

**DEMOCRATIC VOICE OF BURMA
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NLD U Kyaw San to be sentenced soon

June 1, 2005 (DVB) - National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative (MP) of Tantse Township, Sagaing Division in central Burma, U Kyaw San who has been detained in Rangoon Insein Jail is to be sentenced on 6 June.

The defending lawyer maintained that U Kyaw San, who is also the chairman of Sagaing Division NLD, is completely innocent from evidences provided by witnesses, and pleaded not guilty.

U Kyaw San who was released from a lengthy imprisonment in November 2004 was rearrested on 17 March and charged with laws relating to import-export acts.

Similarly, Arakan MPU Kyaw Min who was arrested on the same day as U Kyaw San, and his detained family members are to be taken to court on 2 June. Their lawyer U Nyan Win is likely to be allowed to see and defend them on the day. U Nyan Win tried to see them at Insein Jail last week but he was turned back by the authorities without having the chance to see his clients.

At the same time, detained Shan National League for Democracy (SNLD) chairman U Hkun Htun Oo is also still not allowed to see his family members.

TOP

Detained MP, U Kyaw Min not allowed to see lawyer at Rangoon Insein Jail

June 2, 2005 (DVB) - The Arakan elected representative and a member of the Committee for Representing People's Parliament (CRPP) U Kyaw Min and his family members who are being detained at Rangoon Insein Jail, were not allowed to see their lawyer by the authorities.

On 2 June, a National League for Democracy (NLD) legal advocate, U Nyan Win went to prison for a second time to meet with and defend the family as he heard that they were to be tried on the day. But he was turned back at the gate of the prison by the authorities without having the chance to see his clients, U Nyan Win told DVB.

"The prison security staff told me to wait so that they could ask higher authorities about my request. An hour later, they told me that I would not be allowed to go in and see my client," he said. "I didn't even get the permission to go outside the court where they were allegedly tried. They didn't tell us why either."

U Nyan Win also attempted to see the family last week but he was turned back in the same manner by the authorities. He added that the family is being charged and tried in accordance with Nationality Act 18.

"I know that they are being tried because I saw some CID people there. The case is being handled by the CID people and the court is inside the prison," he insisted. "I don't think they are guilty as charged but I don't know exactly which allegations the authorities are making against them."

TOP

Former Burmese political prisoner Ko Ko Naing released on bail

June 4, 2005 (DVB) - Former political prisoner Ko Ko Naing who was recently detained in connection with the deadly Rangoon bomb blasts, had been released on bail by the military authorities in Rangoon.

Ko Ko Naing was arrested on 27 May and released on the following day, and he was re-arrested on the 29th and interrogated again and released two days later.

Former political prisoners Ko Htay Lwin, Ko Ni, Ko Aung Kyaw Sann and Ko Thiha Latt were asked whether Ko Ko Naing is a bomber. They were released after they signed a statement confirming the fact that Ko Ko Naing has nothing to do with the blasts.

Moreover, they have been banned from traveling outside Rangoon so that they could be detained and interrogated again.

Meanwhile, the police at Pazundaung Township are interrogating another man named Ko Ko Naing. Other ex-political prisoners Ko Win Maung and Dr Maw Zin from North Dagon, U Hla Tin Aung from Thingangyun and Ko Myint Han from Syriam (Thanlyin) are also being questioned at an interrogation centre, according to sources from political circles in Rangoon.

The Burmese military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) also named Washington-based US Campaign for Burma policy director Ko Aung Din as one of the suspects, in a desperate move to find the real culprits of the blasts.

TOP

Hearing on death of NLD youth Ko Aung Hlaing Win begins in Rangoon

June 4, 2005 (DVB) - Rangoon Mayangone Township court has started a hearing on the death of Ko Aung Hlaing Win, a youth member of the National League for Democracy (NLD), who was possibly tortured and killed during an interrogation by the military authorities.

The incident was reported to the local police station on 18 May by the victim's family and the hearing started on 1 June, according to sources from the NLD.

