Burmese "khamauk" hat, the symbol of his party, is still now allowed to see his family members. In January, he was beaten up severely by the henchmen of the prison governor U Thaung Myint, for not sitting on the haunches as ordered. He was then sent to an isolation cell and barred from seeing his family members.

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### **"Arms traffickers" given hefty sentences in Burma**

Apr 27, 2005 (DVB) - Four people were given hefty sentences including life by a court in Rangoon Insein on 22 April for allegedly attempting to smuggle and sell 40 pieces of arms belonging to the Burmese army and a ceasefire group to ethnic national rebels on the Indo-Burmese border.

According to the defending lawyer Nai Ngwe Ya, three Chin nationals from Kalemyo, Sagaing Division including a man named Peter and Ko Khin Maung Soe a merchant from Mandalay had been charged with acts relating to arms smuggling and leaving Burma illegally, under a provision of the Immigration Act 13/1.

“The government accused them. They denied the charges and they said that the weapons are not theirs,” said Naing Ngwe Ya. “They were interrogated by the military intelligence service (MIS). Then, the government utilised the MIS interrogations and wrote up “confessions”. The court passed sentences based on the interrogations and confessions extracted by the government. The defendants never confessed to the crime. Peter was not arrested with other people. The authorities found a package containing four or five weapons at Kalembo bus stop, but not with them. ”

The case started when the MIS was at the peak of its power in mid 2004 and the authorities claimed that there were photographs of weapons seized from the defendants. But they were unable to say which Burmese troops sold the weapons. At the same time, Kayan New Land Party (KNLP) said that none of the weapons exhibited were theirs as accused by the authorities. Moreover, observers claim that the assorted assault weapons including 60mm mortars could not be smuggled by merchants without the involvements of the authorities.

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### **Two more released from Burma prison**

Apr 29, 2005 (DVB) - Two more Burmese political prisoners, U Aung Khin and Ko Ko Naing were released from Rangoon’s notorious Insein Jail on 28 April.

U Aung Khin had been detained since 1989 for having contacts with underground Burma Communist Party (BCP) and he was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment. His sentence was reduced to ten years in 1993 during a general amnesty but continued to be detained with Act 10A when he was supposed to be released.

Aung Khin spent nearly 16 years in prison with U Tin Aung and Ko Tin Aye who were released on the same day as him.

The other, Ko Ko Naing was also arrested in 1989 for allegedly having contacts with armed groups.

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### **Political prisoners barred from seeing families at Rangoon Insein Jail**

Apr 29, 2005 (DVB) - Rangoon Yankin Township National League for Democracy (NLD) member Ko Myo Khin and student leader Ko Han Win Aung who have been detained at Insein Jail were barred from seeing family members, according to their loved ones.

A relative of Myo Khin told DVB that she had to wait at the prison for along time before she had the chance to see him.

“They have checked all things I brought with me and I was ready to see him,” she said. “Then the documents such as identity card were returned... And I was told that I was not allowed to see him.” When she asked why she could not see him, an official told her that he had no right to say as the prison governor withdrew the permission. “I was not even allowed to give him parcels,” she said. “They only told me that I would be notified if I am allowed to see him again.”

She said she is worried for Myo Khin’s health condition as he has gastric diseases and concerned as to why she were not allowed to see him.

“He was transferred to another cell and I am worried that he might have problems with other people.”

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