

**Political Prisoners News**  
**Democratic Voice of Burma**  
**August 2005**

**Ex-Burmese prisoners' health conditions deteriorate** - Aug 1, 2005 -

**Burma Arakan MP Kyaw Min and family fined on top of sentences** Aug 2, 2005 -

**NLD Cartoon Chit Swe receives one month sentence in Rangoon** Aug 3, 2005

**Shan leader Hso Ten to be sentenced on 8 August** Aug 4, 2005

**Another Shan leader detained by Burma junta** Aug 5, 2005 -

**The trial of Shan leaders postponed in Rangoon** Aug 11, 2005 -

**NLD supporters sent to Rangoon Insein Jail** Aug 12, 2005

**Burma Sagaing NLD leader Kyaw San appeal rejected** Aug 13, 2005 -

**Arakan NLD leaders detained on foreign currency trading** Aug 15, 2005

**Detained Shan leader Sa Oo Kya transferred to Lashio Prison** Aug 15, 2005 -

**Three students arrested in northern Burma Kachin State** Aug 20, 2005-

**Arakan NLD leaders detained without charge in Sittwe Jail** Aug 21, 2005 -

**Shwekyin NLD leaders' health conditions** Aug 24, 2005

**NLD 'Cartoon' Chit Shwe released by Burma junta** Aug 25, 2005

**Burmese tuition teacher gets three years for saluting national hero** Aug 25, 2005

**NLD Win Aung's appeal rejected by Shwebo Court** Aug 29, 2005

**Burmese prisoner Thet Naung Soe not well** Aug 29, 2005

## Page 1

### **Ex-Burmese prisoners' health conditions deteriorate**

Aug 1, 2005 -

The health conditions of some Burmese political prisoners who were released by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) on 6 July, have been deteriorating considerably.

Southern Burma Ye Township National League for Democracy (NLD) member **Anaing (a) Than Lwin** who was released from Moulmein Prison, has suffering from liver complaints.

**Coco Island returnee Thein Tun** who was released from Myingyan Prison in central Burma has been suffering from acute low blood pressure. Aung Swan who was released from the same prison is suffering from psychological problems due to tortures he received during his detention and he even doesn't recognise members of his family properly.

**Hla Shwe**, a former student leader who was released from Thayet Prison in central Burma is suffering from eye diseases and receiving medical treatments. Kyaw Zaw who was released from Kale Prison in northwest Burma near India has been suffering from eye diseases and he finds it impossible to tolerate light.

**Nay Lin Soe** who was released from Mandalay Prison in central Burma is still suffering from both mental and physical illnesses, according to his family members.



### **Burma Arakan MP Kyaw Min and family fined on top of sentences**

Aug 2, 2005 -

The imprisoned elected representative (MP) of Arakan State Buthidaung Township, Kyaw Min and his family members, were not only given lengthy prison terms, but also fined individually, it has emerged.

55-year old Kyaw Min, who is also a member of the Committee for Representing People's Parliament (CRPP) was arrested on 17 March, which was followed by the arrest of his wife and three children, and they were all indicted on charges relating nationality and political laws, and other unclear charges.

Recently, Kyaw Min was sentenced to 47-years in prison and his wife and children each received a 17 year prison term. A kangaroo court within Rangoon Insein Jail also fined them 50,000 kyat each and if they refuse to pay, the court ordered them to serve 2 extra years each.

The family's close relatives attempted to see them at the prison on 1 August, but they were turned back by guards. The health conditions of Kyaw Min's wife Tiza and one of her daughters are reported to be very poor.

Hefty sentences were imposed on the family after Kyaw Min refused to sign a

pledge promising to quit the CRPP, according to sources close to the family.



### **NLD Cartoon Chit Swe receives one month sentence in Rangoon**

Aug 3, 2005 -

The vice-chairman of Rangoon Thanlyin (Syriam) Township National League for Democracy (NLD) “Cartoon” Chit Swe was given a one month sentence by the township court on 3 August.

He was summarily tried and found guilty in accordance with the so-called Act-188 for defying orders issued by the authorities, and he was also ordered to be put under constraint for six months on bail for other charges.

Thanlyin NLD chairman Myint Swe who witnessed the trial told DVB that the defendant pleaded not guilty. NLD legal advocate Nyan Win who defended Chit Swe insisted that according to the existing laws, his client did not do anything in defiance of the authorities and technically speaking, he was not even holding a meeting as charged, but only a discussion with his colleagues.