At the moment, the Mayangone police station master, an investigation officer and the local authorities are being cross-examined at the court. It is not known when the victim's wife Ma Hnin Sandar and daughter Shan Shan are to be questioned.

30-year old Ko Aung Hlaing Win, a Hlaing Township NLD youth member, was arrested on 1 May by four 'unknown' people in civilian clothing, while he was having his meal at the local restaurant called 'Lucky'.

On 10 May, a team of military intelligence agents led by Lt Col Min Hlaing came to his house and told his wife that her husband died from heart attack while he was being 'interrogated'.

When the family asked the agents to return Ko Aung Hlaing Win's corpse, they were told that he had already been buried, and the amount of 100,000 kyat was offered as compensation. The family declined the offer.

TOP

Detained NLD, U Kyaw San sent to prison again by Burma junta

June 6, 2005 (DVB) - The elected representative (MP) of Tantse Township and Sagaing Division National League for Democracy (NLD) chairman, U Kyaw San has been sentenced to seven years imprisonment by Rangoon Insein Township court, on 6 June.

72-year old U Kyaw San was released from a lengthy sentence at the end of 2004 and re-arrested on 7 March and charged with laws relating to import-export acts. His wife Daw May Nwet insisted that her husband didn't commit any crime as charged and that it's a deliberate ploy by the authorities to detain him.

"The court never considered any evidence or legal practices submitted by our lawyer," she insisted. "What I am feeling very sad about is, he had already spent more than nine years of his life in prison. They themselves said that he was released because he was detained unfairly in the first place... We want it be in accordance with the rule of law and as it hasn't become so, I don't know whether to blame fate or what else."

The court neither summoned witnesses who owned the imported goods kept at U Kyaw San's house and the accused lost all the existing legal rights he is entitled to, according to the defending U Thein Nyunt. But he vowed to fight on within the legal frame for his client's freedom at the court of appeal.

Observers believe that U Kyaw San was deliberately framed by the authorities because he is an active and popular MP.

TOP

Burmese prisoners still not allowed to see family members

June 10, 2005 (DVB) - Some Burmese political prisoners who were transferred to regional jails from Rangoon Insein Jail some weeks ago for staging hunger, have not been allowed to see their family members.

Family members of Ko Win Leh Nyo who was transferred to Mandalay Prison, tried to see him at the prison on 9 June but they were turned away by the authorities. But Ko Nay Kyaw who was transferred to Pa-an Prison in Karen State, was allowed to see his family.

According to sources close to the family, Ko Nay Kyaw was far thinner than before and his complexion very pale. He is also said to be suffering from numbness and chronic coughs. He said that authorities at Insein Jail hooded his head and beat him up until he was almost unconscious and locked him up in a kennel for army hounds.

The sources surmised that Ko Nay Kyaw was allowed to see his family only after the wounds on his body was nearly healed. It is possible that other prisoners have been barred from seeing their loved ones because their wounds are still not healed properly, according to sources from political circles.

TOP

Burmese court rejects the case of Ko Aung Hlaing Win who was killed by MI agents

June 10, 2005 (DVB) - A court in Rangoon rejected and closed the case of Ko Aung Hlaing Win who was killed at a military intelligence interrogation centre.

Mayanggone Township court, on 10 June, declared that the death of Ko Aung Hlaing Win was an “ordinary” one and closed the case, causing disgruntle among the remaining relatives of Ko Aung Hlaing Win.

His corpse was never returned to the family as the authorities cremated it secretly. Although a doctor testified at the court that the victim bodies bore signs of tortures, the court insisted that Ko Aung Hlaing Win died from “natural” cause with illness and diseases he suffered before the detention.

Aung Hlaing Win, a youth member of HLaing Township National League for Democracy (NLD) was arrested by four intelligence agents in civilian clothing, on 1 May while he was having a meal at a restaurant.

