

## **Democratic Voice Of Burma**

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## **Four Shan SSA fighters sent to prison by Burmese court**

*Oct 02, 2005* - Four Shan State Army – North (SSA-N) soldiers and followers of SSA-N vice-chairman Col Sa Gaifah, arrested at Muse 105-Mile checkpoint in northeast Burma near China, were each given a three month prison term by a Burmese court.

Hanliyan, Khan Pang, Gyawmone and A-Ngelay were charged with carrying weapons illegally by Muse court in northern Shan State. One of them is said to be the son-in-law of Gaifah, two were his bodyguards and his driver A-Ngelay was a Burmese soldier sent to him by the commander of Northeast Command Maj-Gen Myint Hlaing to teach him how to play golf.

The four were arrested on 5 July while traveling to Lashio with Gaifah. They were imprisoned because they were each found to be in possession of a pistol, according to Shan Herald Agency for News (SHAN). A SSA-N member who doesn't want to be named told DVB that all ceasefire group members are allowed to carry weapons and the arrest and imprisonment of the four is a deliberate taunt and a 'fault-finding' act. SSA-N signed ceasefire agreements with the ruling military junta in early 1990s but the relationship between the two sides has been deteriorating steadily since ten Shan leaders including Shan State Peace Council (SSPC) chairperson Gen Hso Ten and Shan National League for Democracy (SNLD) chairperson Khun Htun Oo were arrested in February.

As a result Shan ceasefire groups boycotted the so-called National Convention of the junta and they have been under constant pressure to surrender their weapons ever since, and some of them have rejoined their old comrades who are still fighting against the junta.

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## **Shwekyin NLD chair Bogyi case rejected by Burmese court**

*Oct 03, 2005* - The last appeal of Pegu Division Shwekyin Township National League for Democracy (NLD) chairman Bo Gyi who was given a lengthy prison term for distributing leaflets containing extracts of the speeches of Burma's national hero Aung San, was summarily rejected by Burma's supreme court.

"It was thrown out with today's date (3 October). In our view, the case deserves to be accepted," NLD lawyer Nyan Win told DVB. "The reason is the court is not following the rules and regulations of the court. If they don't follow them, then the whole case is destroyed and they even didn't give us the admission for this. I think it is not in accordance with the rule of law. It is a kind of case that needs to be accepted and considered.

He added that the claim of the authorities that everyone is equal in the eye of the law is thrown into doubt.

Bo Gyi was arrested on 13 May for distributing leaflets containing speeches of Aung San who is also the father of detained Burma's democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and he was sentenced to seven years in prison on 27 May following the a summarised trial which lasted only two weeks. The leaflets were officially published by the NLD HQs in Rangoon.

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## **Burmese prisoner Aung Pe beaten up by criminals**

*Oct 05, 2005* - Private tuition teacher Aung Pe from Rangoon Twante Township, who is serving a three-year prison term at the notorious Insein Jail for saluting the portrait of Burma's national hero Gen Aung San, was beaten up and tortured by prison authorities and criminal gang members.

Aung Pe, who has been incarcerated at 'House' No. 5, was beaten up on 30 September by members of a criminal gang named Scorpion, who have been used as henchmen of the prison authorities, according to sources close to the prison.

The authorities concerned are still not taking action against the gang members and they threatened to inflict more punishments on Aung Pe. His wife Htay Htay Lwin, on 5 October, went to report the

incident to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) office in Rangoon as she fears for the safety of her husband.

Thailand-based Assistant Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) issued a statement on the same day, urging the international governments and organisations to put more pressures on the ruling junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) which has been torturing political prisoners.

Aung Pe was arrested on 14 February for singing a song in honour of Aung San and saluting his portrait on the previous day with his pupils. He was sentenced on 23 August and his lawyers, who are still trying to lodge appeals at higher courts for him, expressed their concerns for his safety.

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## **Flu outbreak in Burma's Myaungmya Prison**

*Oct 06, 2005* - Myaungmya Prison, situated in the delta region of Burma's Irrawaddy Division, which houses around 30 political prisoners, has been facing a flu outbreak, and one prisoner was taken to the local hospital to treat his deteriorating condition.

57-year old Than Maung from Taungoo in central Burma who has been serving a 27 year prison term was recently sent to the local hospital for emergency treatments. His family members have been unable to look after him properly as they find it hard to reach Myaungmya.

"He is in a condition that he might perish," a local resident told DVB. "Lack of medicines is one of the reasons. We are doing our best to supply them with medicines from outside. The prison doctor does not give proper health cares to prisoners. Although we want to see him (at the hospital), we are unable to do so because he is heavily guarded. He endures more than one disease. He has around three types."

Similarly, the health conditions of political prisoners at Taungoo, Moulmein, Thayet, Puta-O and Tharawaddy Prisons, are said to be very poor. The report from Myaungmya followed recent reports of deaths in Tharawaddy Prison due to a severe outbreak of cholera in which scores of inmates including one political prisoner died.

**TOP**

## **NLD lawyers appealing for Rangoon members**

*Oct 06, 2005* - Burma's National League for Democracy (NLD) HQs legal advocates at long last received the official case file and sentences of five NLD members including Rangoon Ahlon Township party chairman Ba Myint who were given life sentences in July.

According to their case file, Khin Kyaw, Thet Naing Aung and Aung Myo Min were each sentenced to life imprisonment and eight years. The authorities were reluctant to hand over the case file to NLD lawyers because the sentences are so unfair, the prisoners' relatives said.

One of the legal advocates Nyan Win told DVB that they have been requesting the case file from the authorities since July but only received it on 5 October and they are planning to lodge the appeal at the Supreme Court soon.