“As for Act-188, according to the dictionary of criminal laws, it is interpreted as defying orders issued systematically by the civil servants,” Nyan Win said. “U Chit Swe never carried out any defiant act.” He added that the accusations and actions of the local authority led by chairman Tin Htay, were also inconsistent and ridiculous.

Chit Swe was arrested on 12 July and sued by Tin Htay because he allegedly didn’t report to or acquire permission from the authorities before holding a NLD meeting at his home.

He is continued to be detained at the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail. He suffers from tonsillitis and acute bronchitis that prevent him from eating normally.

65-year old Chit Swe’s cartoons, carried by famous Burmese magazines, are used to illustrate the country’s socio-economic problems. He has also published cartoons in several other publications. He is respected within press circles as a talented artist.

Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontieres (RSF) or Reporters without Borders recently denounced the detention and described it as “a serious violation of freedom of expression.”



### **Shan leader Hso Ten to be sentenced on 8 August**

Aug 4, 2005 -

Shan State Peace Council (SSPC) chairman Gen Hso Ten who has been detained and tried in the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail is to be sentenced on 8 August, according to reports from Burma.

## Page3

It is not clear whether nine other Shan leaders including Shan National League for Democracy (SNLD) chairman Khun Htun Oo and secretary Nyunt Lwin who have been detained with Hso Ten are to be sentenced with him. For the time being, Hso Ten has been allowed to see his family members, according to sources close to the family.

Hso Ten has been accused of forming a Shan advisory group and illegal logging and Htun Oo indicted under seven charged including high treason. They were arrested in early February.

**TOP**

### **Another Shan leader detained by Burma junta**

Aug 5, 2005 -

Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) authorities arrested a member Shan State Advisory Council (SSAC) Sa Oo Kya on 3 August.

Oo Kya is the nephew of the last Hsipaw (Thibaw) sawbwa or prince Sa Kya San and the cousin of detained Shan National League for Democracy (SNLD) chairman Khun Htun Oo who has been detained and tried on treason charges.

Although it is not known why he was arrested, Oo Kya attended a dinner party in honour Shan State Day at Taunggyi and New Generation – Shan State meeting in February. Moreover, he used to attend meetings held by Shan State Army – North (SSA-N) and Shan State National Army (SSNA). Both groups signed ceasefire agreements with the SPDC.

The spokesman and communication officer of SSA-N Win Ngwe told DVB that Oo Kya's relatives informed him of the arrest by phone on 4 August. When asked why Oo Kya was arrested Win Ngwe said it could be because of his political activities with Shan groups or taking foreign tourists to historic sites around Shan State.

**TOP**

### **The trial of Shan leaders postponed in Rangoon**

Aug 11, 2005 -

The trial of Shan leaders including Shan State Peace Council (SSPC) in Rangoon Insein Jail didn't go ahead on 8 August, but postponed to 15 August.

The postponement of the trial was due to the fact that the original date coincided with the famous 8888 uprising, and the trial could end with sentencing on 15 August, according to ethnic national sources in Rangoon.

Nevertheless, it is not clear whether other Shan leaders including Shan National League for Democracy (SNLD) chairman Khun Htun Oo and other eight Shan leaders will also be sentenced.

They were arrested in February and they were charged with forming a Shan advisory group and treason, but they were not allowed to hire their own lawyers.



## **NLD supporters sent to Rangoon Insein Jail**

Aug 12, 2005 -

A member of National League for Democracy (NLD) from Pegu, Pegu Division in southern Burma Hla Myint Than and a party supporter Win Myint, who have been detained since the beginning of July, were transferred from Rangoon Mayanggone police station to the notorious Insein Jail.

Two other supporters, Khin Zaw and Wai Lin, also from Pegu were also said to be sent to the prison. According to sources close to their relatives, they were transferred to the prison after being interrogated at Mayanggone police station within last week and they are still not allowed to see their families.

It is not known why the authorities arrested Wai Lin and Khin Zaw but the other two were arrested because they were allegedly keeping 'illegal' satellite phones with them.

Moreover, Pegu Division Shwekyin Township NLD chairman Bogyi and organising committee member Pe Tin were each given a seven year prison term on 27 May for distributing extracts of Gen Aung's speeches and they are being detained in Pegu Prison.



## **Burma Sagaing NLD leader Kyaw San appeal rejected**

Aug 13, 2005 -

Rangoon Division court, on 29 July, rejected the appeal lodged on behalf of imprisoned Sagaing Division Tantse Township National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative (MP) Kyaw San.

74-year old Kyaw San was sentenced to seven years in prison on 6 June for allegedly keeping 'illegal' goods belonging to Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) which signed ceasefire agreements with the ruling junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). The latest rejection followed an earlier rejection by a district court and his legal representatives are preparing to lodge the appeal to the High Court.