On 10 May, an army officer notified his family that he died from heart attack during the interrogation. When the family asked him to return his corpse, the officer told them that he had already been buried and offered them 100,000 kyat in an attempt to gag them. The family declined the offer and reported the case to the local police station, leading to a hearing at the court.

U Aung Thein, NLD legal advocate, who has been helping the family vowed to fight on by other legal means available.

TOP

NLD members given life sentence by Burma junta

June 13, 2005 (DVB) - Four National League for Democracy (NLD) members and one pro-democracy activist from Rangoon have all been given life sentence by Rangoon’s Insein jail special court on 13 June, according to their family members.

Ahlon Township NLD chairman U Ba Myint and member U Ba Tint, Kamayut Township NLD members Ko Aung Myo San, Ko Khin Kyaw and Ko Thet Naing Aung have been detained since December 2004.

The five have never been allowed to see their family since they were arrested and none of them were given access to legal representatives. Their family members attempted to see them at the notorious Insein Jail but they were never allowed to see their loved ones.

The families only found out about the sentence when the defendants shouted out that they were given life sentence at the court, according to Ko Kyaw Khin’s wife Ma Thandar who went to the “special” court.

TOP

Pegu NLD appeal rejected by a Burmese court within a day

June 14, 2005 (DVB) - The appeal lodged on behalf of two Shwekyin Township National League for Democracy (NLD) leaders, U Bo Gyi and U Pe Tin who have been detained at Pegu Prison, was rejected by a district court within a day.

Pegu Township elected representative and NLD legal advocate U Mya Hla who lodged the appeal told DVB that the case against the State was “summarily” rejected by the court and no reason was given.

But Mya Hla insisted that he will keep on lodging the appeal at every level to the High Court.

“Now that it is rejected by the district court, I will go on to the divisional court. I am preparing for it and then I will go on to the High Court. We have to do our utmost best. It is up to them to decide whether they are going to oblige to our appeal or not. We have to do what we have to do. We will fulfill our duties.”

U Bo Gyi and U Pe Tin were each sentenced to seven years imprisonment on 27 May for keeping and distributing leaflets containing the speeches of the founder of modern Burma Army and the father of Aung San Suu Kyi, Gen Aung San. The leaflets were legally published by the NLD HQs.

TOP

NLD members detained for celebrating leader’s birthday

June 22, 2005 (DVB) - Three National League for Democracy (NLD) leaders from Danubyu Township in the delta region of Irrawaddy Division, who attended the 60th birthday of their detained leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Rangoon on 19 June, were detained and interrogated on their way home for 24 hours.

“Township NLD organizing members U Than Htut, U Win Maung and youth leader Ko Kyaw Zeya Linn were arrested and detained for questioning at the local police station around 5pm,” a member told DVB. “They were detained...and released at 6pm on the following day after they were forced to sign a pledge. Some of them were not arrested but they were forced to sign the pledge at their home for attending the celebration.”

U Win Maung and U Than Htut were also arrested and detained in December 2004 for carrying a statement of the party.

At nearby Bogale, the local authorities and police forcibly disrupted a birthday celebration in honor of Aung San Suu Kyi, held at a Buddhist monastery on the same day.

Bogale NLD chairman U Aung Khin Bo and 12 other party members were also arrested in December and detained at nearby Pyapon Prison for nearly two months for trying to celebrate the Burmese National Day.

TOP

More ex-political prisoners rearrested in Burma

June 23, 2005 (DVB) - Six members of a Burmese labor union called Labour Solidarity, were arrested by the Special Police agents on 15 June.

They are Arkar Hein (a.k.a.) U Zaw Nyunt, Ko Myint Soe, Ko Tun Tun Naing and two others whose names are still being checked. All of them are said to be former political prisoners who served lengthy prison terms, and Ko Myint Soe and Ko Tun Tun Naing were imprisoned for more than ten years and released not more than two months ago.

Since he was released, Ko Tun Tun Naing had been taking a religious retreat as a Buddhist monk and he was arrested as a monk, according to his family members. The police also raided and searched their family homes.