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## **Burmese Mon prisoner not allowed to attend his father's funeral**

*Oct 07, 2005* - A New Mon State Party (NMSP) member Lay Phyu who is serving life sentence in the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail for an alleged attempt on the lives of Burma's military junta leaders, is not allowed to attend the funeral of his late father.

Lay Phyu's father Thein Win died at Rangoon General Hospital on 6 October while he was receiving medical treatments for kidney complaints. Lay Phyu requested prison authorise to allow him out of the prison for a while to view the corpse of his father but they refused.

Lay Phyu was arrested in 2003 with sports journalist Zaw Thet Htway and Aye Myint who arrested for reporting forced labour practices to the International Labour Organisation (ILO). Both were released earlier this year. Another NMSP man who was with him in prison, Aung Loon died last week during his detention in a hospital. Only Nai Yekkha and Myo Htway who were in the same case as Lay Phyu are remaining inside the prison.

The chairperson of NMSP wrote to Burma's military junta, State peace and Development Council (SPDC) chairperson Gen Than Shwe, urging him to release the men as they were arrested and sentenced without enough evidence, but there has been no response from the latter so far.

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### **Beaten up Burmese prisoner Aung Pe allowed to see wife recently**

*Oct 07, 2005* - Burmese political prisoner Aung Pe who was beaten up by members of the Scorpion gang in the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail, was allowed to see his wife Htay Htay Lwin on 6 October.

She told DVB what happened to her husband thus:

“On 30 September, they (prison inmates) were queuing for a meal. Someone who was distributing the food thought that he (Aung Pe) was jumping the queue and scolded him. Why are you jumping the queue, they said. He said that he did not jump the queue and that he was in his regular position. They snatched his plate and threw it away for replying to them. It is not good to do this and you are very rude, he told them. Then, they tortured him for saying to them thus. They beat him up in group.”

She reported the incident to Rangoon-based the International Committee of the Red Cross office and legal support team of the National League for Democracy (NLD) is preparing to investigate the matter.

40-year old private tuition teacher Aung Pe from Rangoon Twante Township was arrested and sentenced to three years in prison for saluting the portrait of Burma's independence hero Gen Aung San, the late father of Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, and singing a song in honour of him.

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### **Rangoon Htan Manaing heroine Su Su Nway to be sentenced soon**

*Oct 10, 2005* - Rangoon Kawmoo Township Htan Manaing villager, Su Su Nway who has been sued and tried for allegedly hurling threatening and abusive language against her local authorities, is to be sentenced on 13 October.

However, her lawyer Nyan Win told DVB that if the judge is to act in accordance with proper legal procedures, there is no reason Su Su Nway could be found guilty.

“According to the way the case is being conducted, I believe that Su Su Nway is innocent,” Nyan Win told DVB. “What I mean is, from legal points of view, there is no strong evidence against her, to find her guilty. I don't know what the result will be on that day. We are also worried for her.”

Sympathetic villagers have also been praying for Su Su Nway's wellbeing at the pagodas and many of them have been visiting her at home to give words of comfort. Her supporters and those who love truth are expected to come and give her support at the court on the day of the judgement.

Su Su Nway, who has been suffering from chronic heart diseases, bravely and successfully sued the local authorities for forced labour practices and they have been bearing grudges against her ever since. She told DVB that she made every preparation to go prison despite her ill health.

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### **Burmese prisoner Soe Han's health deteriorates**

*Oct 10, 2005* - The chairperson of Rangoon Division National League for Democracy (NLD) legal

support group, Soe Han who is serving a lengthy prison term at Moulmein in southern Burma, is said to be seriously ill.

Soe Han has been suffering from a severe form of eye disease and his condition requires urgent operations. Last month, he requested the prison authorities to let him see an eye specialist outside the prison for treatments. Although the authorities agreed that he needs treatments, they insisted that he is not entitled to the rights of a political prisoner, but as a common criminal who needs to be chained and manacled during the treatments.

Soe Han protested that he would not allow himself to be humiliated thus and decided not go ahead with the treatments, and the conditions of his eyes have been deteriorating steadily, according to sources close to the prison.

The now defunct military intelligence service (MIS) agents arrested Soe Han with the elected representative (MP) Saw Naing Naing in 2000 and they were each sentenced to 21 years in jail. Naing Naing is still languishing in the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail and Soe Han was transferred to Moulmein Prison within 2004, according to a family member of his.

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### **Aye Myint innocent, testify Burmese authorities**

*Oct 11, 2005* - Prominent lawyer Aye Myint from Pegu in central Burma who has been detained for allegedly supplying the International Labour Organisation (ILO) with false information, was taken to nearby Daik-U Township court for trial on 10 October.

Unusually, even members of local authorities and Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) who usually stand on the side of the authorities, testified as witnesses that Aye Myint is innocent of the charges and that he was arrested unlawfully.

The assistant commander of Daik-U Township police force Win Tin Oo arrested and charged Aye Myint with Emergency Provision Act 5C.

According to Aye Myint's lawyer San Aung, Win Tin Oo accused Aye Myint of forcing the farmers from Phaungdawthi Village to write a false report to the ILO on 6 May 2005. "But they (the witnesses) did not support the accusation that the farmers were satisfied but Aye Myint told them not to be so. The farmers were not feeling satisfied and they are not still feeling satisfied now."

The case started when the township authority, the army, army veteran organisations and army supply corps confiscated 492 acres of the farmers' lands and gave them back only 123 acres. The farmers reported the incident to Rangoon-based ILO official Richard Horsey through the help of Aye Myint who acted as their legal representative.

Horsey told DVB that he has been discussing the matter with Burmese authorities concerned and that his organisation is doing its best but could not reveal details to the media as the case is not finished yet.