One of Kyaw San's lawyers Thein Nyunt told DVB that DKBA leader Col Saw Chit Thu, in a letter to the court, testified that the goods had nothing with Kyaw San.

Kyaw San's wife May Nwet told DVB that her husband is in a good mood despite poor health. He was arrested for the first time in 1992 for publicly expressing his support for the winning of Nobel Peace Prize by NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi and he was again given another seven years in 1998 for participating in

## Page5

the formation of the Committee for Representing People's Parliament (CRPP). He was re-arrested on 17 March 2005, four months after he was released from prison.



### **Arakan NLD leaders detained on foreign currency trading**

Aug 15, 2005 -

Arakan State Sittwe (Akyab) Township National League for Democracy (NLD) chairman San Shwe Tun and organising committee member Aung Pan Tha were arrested and detained by authorities on 20 July. They are said to be trading foreign currencies and they are being detained at Sittwe Prison.

Someone close to the NLD told DVB that the accused men were approached by 'unknown' currency dealers but they refused to buy any money from them but they were arrested nevertheless. When the authorities searched their homes no foreign currency was found.

Similarly, nearby Yathetaung Township elected representative (MP) Maung Kung Aung was also barred from travelling and his movements within the town have been monitored and he has been harassed by the authorities.



### **Detained Shan leader Sa Oo Kya transferred to Lashio Prison**

Aug 15, 2005 -

A member of Shan State advisory council, Sa Oo Kyawho was arrested at Thibaw (Hsipaw) in northeast Burma over a week ago is likely to have been transferred to nearby Lashio Prison, according to a Shan State National Army (SSNA) member.

"According to the latest reports, he is not at Thibaw anymore. He was transferred to another location for sure. That much I know," SSNA communication officer Sai Win Ngwe told DVB. "They might send him to Lashio where it is more secure."

Similarly, four other SSNA members who were arrested more than a month ago are still being detained at Muse police detention centre near China.

Oo Kya is a cousin of Shan National League for Democracy (SNLD) chairman Khun Htun Oo who has been detained and tried on treason charges at Rangoon Insein Jail, but it is not known whether Tha Oo arrest is related to the case.

The trial of Htun Oo and nine other Shan leaders including SSNA chairman Gen Hso Ten could end on 15 August with the passing of sentences, according to sources close to their relatives. They were arrested in February and being tried on treason and other charges.



## Page6

### **Three students arrested in northern Burma Kachin State**

Aug 20, 2005-

Three university students, who returned from the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) – controlled Laiza to Myitkyina in northern Burma, were arrested by Burmese authorities on 13 August.

Those arrested are Brang Ja Naw, age 25 years, final year law student from Myitkyina University of Distance Education; Win Moe, age 22 years, first year economics student from the same university; and Brang Awng San, age 22 years, first year electronic engineering student from Mohnyin Government Technological College.

They were arrested at a checkpoint in Momauk Township by the Special Anti Drug Squad. No drugs were seized from them but they were found to possess educational CDs on human rights issued by the Amnesty International, books on opposing the Salween Hydropower Project, and educational materials on anti-drug matters.

When DVB contacted the KIO Information Committee about the arrests, a KIO information official replied that the matter is under investigation as they have just received the news.

It is still unclear why the three went to Laiza. But according to local Kachin people, all matriculated students from Kachin State are given military, political, and human rights training courses under the KIO's sponsorship at Laiza.

A Kachin resident from Laiza told DVB that the training course is called EEDY, Education and Economic Development for Youths, and made its debut in April 2003. The course is conducted twice a year and six courses have already been carried out with each course attended by more than 1,000 Kachin youths.

As the Amnesty International is involved in conducting the training courses, residents of Laiza believed that the three might have attended the training course in Laiza.



### **Arakan NLD leaders detained without charge in Sittwe Jail**

Aug 21, 2005 -

Arakan State Sittwe (Akyab) Township National League for Democracy (NLD) chairman Sa Shwe Tun and member Aung Ban Tha who have been detained since July by the local Burmese authorities, were sent to Sittwe Jail without charges against them.

They were arrested on 20 July and have not been allowed to see their family members and it is still unclear why they were arrested. But a friend of Shwe Tun told DVB that before the arrests, 'unknown' currency dealers approached the two and tried to sell Indian rupees to them. But they refused to have nothing to do with them.

Moreover, Yathedaung Township NLD elected representative (MP) Maung Ko

## Page7

Ko has been barred from leaving the limit of the township, unless he signs restrictive pledges and reports the authorities of his every move.

