

**Political Prisoners' news**  
**Democratic Voice Of Burma**  
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### **Political prisoners' health condition in Burma**

Sep 1, 2005 - The National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative (MP) of Rangoon Mayangone Township, Dr. May Win Myint who has been detained at Insein Jail is suffering from high blood pressure, heart and eye diseases, according to her husband Win Myint who went to see her at the prison recently.

"I learnt that her eyes are red because she is suffering from high blood pressure," Win Myint told DVB. "As for the rest, she is looking after herself. Normally, she used to check her eyes at the hospital once a month."

Similarly, Dr. Than Nyein who is being detained at Prome (Pyay) Prison is suffering from liver, gastric and urinal diseases and he has not been allowed to see proper doctors for a year, according to his family.

The MP of Lashio Than Htay who has been detained at Kale Prison in northwest Burma near India was allowed to see his family members and he is said to be fine. However, they faced many kinds of difficulties on their way to see him from northeastern Burma near China.

There are still 14 MPs languishing in prisons throughout Burma.



### **Burmese lawyer Aye Myint detained again**

Sep 5, 2005 - Aye Myint, a High Court lawyer from Pegu, Pegu Division in central Burma was detained again within last week by local authorities for standing up for farmers whose farmlands were in danger of being confiscated by the authorities.

The local authorities at Daik-U confiscated some paddy fields belong to farmers in Phaungdawthi Village, Aye Myint reported the matter to Rangoon-based International Labour Organisation (ILO) office, and the authorities had to return the farmlands to the farmers.

The elected representative (MP) of Pegu, Mya Hla told DVB that Aye Myint was arrested with the so-called Act 5C and detained at Daik-U Prison.

Aye Myint was released from Insein prison in early 2005 after he was arrested on 20 July 2003 and given life sentence on 28 November of that year for reporting the local authorities' forced labour practices to the ILO. He was released because of pressures from the ILO and human rights organizations.

After he was released, Aye Myint told DVB that he was imprisoned by the order from the top, which was a death sentence with an act named 1221.

"Then, they treated the three of us like dogs. They sent us into the death sentence cell with hoods," Aye Myint said. The other two were Shwe Mahn and Min Kyi.



### **Arakan MP Kyaw Min's case latest**

Sep 6, 2005 - Burmese military authorities had allowed two lawyers for Arakan State Buthidaung Township elected representative (MP) Kyaw Min who has been detained at Rangoon Insein Jail, to copy the sentence passed upon him.

Two High Court lawyers, Pe Tin and Hla Thein were allowed to copy the legal writ on 1 September and they are preparing to lodge appeal on behalf of Kyaw Min, according to sources close to his family.

Moreover, Kyaw Min is still not allowed to see his family members and the permission has to be applied at the Interior Affairs Ministry. His family friends insisted that the authorities are abusing the rights the prisoner is entitled to.

Kyaw Min was arrested in March and he was tried behind closed doors in Insein Jail without having access to legal representatives. On 29 July, he was given a 47-year prison term and his wife and two children who had nothing to do with his case were each given 17 years.

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### **Burmese prisoner Ko Oo's condition deteriorates**

Sep 8, 2005 - The health condition of the chief organizing committee member of Magwe Division National League for Democracy (NLD) in central Burma and Thayet Township NLD Secretary, Ko Oo who is being detained at Thayet Jail, is said to be deteriorating.

He has been suffering from arthritis and he is being treated in the prison clinic for more than a month with gastric diseases. Now, his stomach is unable to take any solid food, only taking liquid. He is also very thin and weak, according to his son Aung Kyaw Moe who went to see him at the prison on 8 September.

“As for his health, my father’s body weight has gone down one-thirds and he has become very thin,” Aung Kyaw Moe told DVB. “Before, he was very alive but now his face doesn’t look very fresh.

He added that his father is taking medicines for his arthritic complaints while his stomach is swollen and he keeps on vomiting when he eats solid food.