Although it is not clear why they were arrested, their relatives are worried that they might face the same fate as Ko Aung Hlaing Win who was tortured to death recently in an interrogation centre in Rangoon.

TOP

Shan leader's health condition poor in Rangoon Insein Jail

June 23, 2005 (DVB) - Shan National League for Democracy (SNLD) chairman U Hkun Htun Oo who has been detained at the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail "special" cell since 9 February, is said to be quite poorly.

62-year old U Htun Oo has been suffering from breathing problems and stomach ache and he needs urgent proper medical treatments, according to the relatives of a prisoner who was released from the prison recently. He is said to be depending on medicines sent from his home, for the time being.

Nine other Shan leaders were arrested with U Htun Oo, but they are being detained at different places. Shan State Peace Council (SSPC) chairman Gen Hso Ten has also been kept in a special cell and SNLD Secretary Sai Nyunt Lwin is being detained in another part of the prison.

The remaining seven, U Sai Hla Aung and U Sa Tha Oo from SNLD, U Myint Than, U Ba Thin, U Tun Nyo, Sai Myo Win Tun and Sai Nay Moe from Shan New Generation, are being detained separately, according to sources from prisoners.

Meanwhile, according to reports from legal circles in Rangoon, the ten are all to be charged with high treason, and U Hkun Htun Oo is also to be charged with business-related acts including keeping foreign currency "illegally". The authorities are also preparing to charge Sai Nyunt Lwin with laws relating to printing acts for allegedly printing "illegal" documents.

The defendants are not allowed to choose lawyers of their choice for their defense and still not allowed to see family members.

TOP

Burmese political prisoners' conditions not improved

June 26, 2005 (DVB) - Ex-political prisoners and student leaders from 8888 uprising recently met with the interior minister of Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) Maj Gen Maung Oo and urged him to improve the living condition of political prisoners.

The minister told them that political prisoners are citizens of Burma and they are entitled to the rights of a Burmese citizen and promised to report their concerns to the generals above him.

But U Win Maung, the father of a political prisoner who recently went to see his son Ko Thet Win Aung at Mandalay Prison in central Burma told DVB that the conditions of political prisoners have not improved.

Ko Thet Win Aung who has been serving a 59 years prison term, was hospitalized on 20 June because of the dire situation within the prison.

"I was told that my son left the hospital on his own accord," U Win Maung told DVB. "His condition is not good. The treatment section is lacking. His skin is dry. He finds it hard to walk and he is still staggering. His condition is quite worrying."

He added that the ICRC officials were allowed to inspect Mandalay Prison the day after his son was hospitalised.

TOP

Political prisoner's health condition deteriorates in southern Burma

June 27, 2005 (DVB) - The health condition of A-Naing (a. k. a.) Ko Than Lwin who has been detained at Moulmein Prison in southern Burma, is said to be deteriorating.

Although the prison doctor recommended Ko Than Lwin who is suffering from liver cancer to receive proper medical treatments at an outside clinic, the prison authorities are still refusing to give him permission to do so.

Ko Than Lwin is an organizing member of National League for Democracy (NLD) Ye Township, Mon State in southern Burma and he has been detained since 1999.

Ko Wanay Soe who was arrested with him died with liver cancer after he was released from the prison and Ko Than

Lwin's family members are afraid that he might face the same fate as his friend.

Burmese prisoner Dr Than Nyein still denied medical treatments

June 28, 2005 (DVB) - Dr. Than Nyein, National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative (MP) of Rangoon Kyauktan Township, who has been detained at Prome Prison, is still not allowed to receive proper medical treatments for assorted diseases he has been suffering from.

Dr Than Nyein is enduring a couple of diseases which could lead to full-blown cancers, according to his wife Daw Khin Aye who went to see him at the prison on 24 June.

