

Democratic Voice of Burma Political Prisoners News

May 2005

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Authorities torturing Burmese prisoners

May 2, 2005 (DVB) - The authorities at Rangoon Insein Jail are torturing political prisoners who have been staging hunger strikes, according to sources close to the prison.

Those who are suspected to be the leaders of the strikes, Rangoon Township National League for Democracy (NLD) member Myo Khin, students Hla Htut Soe, Han Win Aung, Lwin Ko Latt, Kyaw Moe, Kyaw Naing, Myo Win and Bahan Nyaungtone Monastery abbot Rev U Rajadamma were sent to a "war hound" cell and tortured by the order of the prison governor.

It is not known why the political prisoners staged the hunger strike and their relatives have not been allowed to see them.

Ko Bo Kyi of Thailand-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) voiced his serious concern, stating some political prisoners died while staging hunger strikes in the past. He added the incident was reported to international organisations such as the Amnesty International and the United Nations.

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NLD lawyer lodges appeal for U Ohn Than

May 4, 2005 (DVB) - The National League for Democracy (NLD) legal advocate U Aung Thein lodged an appeal on behalf of U Ohn Than who has been sentenced to two years imprisonment for staging a peaceful solo protest outside the compound of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Rangoon.

The appeal was lodged at Rangoon High Court on 3 May. U Ohn Than was arrested in September 2004 and his appeal was rejected by Rangoon District court in March 2005. 53-year old U Ohn Than is a graduate of Rangoon University with a Forestry Science degree and he was arrested and detained twice before for his political activities. The latest arrest came after he demanded the release of Burma's democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and for urging the UN Security Council to handle the problems in Burma.

Latest situation of Hunger strikers inside the Insein prison

May 6, 2005 (DVB) - Some 20 political prisoners including Saw Nai Nai, the elected representative of Pazunetaung Township, Rangoon Division were beaten inside the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail by the prison authorities because of staging hunger strikes. They are also banned to receive prison visits from their family members.

Some political prisoners have been staging hunger strike since 28 April because the authorities have been mixing them with common criminals who had been bullying them. Some of them have been kept in isolated kennels known as war dog cells and their health conditions are said to be in a worrying state.

Those who are not allowed to see their family members are :

Saw Nai Nai
Han Win Aung
Lwin Ko latt
Nanda Sit Aung
Myint Htay
Myo Khin
Kyaw Moe
Kyaw Naing
Aye Lwin
Htun Yin (Dala)
Hla Moe
Nay Kyaw

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Nan Shin Mon
Kyaw Kyaw
Myo Win

Prisoners Thet Win Aung and Nay Lin Soe deteriorate in Mandalay Jail

May 10, 2005 (DVB) - The health conditions of Burmese student leaders Thet Win Aung and Nay Lin Soe who have been detained at Mandalay Prison in central Burma, are said to be deteriorating.

Thet Win Aung is said to be very weak and unable to walk on his own and moving around with the help of walking equipments. His illness and sufferings could be caused by dire prison diet and vitamin deficiency, according to some political prisoners.

Similarly, Nay Lin Soe has been suffering from eye diseases and arthritic pains. They are each serving a 59 year sentence.

Ex-Burmese political prisoner died

May 10, 2005 (DVB) - A former political prisoner U Khin Maung Gyi from Myauk-U Township, Arakan State in western Burma, died at his home during February 2005.

Khin Maung Gyi was a member of Arakan League for Democracy (ALD) and he was arrested with two other members in 2001 for allegedly having contacts with illegal armed groups. He was sentenced to three years in prison and released at the end of 2004.

At Arakan State capital Sittwe (Akyab) Prison, Khin Maung Gyi was tortured by prison authorities, and he contracted HIV through injection during the treatment for the pains he suffered as the result of the tortures, according to an unnamed ex-political prisoner.

He is survived by his wife and three children, according to a report by Narinjara news agency.

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NLD relative tortured to death by Burmese officials and buried secretly

May 12, 2005 (DVB) - On the day three bombs exploded in Rangoon, a man close to Burma's main opposition party National League for Democracy was killed after facing inhumane interrogations by military intelligence agents.