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### **NLD Kyaw San's appeal at Burmese High Court**

*Oct 11, 2005* - National League for Democracy (NLD) lawyers, on 6 October, lodged the last appeal for Sagaing Division Tantse Township elected representative (MP) Kyaw San who is being detained at Insein Jail in Rangoon.

Thein Nyunt, one of the lawyers told DVB that the appeal was lodged on three main points; false facts and data were supplied by the prosecution team in the original trial, the trial was not in accordance with legal procedures and legal mistakes were made in which the prosecutors were unable to say which item was legal and which was not.

He added that if the highest court in the country acts in accordance with the rule of law, he is expecting a fair decision for Kyaw San. Thein Nyunt also pointed out that the sentencing of Kyaw San to

seven years in prison is too severe for a man who is more than 74 years old, even for the existing laws.

Kyaw San was arrested in March at his Rangoon home, in connection with some 'foreign' goods kept temporarily at his home by some Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) members who are allies of the ruling junta. A DKBA commander stated in a letter that the goods had nothing to do with Kyaw San and the court even did not summon their owners to testify at the court.

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## **Breaking News: Burmese heroine Su Su Nway is in prison**

A court in Kawmoo Township, Rangoon Division, has today sentenced Su Su Nway to one and a half year imprisonment, according to people who attended the court hearing.

Su Su Nway, a civil rights activist from Htan Manaing village has been defying the bullying actions by the local authorities and successfully sued them last year. Su Su Nway told DVB that the authorities will do everything to ruin her life when she sued them for subjecting the villagers to forced labour practice. Later on, the local authorities sued her with charges of disrupting authorities on duty.

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## **Jailed: Su Su Nway bears the brunt of Burmese authorities' spiteful grudges**

*Oct 13, 2005* - Rangoon Division, Kawmoo Township, Htan Manaing villager Su Su Nway who successfully sued her local authority for forced labour practices, was found guilty on two charges and sentenced to one and a half year imprisonment by the township court on 13 October.

Su Su Nway was accused of threatening and hurling abusive languages at the village authorities, and she was taken to court by them in the spiteful spirit of revenge. Her lawyer Myint Thuang, members of National League for Democracy (NLD), 88 Generation student leaders including Min Ko Naing and Ko Ko Gyi and nearly 300 villagers were present at the court when the sentence was passed.

"She was found guilty on two charges," Myint Thuang told DVB. "Criminal Act – 506, for threatening (someone) and Act – 294B, for using dirty, abusive language to the point of being a public nuisance. We believe that the sentence is not justified. Legally, they were unable to prove beyond doubts that Su Su Nway is guilty. There are also statements from people who were at the place and time of the alleged incident occurred, and they came to testify that the accusations are not true and that there was no swearing and no threatening language. In this kind of situation, I believe that the sentence is not right."

Aung Sin Moe who successfully sued the authorities with Su Su Nway and another villager insisted that the sentence is not fair or justified either.

"The township authorities have been putting every kind of pressure on Su Su Nway and doing unsavoury things to her and the township court has been trying to find her guilty this way," said Aung Sin Moe. "In fact, Su Su Nway is a single/virgin woman. You can guess whether she would swear at the authorities this way even with your international experiences. They sent her to prison in this situation and I want to say that the action of the township court is not fair."

"We believe that it is impossible a young woman would hurl abuses at powerful grown men. It would not happen. We know that it is impossible. That is why, they are deliberately did that to her like now."

"As for Su Su Nway, she is a very clever woman," Aung Sin Moe continued. "She also sacrifices her life for the benefit of the majority. Whatever the situation, she stands on the side of truth and sacrifices her life for the village also. She never cares about going to the prison. She cares only for the truth."

"All good people and good angelic spirits know who is right who is wrong. The whole village is feeling bad that things happened to Su Su Nway thus. The reason is, she loves truth and she stands on the side of truth and all villagers. Therefore, they all love and respect her. If I have to say it, she is our village's protective wall. She stands up for truth."

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## What Htan Maning Su Su Nway told DVB before she went to prison

Oct 13, 2005 - "They want to send me to prison because they are afraid of me. I have no responsibility, no power and no position. They plot against a common girl, a disease sufferer and sue her because they are afraid. If they are afraid like that, our side is winning..."

"They (the Burmese authorities) planned to send me to prison. This morning, my little sister (cousin) came to see me. She was crying. I was praying early in the morning. I asked her what was wrong with her. They told me that Ma Su will go to prison and lose the case, she said. They are treating you unfairly she said and cried. My dear sister, they sued me in order to send me to prison. They sued me with ridiculous charges. You know that and the whole village knows that, I said to her. Their group has been plotting to do unsavory things against me and the whole village knows that. You know that I will go to prison and why are crying thus? If you are crying like this, do not follow me (to the court). We did what we had to do with the knowledge that they will send us to prison one day. We did nothing for ourselves and nothing for our family and nothing for us. We are standing on the side of the people who are in trouble. The authorities will send us to prison one day for doing that. They want to send me to prison because they are afraid of me. I have no responsibility, no power and no position. They plot against a common girl, a disease sufferer and sue her because they are afraid. If they are afraid like that, our side is winning, I explained to her thus. However, they are imprisoning me and whatever they are saying against me, I do not care if I go to prison. If we don't do anything, the poor people who have nothing will be in bigger trouble."

The woman judge, Htay Htay Win who sent Su Su Nway to jail, has been know as someone who turned litigants who sued against the local authorities for forced labor practices into defendants and sent them to prison. In this case, it is not known clearly whether she sentenced Su Su Nway who successfully sued her local authorities for the same reason to one and a half year imprisonment on her own accord or whether she was forced to pass the sentence by higher authorities.



## Were you there: When they sent Su Su Nway to prison

Oct 13, 2005 - Personal accounts of people who saw Htan Manaing villager Su Su Nway being sent to prison by Burmese authorities at Kawmoo Township court in Rangoon Division.