“He has serious doubt about the condition of his stomach. He could eat a lot when he was outside. As he is unable to eat anymore, he is feeling very dejected.”

Aung Kyaw Moe told prison authorities that his father is getting old and he needs proper medical treatments but they told him that it would be better for father to remain inside the prison. He also reckoned that his father would fare worse if he were taken outside, as the police would put him in handcuffs or chains, shackles or manacles.

Ko Oo was arrested in 2000 for allegedly employing children and he was sentenced to nine years in prison. His son Aung Kyaw Moe insisted that the ousted military intelligence agents deliberately falsely accused and imprisoned his father who had been working actively for the NLD.

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### **Another prisoner's corpse disappeared in Burma**

Sep 12, 2005 - While the National League for Democracy (NLD) lawyers have been urging Burmese courts to investigate into the ‘mysterious’ death and burial of Rangoon Hlaing Township NLD youth Aung Hlaing Win, the authorities in southern Burma had made the corpse of another prisoner disappear, it has emerged.

The corpse of 40-year old Min Tun Wai from Mon State Kyaikmayaw Township was buried on 30 May without the knowledge of his family members, according to NLD lawyers. Min Tun Wai was arrested on 27/28 May with unknown charges and sentenced to 7 years in prison by the local township court.

The authorities then transferred him to nearby Moulmein Prison, he died there on 30 May, and his death was notified to his family on the following day. When his wife Hla Ohn Mae and family went to the prison to retrieve the corpse, they were told that their loved one had already been buried.

Hla Ohn Mae wrote an official letter of complaint to Mon State’s Chief of Police, stating that the murder and the disappearance of her husband was illegal and requested him to investigate into the circumstance of his death. But the authorities have done nothing so far and she wrote a letter to the NLD lawyers seeking legal help, said NLD spokesman Nyan Win.

“They didn’t show his corpse to the family. The family was notified a day after he was buried. It is clear that something is not right. These are not good practices,” Nyan Win told DVB. “It makes us think why they didn’t show his corpse to the family; is it because something happened? If there is something suspicious, they should investigate it. It is not correct to investigate it only when people request thus. They should have done it from the start.”

Min Tun Wai’s case is the third known case in which the Burmese authorities ‘disappeared’ the corpse of a prisoner within May, June and early July. The other two cases are those of Aung Hlaing Win, and Saw Stanford from Tagu Seik Village, Einme Township in Irraaddy Division. There could be more similar cases that have not been reported to the media, Nyan Win added.



### **Lawyer Aye Myint detained at Daik-U Police Station**

Sep 14, 2005 - A police officer from Daik-U Police Station, Pegu Division in central Burma, on 14 September, confirmed that lawyer Aye Myint who was imprisoned for reporting force labour practices to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has been detained at his station.

Aye Myint was arrested for a second time because he helped farmers from Phaungdawthi Village report the bullying actions of the local authorities to the ILO. The police officer said that Aye Myint was arrested at the village but he refused to say the reason for the arrest.

But a friend of Aye Myint in Daik-U told DVB that the local authorities confiscated paddy fields belonging to villagers and Aye Myint helped them get back their fields from the authorities by reporting it to the ILO. He added that the authorities bear grudges on him and arrested him thus.

An ILO official in Rangoon told DVB that the organisation is aware of the latest arrest of Aye Myint and that they are trying to obtain an official explanation from the Burmese authorities.

Aye Myint was first arrested in July 2003 and given death sentence for reporting human rights abuses to the ILO. He was released in early 2005 due to the international pressures and rearrested two weeks ago.



### **Burmese student prisoner Thet Win Aung still not well**

Sep 15, 2005 - Burmese student leader Thet Win Aung who has been serving a 59-year sentence for his role in the 1998 uprising is still quite ill, according to his father Win Maung who went to see him at Mandalay Jail on 15 September.