On 10 May, the commander of an interrogation centre Lt Col Min Hlaing notified the family of Rangoon Hlaing Township NLD organising member U Shwe Gyo's son in law Aung Hlaing Win that he died from heart attack during an interrogation on 7 May.

Moreover, Min Hlaing forcibly gave 100,000 kyat to the family for Aung Hlaing Win's memorial service, but the family didn't accept his offer and demanded only the return of his corpse. Min Hlaing then told the family that Aung Hlaing Win was buried on 9 May.

The family insisted that Aung Hlaing Win had no major disease before he was arrested, and they believe that he was killed by the beatings and tortures he suffered during the interrogations.

NLD spokesman U Lwin confirmed that Shwe Gyo tried to find out about his missing son in law, but the authorities didn't respond to his queries until he was informed that his son in law was dead.

The NLD legal advocates are planning to take action on the death of Aung Hlaing Win within the boundary of laws, according to U Lwin.

"We are going to hold a meeting to discuss what should be done on this matter. We will do things in accordance with the decision of the meeting," said one of NLD lawyers U Nyan Win.

Aung Hlaing Win was arrested by a group of security agents in civilian clothing on 1 May while having a meal in a restaurant. His family was not told by the authorities why and where he was detained.

He is survived by his wife Hnin Sandar and daughter Shant Shant.

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NLD leader Ba Myint tried in Rangoon Insein Jail

May 12, 2005 (DVB) - Burmese authorities are continuing the trial of the case of the chairman of Rangoon Ahlone Township National League for Democracy (NLD) U Ba Myint who has been detained since December 2004.

But no family member of U Ba Myint was allowed to be at the trial and none of them was told the situation by the authorities.

Ba Myint's son Lu Maw told DVB that family members were told that they were not allowed to see him because there was no authorisation from the authorities from above.

"We are very worried," said Lu Maw. "We don't know with which act he is being tried...we are reporting the

situation to the Interior Affairs Minister and the ICRC.”

NLD members U Ba Myint, U Ba Tint from Bahan, Ko Khin Kyaw from Sanchaung, Ko Aung Myo San from Tamwe and Ko Thet Naing from Thaketa Townships in Rangoon are still not allowed to see their family members since they were detained five months ago and they are still being detained at the notorious Insein Jail. [TOP](#)

Burmese prisoners transferred for staging hunger strike

May 12, 2005 (DVB) - Burmese authorities at Rangoon Insein Jail transferred political prisoners to prisons situated in places far away from their family members, after they staged hunger strike in protest of inhumane treatments they received in the hand of the prison authorities.

Eight political prisoners including Myo Khin have been transferred to prisons in the provinces including Mandalay in central Burma. The wife of Myo Khin, Ma Khin Win who recently went to Insein Jail on 12 May told DVB that Myo Khin, Nandar Sit Aung, Ne Kyaw, Soe Khaing, Myo Thet, Win Hlaing Nyo were transferred to other prisons. “Myo Khin was transferred on 3 May to Pyay (Prome) Prison,” she said. “Myo Thet was transferred to Prome Prison on 3 May. Nandar Sit Aung and Ne Kyaw were transferred to Pa-an Prison (Karen State in eastern Burma). Win Hlaing Nyo was transferred to Mandalay Prison on 5 May.

Nang Shin Mon, Myo Win, Han Win Aung and Lwin Ko Latt who were sent to war dog kennels as punishment since 1 May for their role in the hunger strike, were allowed to meet with their families on 12 May.

Khin Win told DVB that the authorities had tightened security measures in the prisons after the hunger strike. Prisoners are not even allowed to walk outside the prison for fifteen minutes each day anymore. Prisoners were beaten up and tortured for staging the hunger strike before they were transferred. [TOP](#)

Detained Burmese MP Kyaw Min’s family allowed to hire lawyer

May 12, 2005 (DVB) - The police of Rangoon Tamwe Township recently notified a relative of detained elected representative (MP) of Arakan State Buthidaung Township U Kyaw Min, that his wife and two children who were arrested on 5 May, are to be allowed to hire a lawyer of their choice.

U Kyaw Min who is also a member of the Committee for Restoration of People’s Parliament (CRPP), was arrested on 17 March and he is currently being detained at the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail.