### ***Mar Mar Oo – former political prisoner***

"Student leaders Min Ko Naing and Ko Ko Gyi and Ma Su Su Nway, the three of them walked towards to the court hand in hand. Behind the three of them were 300 admirers and acknowledgers of the courage of Ma Su Su Nway who followed them. When they reached the court, Su Su Nway entered the court. The remaining people like us listened carefully to whatever were said inside the court through the nearest windows."

### ***Ko Ko Gyi – former political prisoner and student leader***

"She is a very poor, humble and really simply gentle hearted woman. And her health is not that good. As a woman like that, however much she prepared for the known journey of prison life with calm, as her big brothers, we want to give our strength to her for this kind of unwanted journey no one wants fare. We are with her like the same flesh. We walked to the court with her because we want to show her our full respect for her and we want to give her our consciousness and strength, and we want to comfort her like her big brothers."

### ***Mar Mar Oo***

"As for the woman judge who passed the sentence, I don't know whether she wrote the sentence on her own or not, but when she was reading the sentence, she was stuttering and her voice was shaky. I saw it myself. As soon as the sentence was read out, the village authority chairperson (the litigant) disappeared to God knows where. Before the judge read out the sentence, in accordance with the procedure, Su Su Nway had to stand up. While she listened to the sentence standing, in her heart, that she was doing the right

thing, she has nothing to fear, she showed no anger against the sentence, she was not outraged, she had no desire to react. I saw her listening to the sentence calmly and bravely.”

***Htan Manaing Villager***

“Earlier on, we were worried for the ‘little girl’ when we saw her condition. We were worried that something might happen to her if she was given the sentence. But her face was fresh and active.”

***Htan Manaing Villager***

“When they prepared to put the ‘little’ girl onto the prison van, Kawmoo elected representative (MP) Myaungmya Ba Shwe, student leaders Min Ko Naing and Ko Ko Gyi escorted her onto the vehicle. She looked quite fresh and happy. She was holding a bunch of flowers and stepped onto the van. She was not handcuffed. There were also three policewomen.”

***Myaungmya Ba Swe, MP of Kawmoo Township***

“Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi and I helped her onto the van. She was calm, dignified and brave. Flowers were blooming on her head. She was wearing a pinni set (clay colour cotton clothing used as NLD uniform). I told her to look after her health. Don’t worry, she said. We will carry on fighting the battle for democracy, she said.”

***Another Villager***

“Looking at her condition we were very concerned earlier on. We had to come from the rural region to hear the case. I was worried that she might be anxious, but she was not. The security was in full measure. The public who came to listen to the case were not feeling good in the heart because the matter arose because they (the authorities) were bearing grudges against her. There is not truth and we were feeling a sense of injustice in our hearts. As it is unfair, we feel it up to a point. As Htan Manaing villager said before, the people suffer in their hearts for today’s event, as it is unfair. The authorities bullied the ‘little girl’. I saw sad faces which looked and said like this.”

***Ko Ko Gyi***

“As it is an expected matter, the majority tried to do their best. They gave her some packets and small things she will need inside the prison. As I was escorting her, I followed her to the middle section of the police van and said goodbye to her. After the sentencing at the court, all the people who respect her brought a bunch of roses and dahlias, which must be local flowers, to honour her. Holding the bunch of flower, she stepped onto the van calmly and we escorted her from behind. During the last minutes, before the police van was about to depart, she greeted everyone and smiled freshly and departed. This picture will remain with us all those who looked at her.”

***Mar Mar Oo***

“Before she was about to step onto the prison van, she turned to all of us and smiled, you know. What is sure about that smile is it is neither a smirking smile nor a painful, tragic smile. Ma Su Su Nway suffered many intimidations when she was suing (the village authorities) for forced labour practices. But she overcomes these with her fearlessness. She also faced the prison sentence calmly.”

***Ko Ko Gyi***

“The more I see her calmness, the more hurt I felt, because we know best the troubles and pains of living within four walls. She also knows that. Even that, she calmly greeted and said goodbye to the judge who sentenced her, the litigant, the police officers who surrounded her for security purposes and all the spectators like us. She has the courage to face calmly (problems). The other extraordinary thing is, she looked at the litigant with understanding smile but the other side dared not face her and greet her. As I saw her greeting all the people with the understanding smile, I was feeling very sad on the one hand and joyfully glad for her on the other. We can’t stop but acknowledge and respect the young tender woman’s spiritual strength.”

***Mar Mar Oo***

“Therefore, Su Su Nway has overcome/beat fear at the time when the country overwhelmed with fear. I believe that everyone needs to have the courage similar to that of Su Su Nway’s ready.”

## **Burmese heroine Su Su Nway deprived of essential medicines**

*Oct 14, 2005* - Burmese authorities at the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail confiscated all essential medicines for Kawmoo Township Htan Manaing villager Su Su Nway who was sentenced to a year and half imprisonment on 13 October for allegedly hurling abuses at the local authorities.

Su Su Nway is suffering from heart diseases and she had been taking courses of medicines to alleviate her pains. But the medicines and some other essential items given to her sympathisers were confiscated by the authorities and sent back to her relatives when she arrived at the prison.

According to local residents, the medicines are essential for the survival of Su Su Nway but Kawmoo Township police force returned them on 14 October, along with other items to the local elected representative (MP) Myaungmya Ba Swe.

Htan Manaing villagers are reported to be very concerned for her health condition and it is not known why the medicines were confiscated from her.

Su Su Nway successfully sued her local authorities for forced labour practices in 2004, and she was counter sued by the authorities for allegedly throwing abuses at them and threatening them. She denied the charges and predicted that the authorities will do anything to ruin her life.