**TOP**

### **Shwekyin NLD leaders' health conditions**

Aug 24, 2005 -

The health conditions of Pegu Division Shwekyin Township National League for Democracy (NLD) chairman Bo Gyi and organising committee member Pe Tin, are deteriorating, according to their relatives.

Bo Gyi and Pe Tin, who have been detained at Pegu Jail in lower central Burma, are suffering from high blood pressure and heart disease and they need proper medical treatments, according to a doctor who carried out medical checks on them.

Their conditions are also worsened by the fact that they are being kept in an unclean cell filled with common criminals. Bo Gyi is not eating anything in recent days and his condition deteriorates further, according to his family members.

The two were arrested on 13 May for distributing copies of tracts containing the speeches of Burma's national hero and the father of NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The tracts were published legally by the party HQs in Rangoon. They were each given a seven year prison term.

**TOP**

### **NLD 'Cartoon' Chit Shwe released by Burma junta**

Aug 25, 2005 -

Rangoon Division Thanlyin (Syriam) Township National League for Democracy (NLD) vice-chairman 'Cartoon' Chit Swe was released from Insein Jail on 24 August and returned to his home by the Burmese authorities.

66-year old Chit Swe was arrested on 12 July for holding a meeting at his home with his colleagues and was sentenced to one month in prison on 3 August. Although he had served the sentence, Chit Swe still needs to report to the authorities for a six-month suspended sentence, and it is not clear whether he would be able to take part in political activities freely while he is on bail.

A NLD leader Dr. Win Naing told DVB that Chit Swe had to promise the authorities that he behaves 'properly', but he insisted that the restrictive law was designed for hardened criminals and it is nothing to with a politician who never breaks the laws.

**TOP**

## Page8

### **Burmese tuition teacher gets three years for saluting national hero**

Aug 25, 2005 -

The township court of Rangoon Twante, on 25 August, sentenced a private tuition teacher Aung Pe to three years in prison for saluting the picture of Gen Aung San, Burma's national hero and father of democracy leader and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

The defending lawyer Myint Thaug provided strong evidences indicating his client's innocence but they were rejected by the judge, according to Nyan Win, one of National League for Democracy (NLD) legal advocates.

Aung Pe's wife Htay Htay Lwin who witnessed the sentencing of her husband at the court told DVB that she is proud of her husband as he was imprisoned not for working for his own benefits.

On 13 February, the birthday of Aung San and Burma's Children Day, 40-year old Aung Pe hung a photograph of Aung San outside his classroom, and saluted and sang a song honouring the national hero with his pupils. He was arrested on the following day.

His lawyers are planning to lodge appeals to higher courts.



### **NLD Win Aung's appeal rejected by Shwebo Court**

Aug 29, 2005 -

Shwebo District Court in central Burma rejected the appeal lodged on behalf of Khin U Township National League for Democracy (NLD) chairman Dr. Win Aung who was given a ten year prison term.

The appeal was summarily rejected by the judge on the day it was lodged on 26 August. The NLD legal advocates are preparing to go on to lodge the appeal to the Sagaing Division Court.

Win Aung was arrested on 6 July for keeping a videotape containing the public speech of NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi. He was then tried for two days and sentenced to ten years in prison by Khin U Township Court without strong evidence against him.

Win Aung had been actively involved in the NLD activities and he was severely wounded on his face and head during the assault on NLD supporters and leaders on 30 May 2003 at Dipeyin in upper Burma by junta-sponsored thugs, according to sources close to his family.



### **Burmese prisoner Thet Naung Soe not well**

Aug 29, 2005 -

The health condition of Burmese political prisoner Thet Naung Soe who has been detained at the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail, is said to be in a worrying state.

Thet Naung Soe was arrested in August 2002 and sentenced to 12 years in prison after he staged a solo protest outside Rangoon City Hall, demanding Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) to start political dialogues with the opposition and release all political prisoners.

Due to the tortures he received from the now defunct military intelligence service (MIS) agents and the inhumane condition within the prison, he is suffering from acute psychological problems.

Joint-secretary of the exiled Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) Bo Kyi told DVB that the sufferings of Thet Naung Soe and other prisoners, are due to lack of proper food and healthcare within the prison. He added that Thet Naung Soe has been suffering from increasing psychological problems because his cellmates who looked after him were released while he is continued to be detained, leaving him feel intensely lonely.

Some months ago, the junta promised to release all those who were wrongfully detained by the MIS agents, but Thet Win Aung was not among those released.

**TOP**