The National League for Democracy (NLD) has assigned one of its legal advocates U Nyan Win to defend Kyaw Min’s family at the court.

“All we heard is the case is to be put forward at the court on 20 May and we are still trying to get in touch with them,” said U Nyan Win. “We will only know on that day what they are going to be charged with if we meet them. We are preparing matters relating to immigration acts.” [TOP](#)

NLD youths to sue Burmese police for beatings

May 12, 2005 (DVB) - A court in Rangoon Hlaingthaya Township has reluctantly accepted the case of two youth members of National League for Democracy (NLD) who are suing the police for beating them up severely.

The trial started on 9 May and it was presided over by Judge U Hla Oo and the two youths have been represented by NLD legal advocate U Khin Maung Shein.

On 29 April, Zaw Win and Win Zaw Oo were arrested and beaten up by two drunken policemen, Corporal Nyunt Win and a deputy station master, at a local restaurant. They were beaten up because Zaw Win was eating his meal half naked with a tattoo on his back that says “Only democracy is suitable for independence”.

The two youths were released on bail the next morning, and on 2 May they were each sentenced to eight days in prison for “blocking the public right of way” in accordance with Police act (41).

As soon as they were released, the youth sued the police for mistreatments and physical assaults in accordance with Acts 323 & 324. Although the court didn’t want to accept the case, the severity of the beatings was so obvious that it had to do so rather reluctantly.

The case continues, prompting interests among civilians who have been suffering in silence in the hand of the bullying Burmese police.

Conditions of prisoners at Burma remote areas not good

May 13, 2005 (DVB) - Burmese political prisoner Khin Maung Lwin who has been detained at Puta-O Prison, Kachin State in northern Burma, has been passing bloody stools and his life is in danger, according to his family members.

Rangoon-born Khin Maung Lwin was sent to remote Puta-O and his family members have been unable to see him regularly.

Similarly, a friend of his, Saw Win who has been detained at Kalemmyo Prison, situated in northwest Burma near India, has been suffering from urinal diseases, according to his mother Daw Mya Yi who travelled hundreds of miles from Rangoon to see her son at the prison on 12 May.

"Compared to last occasion I saw him, his health condition is slightly better. He is able to walk slowly," 77-year old Mya Yi told DVB. "I bought him some medicines from Rangoon and asked him to take them... I am waiting for the chance to see him again fifteen days later to find out the effects of the medicines he took."

She told DVB that her son was feeling dejected when she could not come and see him regularly.

"I have been unable to come and see him regularly as the situation was not good for me," she said. "I have been waiting for you and I have nothing left to eat as you could not come, he told me."

She added that she came to see her son because it is absolutely necessary. Although her travel expenses have been paid by the ICRC based in Rangoon, he described her journey from Rangoon as follows:

"I waited for 20 days to get a plane ticket, but I didn't get it... The journey is very tiring. I had to travel (by train) the whole night from Rangoon. I arrived at Monywa (central Burma) on the next day. From Monywa, I had to travel by bus the whole night to Kalemmyo. I only arrived here at 7-8am. I was very tired last night and didn't feel well. I am feeling slightly better today."

Saw Win and Khin Maung Lwin were arrested with political charges in 1998 and sentenced to 10 years and 21 years, respectively.

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Burmese prisoners and their relatives at Rangoon Insein Jail

May 13, 2005 (DVB) - Some political prisoners who staged recent hunger strikes inside Rangoon Insein Jail are still not allowed to see their family members.

Han Win Aung's mother Daw Win Nwet went to Insein Jail to see her son on 12 May but she was not allowed in by the authorities. She even doesn't know whether her son is still in the prison or transferred to another.

"I heard that 18 people were involved. Two were sent to Moulmein Prison (Mon State capital, Southern Burma), three were sent to Thayet Prison (central Burma) and I was told that two student leaders were among them. I think that Han Win Aung might be with them," she said. "They only told me that I was not allowed to see him. They didn't tell me whether he had been transferred or not."

One of the people reported to be involved in the hunger strike, Rangoon Pazundaung Township elected representative, U Saw Naing Naing was allowed to see his family members on 13 May at the prison.