"He is supposed to have medical check-ups once a month. They haven't allowed him to do that for 11 months now," Daw Khin Aye told DVB. "All his diseases have the potential to become cancers... I am particularly worried about his livers."

The NLD wrote to the chairman of Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) Gen Than Shwe, requesting him to allow Dr Than Nyein to return to Rangoon and see the specialist but there has been no response from the general so far.

Dr Than Nyein was arrested in 1997 and given a seven-year prison term for organizing a public meeting for NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The authorities refused to release him when he had served his original sentence and continued to detain him repeatedly with Act 10A.

He protested against the unjust detentions by staging a hunger strike in September 2004 and he was transferred from Rangoon Insein Jail to Tharawaddy Prison, and then to Paungde and Prome Prisons in central Burma.

Arakan U Kyaw Min and family still detained inside Rangoon Insein Jail

June 28, 2005 (DVB) - U Kyaw Min, the elected representative (MP) of Buthidaung Township, Arakan State and a member of Committee for Representing People's Parliament (CRPP) who has been detained for more than three months in Rangoon Insein Jail, is still being tried secretly and not allowed to see his family members.

The Burmese authorities arrested U Kyaw Min on 17 March and his wife Daw Tiza and daughters Wai Wai Nu and Khin Khin Nu on 5 May, but they are all being detained separately in the same jail.

According to latest reports, local authorities raided and searched Kyaw Min's home in Buthidaung and asked detailed questions about him in early June.

One of the National League for Democracy (NLD) legal advocates U Nyan Win who has been assigned to represent U Kyaw Min, attempted to see him at the prison in early June but he was turned away on both occasions.

According to U Nyan Win, it is assumed that U Kyaw Min and family members are being charged with Act-18 relating to nationality laws.

NLD Ko Aung Hlaing Win's death reported at Rangoon court again

June 29, 2005 (DVB) - On 29 June, the wife of Rangoon Hlaing Township National League for Democracy (NLD) member Ko Aung Hlaing Win who died at an interrogation centre, again requested nearby Mayanggone Township court to find out the truth about the death of her husband and take to action on the authorities concerned.

But it is not clear how the court will react to Ma Hnin Sandar's request, according to legal advocates of the NLD in Rangoon. Asked if there could be any new development after her initial request for an inquiry into the circumstance of her husband's death was rejected by the court in early June, one of the advocates U Nyan Win replied:

"Mayanggone court closed the previous case after it decided that Ko Aung Hlaing Win died of a natural cause," U Nyan Win told DVB. "In fact, it was not even a legal case; it was only an inquest. In the present case, we are arguing that his death was not natural, but a criminal case and we will request the court head on, to accept our case."

30-year old Ko Aung Hlaing Win was arrested by the Burmese military authorities on 1 May and on 10 May his family was notified that he died from heart attack at an interrogation centre, by an army officer. He also told the family that his corpse had already been cremated and buried, and he tried to gag them with 100,000 kyat bribe.

After hearing the fate of her husband, Ma Hnin Sandar requested the court to make an inquiry into the circumstance of the death of her husband, but it dismissed his death as natural and closed the case.

TOP

NLD prisoners from Rangoon still not allowed to see loved ones

June 30, 2005 (DVB) - Family members of five Burmese political prisoners including Khin Kyaw who were given life sentence in mid June by a court in Rangoon Insein Jail, still have not received notifications of the sentences.

Therefore, legal advocates of National League for Democracy (NLD) are finding it difficult to lodge appeal on their behalfs.

Khin Kyaw's wife Thandar insisted that all the five were given life imprisonment secretly. She said she was going to the court on 1 July with an NLD lawyer Myint Thaung to pick up the notification.

The other four given life sentence with Khin Kyaw are: Rangoon National League for Democracy (NLD) members, Ba Myint from Ahlon Township, Ba Tint from Bahan Township, Thet Naing Aung from Thaketa Township and Thaw Myo Hman from Shwepyitha Township.

They still haven't been allowed to see their family members since they were arrested and detained.

TOP