“When I saw him, he was unable to walk properly,” Win Maung said. “And he was very anxious that he might fall down while walking. If he falls down, he would suffer more. The best thing is to take him out (of the prison) and treat his illness. That would be the best thing, I was told. It is not very convenient for him to be inside. Therefore, he is keen only to get out and we are very concerned about his condition.”

The lower part of Thet Win Aung’s body became weak and he is still unable to walk because of the malaria attacks and cold he suffered while he was in Kalemmyo and Puta-O Prisons in northern Burma.

Win Maung added that his son didn’t fare better when he was taken out of the prison for medical treatments as he was put in the ‘care’ of the police who kept prisoners in chains and treated them worse than the prison authorities.

33-year old Thet Win Aung has been detained since September 1998 and the ruling junta has been ignoring the calls for the release of all the remaining 1300 prisoners by London-based Amnesty International.



### **Ill Burma NLD member dragged out of bed and sent to prison**

Sep 19, 2005 - The vice-chairman of Rangoon Hlaing Thaya Township National League for Democracy (NLD) Hla Aye and his son Thant Zin Myo, a NLD youth member, were each given a two year and one month prison term on 15 September.

Hla Aye, who has been suffering from a stroke was dragged out his bed at Hlaing Thaya Hospital by the police on the same day and taken to the township court, according to an NLD lawyer Nyan Win.

“As far as I know, the hospital staff told the police that the patient’s condition was not good. You can’t take him away, they said. However, the police dragged him away to the court anyway. The sentence was passed on him with that condition,” said Nyan Win. “He will be sent to the prison, of course. We don’t know whether he will be allowed to be hospitalized there. Thant Zin Myo also got two years and one month in prison. Ko Nitar, from the other side who accused them got 1000 kyat fine. That is the situation.”

The father and son were charged with the so-called Act 332 for obstructing (civil servants) while carrying out their duties and intimidation. Their case started when local fire fighters tried to extort money from them in 2004 and the defendants told the ‘daylight robbers’ politely that they could not contribute. But the litigant Nitar said rude things to his victims and a row broke out and matter ended at the court.

Nyan Win insisted that the defendants were deliberately targeted, as they committed no crime. Thant Zin Myo was also beaten up on 21 July by a fire fighter named Kyaw Lwin and local authority chairperson Maung Maung Lwin.

Both Hla Aye and son were said to be very actively involved in the NLD affairs and they had been the targets fro attacks of the local authorities, police and fire fighters who are used as henchmen of the authorities, according to NLD sources.

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### **Burma Sagaing NLD Kyaw San case to be heard**

Sep 19, 2005 - The appeal of Kyaw San, Burma’s Sagaing Division National League for Democracy (NLD) chairman and the elected representative (MP) of Tantse Township who has been detained at Rangoon Insein Jail, is to be heard by the High Court soon.

The case if to be heard by two highest judges in the country on 6 October and the defendant is to be represented by a NLD lawyer Thein Nyunt. He insisted that Kyaw San was arrested detained unlawfully from the beginning and he will be arguing his case meticulously.

74-year old Kyaw San was arrested on 17 March and 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). Thein Nyunt said DKBA leader Col Saw Chit Thu, in a letter to the court, testified that the goods had nothing with Kyaw San.

Kyaw San 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 the formation of the Committee for Representing People’s Parliament (CRPP).

His wife May Nwet told DVB that she is very concerned about her aged husband’s health condition.

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### **Burmese prisoner Aung Shin not well**

Sep 20, 2005 - 62-year old Burmese political prisoner and author Monywa Aung Shin (a.k.a.)

Aye Kyu, who has been serving a lengthy prison term at the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail, is said to be very ill.

According to his son Thet Tun Lin who went to see him recently at the prison, Aung Shin has been suffering from breathing problems, insomnia, low blood pressures and severe tiredness. He said that the prison provides no proper medical or dietary cares as usual, and his father could only eat and live well when he gets food and medicines from home.

“During the rainy seasons when it is cold, sometimes, he has to sleep standing and sometimes, sitting. If he lies down, it is very hard for him to breathe. He is very thin now,” Thet Tun Lin told DVB.