His wife Daw Tin Tin Hla told DVB that she was surprised and gladdened by the fact that she was allowed to see him.

"He didn't tell me whether he was involved in the hunger strike or not," she said. "We could not speak freely. We had to communicate by phone from each side. The minder from his side noted down what he said and mine also noted down what I said. And someone listened in on our conversation in the middle too."

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NLD Kyaw San trial in Rangoon Insein Court

May 13, 2005 (DVB) - The case of Tantse Township, Sagaing Division National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative (MP) U Kyaw San, who has been accused of infringing import-export laws, was heard at Rangoon Insein Township court on 13 May.

Local police claimed that goods confiscated from Kyaw San's Rangoon home were imported from Thailand and he was unable to provide tax receipts, thus infringing import-export acts 5 (1)-5(3).

"He pleaded not guilty and said that the goods were not his and he didn't know whose goods they were and he really didn't know," Kyaw San's wife Daw May Nwet told DVB. "He has no reason to get involved in this."

U Kyaw San was arrested at his Rangoon home on 17 March 2004, a day after he returned from upper Burma, because the police "found" the undeclared goods at his home. It later emerged that the goods belong to members of Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) who asked Kyaw San's son to let them keep the goods at his home for awhile in his father's absence. A DKBA leader also wrote to the authorities confirming that the goods indeed belong to them but Kyaw San was continued to be detained. His lawyer pointed out all these evidences at the court.

"The authorities claim that no one is above the law," May Nwet said. "I don't know how they come up with it. He was in prison for nine years and had been free less than four months when he was arrested. If they are reasonable human beings they will know whether they should do this kind of thing or not."

Kyaw San staged a month long hunger strike in prison to prove his innocence as soon as he was detained. He was released at the end of 2004 after the ruling generals admitted that he was wrongfully arrested and detained by the military intelligence service (MIS) headed by the ousted "prime minister" Gen Khin Nyunt.

Shwe Mann, accused of reporting to ILO ,released by Burma junta

May 15, 2005 (DVB) - Ko Shwe Mann, one of the people accused of reporting to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and given death sentence, was released from the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail on 29 April.

The release was due to the fact that a team of ILO which visited Burma not long ago urged the country's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) to release him before June.

"Three ILO delegates came to Burma and pleaded with the government to release him. And the ILO Rangoon official Mr. Richard Horsey also urged the junta to release him," a reputable lawyer Naing Ngwe Ya told DVB. "On 29 April, Shwe Mann was taken from Insein Jail to his home in Pegu."

Ngwe Ya has been defending the case of nine people including sports journalist Zaw Thet Htway who were charged with treason and he added that the latest release is an improvement in terms of legal matters.

The ILO is planning to discuss details of the situation in Burma at its general assembly on 4 June and it recently criticised the junta for lack improvement on the front of forced labour in Burma. TOP

Hunger strike in Rangoon Insein Jail ends

May 16, 2005 (DVB) - The 12 day long hunger strike which was carried out by political prisoners in the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail has ended recently.

It is not known how it ended, but some prisoners were permitted to see their family members again on 14 May but they are reluctant to tell their loved ones what happened during the strike, a relative of the prisoner said.

"You have to say that it had ended because the group was split up and some of them were sent to provincial prisons," a woman who went to see her husband at the prison told DVB. "They were not as free as before. I wonder what kind of restriction they are being imposed upon. The police positioned near him noted down all what he said. He said the authorities told prisoners to stop the strike or their cremated ashes will be delivered to their homes."

The authorities split up the protesting prisoners by sending some of them to provincial prisons with new sentences. Ne Kyaw and Nandar Sit Aung were sent to Pa-an Prison (Karen State), Soe Han and Myint Naing were sent to Moulmein Prison (Mon State), Myo Khin and Myo Thet to Prome (Pyay) Prison and Win Let Nyo to Mandalay Prison in central Burma. They are still not allowed to see their family members.

The strike started after political prisoners were kept among hardened criminals who bullied them. The latest condition of Ko Zaw Min who led the strike is still unknown, according to his family circles.