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## **Burmese prisoner Thet Win Aung's condition has not improved**

*Oct 14, 2005* - The health condition of 1998 student leader Thet Win Aung who has been serving a lengthy prison term inside Mandalay Prison in central Burma, has not improved much since he was seen some weeks ago, according to his brother Pyone Cho who went to see him on 13 October.

Thet Win Aung is said to be still transported around the prison on a wheelchair and supported by fellow prisoners.

“Mentally, there is a little improvement. But his feet sometimes just give in and collapse. He has no control,” Pyone Cho told DVB. “We are trying to improve his health condition as much as we could by feeding him nutritious food. One thing, his mental condition has stabilised quite a lot. He is able to read again.”

Pyone Cho himself spent 14 years of his life in prison and his younger brother Thet Win Aung is serving a 59-year sentence.

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## **No one is seeing detained CRPP member Kyaw Min**

*Oct 15, 2005* - No close relative of Buthidaung Township elected representative (MP) Kyaw Min, is able to come and see him at the prison because his family members are being detained and others have gone into hiding for fear of arrest by Burma's military junta agents.

60-year old Kyaw Min is serving a 47-year prison term under Political Act – 5J and Nationality Act – 18. His wife Teeza and three children are each serving a 17 year prison term also. Moreover, the authorities issued an order banning the sale of his apartment in Rangoon Tamwe Township and a warrant of arrest against his oldest son who is still on the run was issued.

To make the matter worse, the authorities also raided Kyaw Min's home at Buthidaung in western Burma Arakan State and interrogating all his close relatives, causing them to go into hiding.

Kyaw Min won the seat of No.1, Buthidaung Constituency in the 1990 election as the candidate for Human Rights and Democracy Party and he is also a member of the Committee for Representing People's Parliament (CRPP).

He was arrested on 17 March at his Rangoon apartment and his wife and three children were arrested on 5 May. His appeal was recently rejected by Rangoon Division court and his lawyers are preparing to lodge another appeal at the highest court in the country as the last resort, according to sources close to his family.

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## **Madaya NLD honours Burmese heroine Su Su Nway**

*Oct 16, 2005* - The National League for Democracy (NLD) members at Madaya Township, Mandalay Division in central Burma, honoured recently imprisoned Htan Manaing villager Su Su Nway and planned to give her donations.

The decision was taken at the bi-monthly meeting held at the home of Madaya Township NLD elected representative (MP) Than Lwin, on 15 October. Members including youth members recorded the courage of Su Su Nway who has been sacrificing her life bravely for the good of the country, and decided to 20,000 kyat to Su Su Nway and to collect donations from those who wish to honour her. They also declared their support for the declaration of the Committee for Representing People's Parliament (CRPP).

Su Su Nway was sentenced to 20 months in prison on 13 October by the township court of Kawmoo in Rangoon Division. Observers believe that she was sent to prison by the local authorities in revenge for successfully suing them over forced labour practices in 2004.

TOP

## **Su Su Nway's case put forward to the UNWGAD**

*Oct 17, 2005* - Thailand-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), on 17 October, put forward the case of Htan Manaing villager Su Su Nway who was wrongfully imprisoned recently in Burma, to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD).

AAPP also urged the UNWGAD to prioritise her case due to her worrying health condition. Teit Naing, the secretary of AAPP told DVB that the imprisonment of Su Su Nway goes against the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and agreements on political activist rights.

When asked about the likely outcome of his organisation's report to the UNWGAD, Teit Naing said that the decision will be taken after considering the facts available whether Su Su Nway was detained unlawfully or not.

35-year-old Su Su Nway, an orphan and a heart disease sufferer, successfully sued her local authorities at Kawmoo Township court in Rangoon Division over forced labour practices in 2004. But she was subsequently counter-sued and sentenced to 20 months in prison on 13 October for allegedly hurling abuses at the authorities and using threatening words. Su Su Nway and eyewitnesses denied the authorities' accusation.

When she won the case against the authorities, Su Su Nway predicted that she will be sent to prison on day by the authorities, by hook or by crook.

TOP

## **Burmese prisoners Buthidaung MP and wife not well**

*Oct 18, 2005* - The elected representative (MP) of Burma's Arakan State Buthidaung Township, Kyaw Min who is serving a 47-year prison term and his wife Teeza who is serving a 17-year term with their three children at the notorious Insein Jail, are said to be seriously ill.

Due to poor prison diets and stress, Kyaw Min is very weak and his wife is suffering from serious pains, a friend of his told DVB. Kyaw Min is said to be very worried about the appeal lodged on his behalf and he is unable to eat properly because of the poor prison diet and the religious rules he has been observing during the Islamic lent. His wife Teeza is very weak and she harbours anxieties for her daughters who are also being imprisoned.

As almost all their family members are being imprisoned, there are no relatives to come and see them at the prison and look after their homes. Their younger son was also arrested and imprisoned and the older son has gone into hiding for fear of arrest. The authorities are also trying to seize their properties in Rangoon and Buthidaung.

Kyaw Min is also a member of the Committee for Representing People's Parliament (CRPP) and

he carried out his national duties as an education officer under Education Ministry before he was elected as a candidate of Democracy and Human Rights Party in the 1990 election.

TOP

## **Burmese lawyer Aye Myint's trial latest**

*Oct 19, 2005* - The trial of Burmese lawyer Aye Myint from Pegu who is being detained for reporting 'false' news to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), continued at nearby Daik-U Township court in central Burma on 18 October.