Aung Shin, a renowned author started to his writing career in the early 60s with other famous writers such as Monywa Tin Shwe and poet Saya Tin Moe who is now living in exile. He was first arrested in 1967 as the editor of Sabebyu (White Jasmine) magazine during a crackdown on ‘left-wing’ authors by the then Gen Ne Win government.

He was again arrested in 1989 for rallying for the National League for Democracy (NLD) during the run-up to the 1990 general election. He was released in early 2000, rearrested on 29 September of the same year, and sentenced to 21 years in jail.

His wife died in 1998 and his daughter died in 2000 while he was incarcerated, and he was not allowed to look after them.



### **The detention of Shan leader by Burma junta, illegal – lawyer**

Sep 21, 2005 - A renowned Burmese lawyer in Rangoon, speaking on condition of anonymity, told DVB that the house arrest of Shan leader Shwe Ohn has lasted more than six months and it is illegal according to the existing laws.

Shwe Ohn was arrested around the same time as ten other Shan leaders including Shan National League for Democracy (SNLD) chairperson Khun Htun Oo, who are currently being detained and tried at Rangoon Insein Jail. He is being put under house arrest at the home of his younger brother in Shan State capital Taunggyi.

According to the existing law, if someone is put under house arrest, he or she should be released after six months if not found guilty or it must be declared publicly that the person is to be continued to be detained, the lawyer stated.

Burma’s military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) still has not stated officially as to why he was arrested, with which acts he is indicted and how long he is going to be detained. Similarly, other 10 Shan leaders including Htun Oo and Shan State Peace Council (SSPC) patron Gen Hso Ten have been detained and tried for nearly nine months. Although many people believe that they were arrested for attempting to form a Shan advisory council and criticizing the junta sponsored ‘National Convention’ but no official statement has been issued by the junta.

The lawyer also added that legal and political matters have all been mixed up by recent arrests of more Shan leaders and the forced relocation of Shan State Army – North (SSA-N) troops.



### **Cholera outbreak at Burma Tharawaddy Jail latest**

Sep 28, 2005 - At least 20 prisoners so far had died due to the serious cholera outbreak which started a week ago in Tharawaddy Jail in central Burma, according to sources close to the prison.

When DVB contacted the prison, a staff on duty confirmed the reports of deaths. According to family members of the prisoners, the deaths were caused primarily by the unscrupulous greed of prison governor Myint Swe by feeding inmates with worm-eaten beans curry, not suitable for human consumption for a week, to save money for him.

Prison officials refused to comment on the allegation but confirmed that around 80 inmates were still being treated at the prison clinic and that no political prisoners were among the dead.

Health officials came to inspect the prison after the outbreak started but prison authorities boiled some beef before the inspectors arrived and blamed 'bacteria' inside the beef, according to a prison staff who doesn't want to be named.

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### **Shan leader Sa Oo Kya is to be sentenced soon**

Sep 29, 2005 - One of the Shan State advisory council members, Sa Oo Kya who has been detained by the Burmese authorities, is to be sentenced on 30 September by a court in Shan State.

Oo Kya is under restrain order, he has been tried at Northern Shan State Kyaukme District court with Act 124A for allegedly defaming the State and Hotel and Tourism Act 26, and he is said to be defended by a high-class lawyer named Tin Maung.

Oo Kya is currently detained at Kyaukme police station and he is allowed to see his family members. He is related to another Shan leader, Khun Htun Oo, chairperson of Shan National League for Democracy (SNLD) who is being detained and tried at Rangoon Insein jail with nine other Shan leaders.

Ten Shan leaders including Htun Oo and Shan State Peace Council (SPDC) Gen Hso Ten were arrested after attending the Shan State Day ceremony and a Shan youth meeting at Taunggyi in February.

Rumors of their impending sentences came out during previous months but nothing ever happened, and they are still languishing in the notorious prison without having the chance to see layers of their choice.

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