At the same time, 60-year old U Ko Oo who is being detained at Thayet Prison in central Burma, is suffering from arthritics and unable to walk properly, according to his wife Daw Than Myint who went to see him at the prison on 14 May. The family claimed that Ko Oo was perfectly fit and well before he was sent to the prison in 2000. TOP

NLD lawyers taking legal actions on death of youth in Rangoon

May 17, 2005 (DVB) - Legal advocates of National League for Democracy (NLD) HQs are preparing to take legal actions over the death of its youth member Ko Aung Hlaing Win from Hlaing Township at an interrogation centre.

The lawyers' action was prompted by the authorities' inability to give sufficient reasons for the sudden death of Aung Hlaing Win while he was detained at an interrogation centre.

NLD spokesman U Lwin told DVB that Aung Hlaing Win's wife Hnin Sandar herself is preparing to sue the authorities concerned.

"Yesterday (16 May), our top legal advocated has a discussion," he said. "They are going carry out things needed and should to be done."

Aung Hlaing Win was arrested on 1 May by some "security" officials in clothing while he was having a meal in a local restaurant. Although his family members tried to find out why he was arrested and where he was detained, the authorities never let them know of what they wanted to know.

On 10 May, his family was notified by the commander of an interrogation centre Lt Col Min Hlaing that Aung Hlaing Win died from heart attack on 7 May and "given proper burial" on 9 May. He also offered the family 100,000 kyat (approx.US\$100-120), but the family refused to be shut up and demanded the return of his remains.

Burmese authorities arresting former student fighters

May 17, 2005 (DVB) - Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) special police forces have been arresting former members of and those connected to All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF).

An ex-ABSDF Zaw Win Htut who was imprisoned in 1990 and released 1997, was arrested by the police on 16 May at his home in Rangoon. Similarly, around 50 former members of and those connected to the front have been arrested throughout Burma.

According to, ABSDF General Secretary Kyaw Ko, the authorities are doing so because they want to vilify the ABSDF as they could not find the real culprits who planted the deadly bombs which killed scores of people in Mandalay and Rangoon.

"We are worried that the authorities will arrest them indiscriminately and force them to admit to crimes they did not commit," he said. "Another thing is, they are trying to besmear the reputation of the ABSDF. We can see that when they could not catch the real culprits, they are labelling the ABSDF and force these people to admit crimes."

Similarly, the authorities also passed a death sentence on a young man called Shan Poke (aka) Kayin Lay for a bomb explosion in Pa-An, Karen State, when they could not find the real culprit. TOP

NLD Saw Hlaing's "unlicensed computers" trial continues in upper Burma

May 17, 2005 (DVB) - The trial of Indaw Township National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative (MP) U Saw Hlaing, continued at nearby Katha District court in upper Burma on 17 May.

According to Katha Township MP U Myint Kyi, Saw Hlaing's wife Daw Nyunt Nyunt was interrogated on the business activities of her husband and the prosecuting will decide whether he is going to be charged or not on 20 May.

"They interrogated Daw Nyunt Nyunt in which year the computers confiscated from U Saw Hlaing came into his possession," Myint Kyi told DVB. "Daw Nyunt Nyunt said around March, April 2003. She doesn't remember exactly when...Then, they asked her if they did printing business and she said no. They did not do any printing business with the computers. And not soon after the computers arrived, we were sent to Shwebo Prison and the like. When he was released from Shwebo Prison, he was away from home most of the time during 2004. He had to receive medical treatments in the hospital and he was almost never at Indaw. So, he never managed to do anything for his business."

Myint Kyi added that Saw Hlaing strongly believes he could defend himself well and broke no law.

"But his family and colleagues like us, are worried that he will be given prison sentence by the authorities in any case, for one reason or another."

Saw Hlaing was arrested on 30 February by local authorities for using "unlicensed" computers. He is not allowed to hire a lawyer for legal advices. He has been detained and interrogated in connection with printing acts 16,17 and 20. TOP

Burmese prisoners on hunger strike were tortured by authorities

May 17, 2005 (DVB) - Political prisoners who staged a 12 day long hunger strike at Rangoon Insein Jail were locked up in a war hound training kennel and tortured by prison authorities, according to sources close to the prison.