Six witnesses for the prosecuting and leaders of the farmers who wrote a letter the ILO, unanimously told the court that Aye Myint is innocent, according to Aye Myint's lawyer San Maung. They stated that they were neither pressurised nor lured by Aye Myint to write to the ILO as alleged by the prosecuting. The farmers insisted that they write the letter to the ILO on their own accord. They also said that Aye Myint only made contacted the ILO for the farmers. ILO official in Rangoon Richard Horsey also confirmed that the farmers themselves came to discuss the matter with him.

Meanwhile, the court also rejected the appeal to release Aye Myint on bail twice, San Maung told DVB. The remaining witnesses are to be cross-examined on the coming Monday. The defending lawyers requested Richard Horsey to testify at the court but he is said to have no rights to do so.

The case started when army organisations confiscated pasturelands of farmers from Pahungdawthi Village in Daik-U Township and the villagers reported it to the ILO. Then, the assistant commander of Daik-U township police force Win Tin Oo arrested and charged Win Myint with Emergency Provision Act – 5C for helping the farmers.

Recently the Phanungdawthi Villager authority chairperson also testified at the court that Aye Myint is innocent, and if the court is to carry out its duties fairly, Aye Myint is likely to be freed, San Maung told DVB.

TOP

## **Burma Tharawaddy Jail 'Gestapo' authorities treat prisoners like slaves**

*Oct 20, 2005* - The authorities at Tharawaddy Prison, situated north of Rangoon in central Burma, have been treating prison inmates like slaves in ancient times, according to sources close to the prison.

Common criminals have been used like animals to work on paddy fields for prison staff and other government projects, a prison staff told DVB. The prison's governor Myint Swe, his deputy Myint Soe and their henchmen Hla Myint Oo and Myo Win are said to be known collectively as Tharawaddy 'Gestapo' members for their tortures and cruelties on inmates.

Not only common criminals but also political prisoners have been treated very harshly and inhumanely, causing problems and tensions on daily basis. But Myint Swe and team have been granting privileges to detained followers and agents of the ousted Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Chief Gen Khin Nyunt. Prison staff are also said to be not very happy with their four bosses who have been taking money and bribes from the agents but they are still restricting the rights of their staff.

If the situation continues like this, there could be riots within the prison or insurrection of the staff, according to the staff who does not want to be named

TOP

## **Deaths of prisoners at 'gulags' in Burma's Tamu District**

*Oct 21, 2005* - Many prisoners at police-controlled hard labour camps within Tamu District, Sagaing Division in northwest Burma, have been suffering from many kinds of illnesses and at least, 13 prisoners had died recently at a camp due to very poor diet, exhaustion and poor medical cares.

There are seven labour camps in Tamu District and thousands of prisoners have been working like slaves in government projects. A former prisoner who was released from one of the camps on 11 October told DVB that prisoners have been forced to clear forests to create new farms and paddy fields under very harsh conditions and brutal treatments of camp authorities. Everyday, prisoners start work at 6am and finish at 6pm with only a 15-minute break at 11am for lunch.

“Only when the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) came, they took off iron shackles and manacles from our legs. Then, we had to work on with iron shackles,” he said.

He added that the worst camp is a place called Khamauk Taung where prisoners have been fed only with boiled banana trunks and their insect bitten bodies became bloated before they died.

Four or five years ago, hundreds of prisoners died from the inhumane treatments they received from camp authorities and the situation became slightly better when the ICRC came to inspect the camps. However, prisoners are still treated as inhumanely as ever when the ICRC could not come to the camps, some former prisoners told DVB.

**TOP**

## **NLD branches denounce imprisonment of Burma's Su Su Nway**

*Oct 21, 2005* - The National League for Democracy branches at Taungdwinggyi, Mandalay and other places in central Burma, denounced the unlawful imprisonment of Su Su Nway, and party members vowed to support with financial help.

They also praised her courage and selfless actions for her villagers. 35-year old Su Su Nway, a human rights activist, the local NLD youth leader, an orphan and a heart disease sufferer from Htan Manaing Village, Kawmoo Township in Rangoon Division, was sentenced to 20 months in Prison on 13 October, for allegedly hurling abuses at her local authorities.

Observers and her supporters believe that she was imprisoned by the local authorities, in revenge for her successfully suing them over forced labour practices in 2004.

She was deprived of medicines she needed for her condition as soon as she was sent to the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail and the medicines, along with other essential personal items were sent back to her relatives through the local MP Myaungmya Ba Swe.

When she won the case in early 2005, Su Su Nway predicted that the local authorities would do everything in their power to destroy her life.

**TOP**

## **Canada condemns detention of Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi**

*Oct 22, 2005* - The government of Canada, on 21 October, condemned the detention of Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel peace laureate and opposition democracy leader under house arrest for 10 years by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), and demanded her immediate and unconditional release.

“Canada reiterates its call for Burma to immediately and unconditionally release Aung San Suu Kyi and the members of her party,” Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew said in a statement. “For most of the past decade and a half, Aung San Suu Kyi has been detained under house arrest by the Burmese authorities. When these periods of detention are viewed cumulatively, October 24, 2005, marks the completion of her 10th year of detention,” Pettigrew noted.

The minister urged the SPDC to recognize the 1990 election results and lead the country toward democracy, and also advised the junta to abandon its ongoing efforts to entrench and legitimize military rule.

“The people of Burma have languished far too long under authoritarian rule, and continue to suffer human rights abuses,” he insisted.

**TOP**

## **Detained Su Su Nway honoured by village and exiled supporters**

*Oct 24, 2005* - The villagers of Htan Manaing, Kawmoo Township in Rangoon Division honoured their famous heroine Su Su Nway by donating 50,000 kyat for her, in recognition of her courage and efforts for them.

(400) households out of 500 contributed despite the rising commodity price and acute poverty. Villagers told DVB that they would never forget her courage and the criminality of the local authority chairperson and part-time alcohol bootlegger Than Lone who also extorts money from illegal gambling centres.

Su Su Nway was sentenced to 20 months in prison for allegedly hurling abuses at the authorities, by the township court on 13 October in a case brought against her by Than Lone and his posse. A year earlier, Su Su Nway successfully sued them over forced labour practices.

Pro-democracy Burmese activists at Melbourne in Australia have collected nearly 1 million kyat for Su Su Nway during a recent prayer meeting for democracy leader and detained Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

**TOP**

## **Sheffield Hallam University Honours Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi**

*Oct 24, 2005* - On the 10th anniversary of the detention of Burma's democracy leader and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, Sheffield Hallam University in the UK decided to award her an Honorary Doctorate.

The Doctorate will be conferred upon her on 17 November during a graduation ceremony in front of 300 students and guests, and her family friend professor Nicholas Round will stand in proxy for her as Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) would not allow her out to take it, or if they did, they would not allow her to return.

Commenting on this overwhelming honour, which promises to be the most extraordinary experience at the university, Round said, "If by talking about what it was like, and about Aung San Suu Kyi herself, I can advance her cause and that of the Burmese people a little further, that will be a great return."

The University's Pro Vice-Chancellor Philip Garrahan told DVB that Aung San Suu Kyi is a detained Nobel laureate and the university wants the international community to put more pressures on the ruling junta to release her and carry out democratic reforms.

**TOP**

## **Lawyer Aye Myint charged by Burmese court**

*Oct 25, 2005* - Detained Burmese lawyer Aye Myint from Pegu in central Burma, who has been detained for giving 'false' information to the Rangoon branch of International Labour Organisation (ILO), was charged with Emergency Provision Act – 5E by nearby Daik-U Township court.

On 24 October, the court suspended cross-examinations of the remaining 16 witnesses and charged Aye Myint with the act.

"The case is quite good," the defending lawyer San Maung told DVB. "The Interior Affairs Ministry must issue the permission to sue (Aye Myint?), but that was not included... the other point is, the farmers themselves testified at the court that they themselves willingly signed the letter and sent it to Mr. Horsey of the ILO. They said that U Aye Myint is innocent. There is nothing better than this. Although the case is that good, cross-examinations of the remaining witnesses were suspended and U Aye Myint was charged yesterday with Emergency Provision Act – 5E and he pleaded not guilty."

Aye Myint was arrested and taken to court by the local police chief for allegedly giving false information to the ILO about the confiscation of pasturelands belonging to farmers of Phaungdawthi Village in Daik-U by military organisations.

Nyo Lin Maung, son of Aye Myint told DVB that his father has not been fed properly by the authorities at Daik-U police station where he is currently detained, causing him to lose weight and become weaker.

At the same time, the appeal lodged on behalf of the private tuition teacher, Aung Pe, who was imprisoned recently for saluting Burma's national hero, General Aung San, was rejected by Rangoon Twante District court on 25 October.

TOP

### **Burmese prisoners' health condition; than Nyein & May Win Myint**

*Oct 25, 2005* - The health condition of Rangoon Kyauktan Township elected representative (MP), Dr. Than Nyein who has been continued to be detained with Act – 10A, is said to be not improving, as he is not allowed to see specialist doctors for essential regular medical check-ups.

It has been nearly a year since Than Nyein is not allowed to see the doctors, according to his wife Khin Aye who went to see him at the prison on 24 October.

“What I am worried is, I would not be able to do anything if I learn about it only when he falls down,” Khin Aye said. “When he is released, we are hoping to give him medical treatments at home restfully. As for me, I always pray for the immediate release of all political prisoners, not only him but all.”

Similarly, the MP of Rangoon Mayangone Township May Win Myint, who has been detained with the same act, is said to be suffering from major illnesses including diabetic and heart diseases.

Both Than Nyein and May Win Myint were arrested in 1997 and sentenced to seven years in prison and they have been continued to be detained repeatedly with the so-called Act – 10A

TOP

### **The sentencing of detained Shan leaders postponed**

*Oct 25, 2005* - A court inside the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail postponed the sentencing of detained Shan leaders including Shan National League for Democracy (NSLD) chairperson Khun Htun Oo, to the coming week.

According to legal circles in Rangoon, eight Shan leaders including SNLD secretary Sai Nyunt Lwin and the patron of Shan State Army – North (SSA-N) Gen Hso Ten along with Htun Oo, were supposed to be sentenced on 25 October. Previously, reports of the impending sentencing of Shan leaders came out occasionally but they amounted to nothing at best.

It is not known why the sentencing was postponed, but Htun Oo is still not allowed to see his family members and he was not allowed to hire a lawyer of his choice during the trial, according to sources close to his family.

TOP

### **NLD marks leader Aung San Suu Kyi's 10 years in detention**

*Oct 25, 2005* - Members and supporters of National League for Democracy (NLD) at Chauk Township, Magwe Division in central Burma, marked their leader Aung San Suu Kyi's 10 years in detention with a Buddhist prayer meeting on 24 October.

They meditated and offered up prayer for the release of all Burmese political prisoners, numbered around 1100, including Aung San Suu Kyi, and contributed monetary help for Su Su Nway who was imprisoned recently for successfully suing her local authorities over forced labour practices.

Similarly, NLD members at nearby Aunglan (Allen) also collected donations for Su Su Nway from party members and supporters. Members from surrounding townships, divisions and states, and exiled Burmese political activists having carrying out similar actions to support a ‘weak’ and ill woman who bravely stood up for the rights of her fellow countrymen, and paid it with her liberty.

Su Su Nway, from Htan Manaing Village in Rangoon Kawmoo Township, was sentenced to 20

months in prison by the local township court on 13 October for allegedly throwing abuses at her village authorities, who counter-sued her in the spirit of revenge.