Prisoners were also threatened by the authorities not to tell their family members about their experiences, on the pain of more punishments. When they were allowed to see their family members on 14 May, they were unable to tell them what really had happened inside the kennel.

One of the prisoners, 18 year old 2nd year law student Nang Shin Mon's father U Htan Do Khin told DVB that his son was locked up inside the kennel from 2 to 12 May.

"He told me that the place he was sent to was quite "uncomfortable", but he didn't want to tell me the details because he didn't want us his parents to feel miserable," Htan Do Khin said.

Nang Shin Mon was sentenced to 15 years in prison for allegedly trying to form a student union.

"He puts his faith in God. I believe that wherever he is, god will be with him," Htan Do Khin said. "Therefore, we are getting our strength from the Name of the Lord. As a father, I do feel saddened by the fact that a young person is being imprisoned. He has no one to depend on but Jesus."

Another young prisoner, Han Win Aung who has been imprisoned twice, was not even old enough to be imprisoned by legal means, according to his mother Daw Win Nwet.

"The first time he was sentenced to 7 years in prison, he was only 14 years old," Win Nwet told DVB. "When he was released, he asked the permission to resume his studies, but the authorities didn't allow him. He was rearrested three years after his release, serving another 7 year sentence." TOP

Two Pegu Division NLD leaders arrested

May 18, 2005 (DVB) - Two National League for Democracy (NLD) leaders from Shwekyin Township, Pegu Division in central Burma, were arrested on 13 May by local police on the instruction of the local authorities.

Township NLD secretary U Bo Gyi and organising committee members U Pe Tin were said to be arrested for distributing "propaganda" leaflets of the party. The leaflets contain selections of speeches on democracy by the late Gen Aung San, the father of Daw Aung San Auu Kyi, and they were legally printed and distributed by the NLD HQs.

A party member from nearby Pegu told DVB that the two were arrested for redistributing these leaflets to local members. Three days later, they were taken to the township court with handcuffs and charged in connection with 1962 printing act 20 and they are to be taken to court again on 27 May.

Bo Gyi and Pe Tin are to be defended by NLD legal advocates and their families are worried for their health conditions. [TOP](#)

NLD Aung Hlaing Win's death reported at local police station in Rangoon

May 18, 2005 (DVB) - The wife of Rangoon Hlaing Township National League for Democracy (NLD) youth member Aung Hlaing Win, on 18 May, reported his death to the local police station for further investigations.

30 year old Aung Hlaing Win was arrested on 1 May by four "security" officials in civilian clothing at a local restaurant and taken to an unidentified interrogation centre without notifying his family members. Then, on 10 May, the interrogation centre commanding army officer informed his family that he died from heart attack during the detention and buried at a cemetery.

His wife Ma Hnin Sandar herself officially reported the incident to the police, and NLD legal advocates are giving her necessary helps, according to a renowned lawyer U Nyan Win.

"It is a police case and it was reported at Mayanggone Police Station for the case to be opened," he told DVB. "They appointed investigation officers. They will have to send their findings to the court."

The owner of the restaurant informed Aung Hlaing Win's family members and they tried to find out why he was arrested and where he was detained, but the police were unable to help them.

Observers said Aung Hlaing Win was likely to be killed by the inhumane tortures he endured during the investigations. The army officer tried to gag his family members by offering them 100,000 kyat (approx. US\$100) but they declined his "offer", demanding only the return of his corpse. [TOP](#)

Thet Win Aung's condition deteriorates in Mandalay Prison

May 18, 2005 (DVB) - Student leader Thet Win Aung who is serving a 59-year sentence for attempting to form a student union, is not even able to walk, according to his father and brother who went to see him at Mandalay Prison in central Burma on 18 May.

"When I saw him a month ago, he was still able to walk," his father U Win Maung told DVB. "Now, he needs to be supported when he walks...and transported on a wheelchair."

His older brother, Pyone Cho, a student leader and ex-political prisoner himself, who was released from prison recently, told DVB that prison authorities didn't seem to be too concerned about the serious condition of his brother.

"They didn't tell us about his condition. We only learnt about it when we got there," Pyone Cho said. "They didn't tell us that his condition was in a worrying stage. What we saw was he had to be moved around with a wheelchair."