**TOP**

### **Burmese private tuition teacher Aung Pe's appeal rejected**

*Oct 26, 2005* - The appeal lodged on behalf of detained Burmese private tuition teacher Aung Pe from Rangoon Twante Township, was summarily rejected by Western Rangoon divisional court on 25 October.

The appeal was lodged by National League for Democracy (NLD) legal advocates led by Myint Thaug in the morning and it was rejected in the afternoon without further investigations.

40+ year old Aung Pe was arrested on 14 February and sentenced to 3 years in prison by Twante Township court for saluting the portrait of Burma's national hero and father of NLD leader Aung Suu Kyi, Gen Aung San, and singing a song honouring him, with his pupils.

At the end of September, Aung Pe was beaten up the authorities of the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail and members of a criminal gang called Scorpion, who have been deliberately 'bred' by the authorities to bully and torture prison inmates.

**TOP**

### **NLD members arrested while helping wedding feast**

*Oct 27, 2005* - National League for Democracy (NLD) youth members were arrested on 26 October at Tanlarlay Village, Twante Township in Rangoon Division by the local authority chairperson Thaug Tun and police force, while the former were helping their friends' wedding feast.

17 youths including Zaw Zaw, Myo Min Soe, Nay Soe, Myo Min Win, Soe Min and Aung Zaw Oo, and the hostess Than Than Win and a 'ten-house-chief' were arrested for allegedly failing to register their presence to the authorities.

The detained were helping to prepare for the wedding feast of local NLD youth members Ohn Tun and Cho Mar Win when they were arrested. They are being tried at the township court on 27 October and it is still not known whether they have been sentenced or not.

**TOP**

### **Supports for Burmese heroine Su Su Nway continue to pour in**

*Oct 27, 2005* - Members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and their sympathizers are continuing to voluntarily donate money and express their support for the recently imprisoned Htan Manaing villager Su Su Nway.

During a monthly meeting, leaders and members of Meikhtila Township in central Burma, discussed and recorded the selfless and brave efforts of Su Su Nway and the unlawful imprisonment of her. They also said the problems in Burma persist because the ruling military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), has been unable to substantiate the national reconciliation as promised, and urged the junta to start tripartite talks as soon as possible.

At the same time, NLD members in Pegu in lower Burma have been collecting money voluntarily donated to Su Su Nway by desperately poor people in the township in honour of her bravery, according to Pegu elected representative (MP) Mya Hla.

Meanwhile, exiled Burmese people are also continuing to donate their hard-earned money in support of Su Su Nway. Burmese people in Singapore donated 200,000 (kyat?) for her and 300,000 for other political prisoners, according to a youth named Win Myint. Their action followed the reports of activists and supporters in Australia donated at least a million kyat donation along with donations from Burmese diasporas in other countries, with some prefer to remain anonymous.

In the same spirit, exiled National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB) UN representative Dr. Thaug Tun, submitted a report on the imprisonment of Su Su Nway, to the UN Human Rights Commission on 26 October, urging the commission to take action on the case.

Su Su Nway was sentenced to 20 months in prison on 13 October by Rangoon Kawmoo Township court, for allegedly hurling abuses at the authorities and obstructing them while on official duties. She denied all the charges against her, and before she went to prison, Su Su Nway told DVB that the authorities would do everything to ruin her life in revenge for successfully suing them over forced labor practices in 2004.

**TOP**

### **Private tuition teacher Aung Pe's appeal rejected by Rangoon court**

*Oct 29, 2005* - The appeal lodged on behalf of Aung Pe, a private tuition teacher from Rangoon Twante Township, who is serving a three-year prison sentence for saluting the national hero Gen Aung San, was rejected by southern Rangoon District court on 24 October.

According to Aung Pe's lawyer Myint Thaug, the presiding judge, a woman named Kyi Kyi Win, summarily rejected the appeal without hearing his arguments properly.

"While I was arguing my case, the judge had already written the rejection letter. She was actually writing it. She was not following what I was saying. She didn't overturn the decision of the lower courts."

But Myint Thaug vowed to carry on lodging the appeal at the divisional court on behalf of his client. 40+ year old Aung Pe was recently beaten up by a criminal gang named Scorpion who have been deliberately bred by prison authorities to intimidate and torture prison inmates.

His wife Htay Htay Lwin told DVB that Aung Pe avoided the subject when she went to see him at the notorious Insein Prison recently, due to the painful memory he is enduring, but his living condition is slightly better as he was promoted from sleeping on the concrete floor to a split bamboo bed.

Aung Pe was arrested on 14 February for saluting the portrait of the late Aung San, who is the father of democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, and singing a song in his honor with his pupils.

**TOP**

### **Burmese lawyer Aye Myint sent to prison again**

*Oct 31, 2005* - Burmese lawyer Aye Myint who was arrested and tried for allegedly sending 'incorrect/false' information to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) was sentenced to seven years in prison by Pegu Division Daik-U Township court in central Burma on 31 October.

He was sentenced in accordance with the so-called Emergency Provision Act – 5E and he was transferred to nearby Pegu Jail on the same day.

Aye Myint was sued by Daik-U Township deputy police chief Win Tin Oo for helping farmers from Phaungdawthi Village over the seizures of their pasturelands by military organisations. The sentence came despite the fact that the villager authority chairman and junta-sponsored Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) members testified at the court that Aye Myint is innocent.

Mya Hla, the elected representative (MP) and a member of NLD legal support group, insisted that Aye Myint was wrongfully imprisoned with no strong evidence against him, and that his imprisonment was a result of the lack of the rule of law in Burma.

"If it were a normal case, he would be released long ago. He should not even be charged," Mya Hla said. "Currently at the court, when it comes to the NLD political cases, they (the authorities) use all available