Win Maung added that his son should be released so that he could receive necessary and proper medical treatments.

"His condition will only improve if he is allowed to be treated outside the prison, he said.

Meanwhile, prisoners who were transferred to provincial prisons for staging a hunger strike in Rangoon Insein Jail recently, are still not allowed to see their family members. [TOP](#)

More arrests and interrogations in Rangoon following deadly blasts

May 20, 2005 (DVB) - Local authorities and security officers in Burma capital Rangoon have been making increasing arrests on political activists, in connection with the deadly 7 May bomb blasts which killed scores and wounded hundreds.

They are mainly targeting former members of armed groups and National League for Democracy (NLD) youth members. Recently, Sanchaung and Mayanggone Township NLD members Ko Thurein Aung, Ko Min Min Aung and Ko Kyi Soe were detained and interrogated for nearly three days and released, according to party members.

But South Dagon Township youth member Ko Kyaw Kyaw is still being detained and interrogated. Observers are worried that the ruling junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) might use these people as scapegoats instead of finding the real culprits who are responsible for the blasts. [TOP](#)

Popular Burmese author detained in Rangoon

May 20, 2005 (DVB) - Shwe Phone Lu (a.k.a.) Tayar Min Wai, an ex-political prisoner and a popular youth writer, was "taken away" from his home in Rangoon on 19 May by agents of the Burmese special police.

Although it is not clear why he was taken away, Tayar Min Wai's mother Daw Hla Kyi and sister Ma Khin Sandar Moe were also taken away with him.

Khin Sandar Moe was taken back to her home at noon local time, the following day, but her brother and mother ~~Tayar Min Wai is still being detained according to the police, close to the family.~~ Tayar Min Wai is still being detained according to the police, close to the family. Washington-based US Campaign for Burma (USCB) which has been carrying out effective publicity campaigns on the situation of Burma.

Sources from Rangoon political circles told DVB that Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) could be starting to arrest relatives of exiled Burmese political activists, with grudges.

Indaw MP Saw Hlaing to be charged and tried by Burmese court

May 20, 2005 (DVB) - Katha District court at upper Sagaing Division in northern Burma, had decided to charge and try the detained elected representative (MP) of nearby Indaw Township U Saw Hlaing with Printing Acts 16, 17 and 20.

The decision was made during the fifth hearing at the court on 20 May and the case will continue on 23 May, local National League for Democracy (NLD) members told DVB.

The decision to charge Saw Hlaing indicates that he is almost certainly going to be sent to prison again, they said.

Saw Hlaing started his political activities in the early 1970s and have been imprisoned at least 4 times under consecutive military "governments". [TOP](#)

Burma NLD lawyer not allowed to see Arakan political prisoner Kyaw Min

May 20, 2005 (DVB) - National League for Democracy (NLD) legal advocate U Nyan Win who, on 20 May, attempted to see the Committee for Representing People's Parliament (CRPP) member and elected representative (MP) of Arakan State Budthidaung Township U Kyaw Win at Rangoon Insein Jail, was turned back by the authorities there.

U Nyan Win told DVB that he went to the prison with U Kyaw Min's relatives because he heard that U Kyaw Min and his family members would be taken to the prison "court".

"They would not allow us into the prison compound," Nyan Win told DVB. "We told them that we came because we heard that U Kyaw Min is to be taken to court today. They didn't say whether it is true or not. I told them that I want to represent U Kyaw Min. They asked us to wait and told us to go home at 3pm."

Kyaw Min was arrested on 17 March and his wife Daw Tiza and his daughters Khin Khin Nu and Wai Wai Nu were arrested on 5 May. They are all being detained at the prison.

It is still not clear why the whole family has been arrested. [TOP](#)

NLD Kyaw San's trial continues in Rangoon Insein court

May 20, 2005 (DVB) - The trial of U Kyaw San, the elected representative (MP) of Tantse Township and chairman of Sagaing Division National League for Democracy (NLD), continued at Rangoon Insein Township court on 20 May.

Kyaw San's wife Daw May Nwet told DVB that two witnesses, including herself, were cross-examined.

"I told the court that after retiring from the army, my husband went into politics and did not do business as charged," May Nwet told DVB. "I also stated that our licensed car was confiscated without any reason."

Kyaw San was arrested in connection with receiving imported goods at his home and charged with acts relating to import-export laws. He insisted that he knew nothing about them and that they belong to friends of his son from Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA), a "ceasefire" group and ally of the Burmese army.

Witnesses from DKBA did not turn up at the court and Kyaw San's lawyer asked the court to summon them to the court for hearing on 23 May.

Kyaw San was arrested on 17 March, less than four months he was released from a long-term imprisonment.

Prisoners threatened with violence by Burmese authorities at Tharawaddy

May 23, 2005 (DVB) - Authorities at Tharawaddy Prison in central Burma have been intimidating and threatening political prisoners with violence.

The newly appointed prison governor U Myint Swe withdrew all the prisoners' rights to read and daily 15 minute walk, and introduced more oppressive rules. His deputy U Myint Soe also told prisoners that he received instructions from Home Affairs Minister Gen Maung Maung Oo to beat disobedient prisoners to death.

Some political prisoners staged a hunger strike in protest of the mistreatments they received in the hand of the prison authorities. Myint Swe then changed his tone and told prisoners that he will relax the rules if they stop protesting.

Prisoners relented and stopped the strike, but no rules have been relaxed so far. To make the matter worse, prison warders have been issued with new truncheons and told to watch political prisoners day and night. The alleged leader of the hunger strike, Saw Ne Dun has also been told to keep quiet on the pain of being beaten to death, according to sources close to the prison.

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Burmese authorities arrested three people in Rangoon

May 26, 2005 (DVB) - Burmese security forces arrested three people on 25 May for allegedly attempting to plant bomb at Yuzana Plaza Rangoon Tamwe Township, according to reports from Rangoon. DVB contacted Tamwe Township police station for confirmation but the officers refused to make any comment. Nevertheless, eyewitnesses told DVB that they saw three hooded people being taken away by armed security forces.

On the same day, local authorities at the Burmese border town Myawaddy were alleged to have found some explosives at a home during a raid and arrested all family members.

"We don't know whether the bombs have put there or deliberated planted," a local resident told DVB. "Nobody knows who really did it. It could be done by former intelligence agents or police. We don't know."

At the same time, there have been tight security checks along Myawaddy- Kyawkareik Road near Thailand. For some reasons, security officers are arresting all passengers who carry the name of Ko Naing.

"As they say, their tattoos only come into effect after the thieves have fled," a woman jeered at the ridiculous behaviours of the authorities.

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NLD MP sent to prison by Burmese court for keeping broken computers

May 26, 2005 (DVB) - The elected representative (MP) of Indaw Township, Sagaing Division in upper Burma, U Saw Hlaing was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment by a court in nearby Katha on 26 May for keeping "unlicensed" second-hand computers.

U Myint Kyi, the MP of Katha told DVB that Saw Hlaing was wrongfully arrested on 30 March and sent to go to prison in a hurry by the authorities.

"My suspicion is he was summarily sentenced," he told DVB. "His family didn't come to the court today because they thought he won't be sentenced in a hurry."

He added that Saw Hlaing seemed to know that he would be treated thus from his previous experiences. Although Saw Hlaing is still strong mentally, he is suffering from chronic back pains.

Saw Hlaing was sent to prison at least four times by successive military juntas of Burma since early 70s for his political activities.

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Burmese prisoner given medical treatment too late

May 26, 2005 (DVB) - The health condition of a Burmese political prisoner, U Than Maung who has been receiving medical treatments at Myaungmya Hospital in Irrawaddy Division, is said to be deteriorating fast.

59-year old Than Maung has been suffering kidney diseases, diabetes and TB. His condition started to deteriorate in April and transferred from the Icoai prison clinic to the hospital. By the time he arrived at the hospital, his condition was so dire that he was unable to talk, eat or drink, according to his family members.

According to a hospital staff, medical treatments have no effect on Than Maung and everyone is waiting for his last moment.

Than Maung was arrested in 2001 for allegedly leading and participating in an anti-Muslim riot at Taungoo, in central Burma. He was sentenced to 14 years in prison. In 2003, he was transferred from Taungoo Prison to Mayungmya Prison.

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