

**Democratic Voice of Burma
Political Prisoners' News
December 2005**

#####

- NLD supporter sent to prison in upper Burma** *Dec 05, 2005*
- Burmese lawyer Aye Myint is not well in prison** *Dec 07, 2005 -*
- Nine people given lengthy jail terms for contacting ILO in Rangoon** *Dec 07, 2005*
- Shan leaders arrested for celebrating national New Year** *Dec 08, 2005*
- 2005 Nobel Peace Laureate Baradei calls for release of Aung San Suu Kyi**
Dec,10,2005-
- Su Su Nway not well** *Dec,10,2005*
- Detained Shan leader Hso Ten still not allowed to see family** *Dec,13,2005*
- 88 generation student Mya San released by Burma junta** *Dec 14, 2005*
- Where are two detained Shan leaders?** *Dec 14, 2005*
- Shan leader Htun Oo allowed to meet wife, lawyer** *Dec16, 2005*
- Political prisoners: Shan leader Gen Hso Ten allowed to see family** *Dec 19, 2005*
- Death camp Burma: Another political prisoner dies in detention** *Dec 20, 2005*
- Detention of Aung San Suu Kyi illegal – NLD** *Dec 22, 2005*

NLD supporter sent to prison in upper Burma

Dec 05, 2005 - Local authorities at Ye-U Township, Sagaing Division in central Burma, arrested and imprisoned a supporter of the main opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD). Businessperson Kyaw Hlaing was arrested on 29 October, indicted with gambling charges, and sentenced to one year in prison within a week of trial.

A local resident told DVB that Kyaw Hlaing was deliberately arrested on the false charge of keeping old 'illegal' lottery tickets at his home after the authorities could not find any other incriminating evidence against him. He was once arrested and imprisoned in a similar way before, after the notorious Dipeyin massacre occurred on 30 May 2003, for lending his Land Rover car to the local NLD activists to welcome their leaders who were touring upper Burma, and he continued to get involved in the political activities after his release, according to an organizing committee member from nearby Shwebo.

Meanwhile, neighboring Chaung-U Township NLD secretary Kyaw Swe who has been detained at Monywa Township with a five-year sentence was transferred to remote Kale Prison in northwest Burma near India, causing considerable anxieties to his family members.

"I won't be able to see him (at the prison) anymore as I am suffering from asthma currently. I was even unable to see him a week ago at Monywa from Chaung-U," his wife San San told DVB. "As I am a sufferer of asthma, during the cold season, my health condition is very poor. I have health difficulties. My other difficulty is, as I have a book borrowing shop, no body dares to borrow books from us as it is owned the NLD secretary. I also have survival difficulties. The two children are in seventh and third standards but they can't do anything yet."

She added she is worried that her husband might be kept among common criminals at police-controlled hard labour 'gulag' camps.

The local authorities pressurized Kyaw Swe to quit the NLD before he was imprisoned and when he refused to do so, they arrested him on 2 December 2004 and charged him with insubordination, using an 'unlicensed' motorcycle and the like.

Meanwhile, at northern Burma Kachin State, Shwegu Township NLD members Ko Ko Myint Thein Zaw are continued to be detained on remand and the authorities are trying to sue them with drug-related charges. Witnesses told DVB that the authorities deliberately planted opium resins in the compounds of their houses just before they arrested them.



Burmese lawyer Aye Myint is not well in prison

Dec 07, 2005 - The health condition of lawyer Aye Myint, who has been detained at Pegu Prison in lower Burma for giving 'false' information to the International Labor Organization (ILO) in Rangoon, has been deteriorating, according to his son Nyo Lin Maung who went to see him at the prison recently.

"He has anemia and he is very weak. He was walking shakily and when I asked him the reason, he told me not to talk about that. I am not feeling good about my father's deteriorating health condition because I am unable to do anything from outside," Nyo Lin Maung told DVB.

Aye Myint was arrested and sentenced to seven years in prison for reporting the seizure of pasturelands belonging to the villagers of nearby Phaungdawthi by military organizations, to the ILO office.

Similarly, human rights defender Su Su Nway who is serving a year and half sentence at the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail for reporting human rights abuses to the ILO and successfully suing her local authorities over forced labour practices, is still not allowed to receive vital medicines for her chronic heart condition despite a doctor's prescription.

According to reports from nearby Magwe Division Aunglan (Allen) Township, the trial of three National League for Democracy (NLD) members, Aunglan MP Thein Zan, member Zaw Htay and Taungup Twonship NLD member Aung Than Tun, is to start on 22 December. They were sued because they helped

the villagers of Ngapyin report the death of villager Win Lwin who was killed during a forced road building session.

[TOP](#)

Nine people given lengthy jail terms for contacting ILO in Rangoon

Dec 07, 2005 - Nine people including Thein Lwin Oo from Rangoon North Okkalapa Township who stand accused of ‘informing’ the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and having contacts with exiled ‘illegal’ organisations, were given lengthy prison terms on 11 November, it has emerged.

The shortest sentence is 8 years and the longest is 25 years, which was given to Wai Lin from Pegu, and another defendant Win Myint was given 17 years.

The remaining seven people, Thein Lwin Oo, Ye Myint, Hla Myint Than, Aye Chan (f), Aye Thi Khaing (f), Yin Kyi (f) and Myint Lwin were each given 8 years.

They were all arrested in July and charged with the notorious Emergency Provision Act – 5J, Act 17-1 for having contacts with illegal organisations and Communication Act 16-3.

They have not been allowed to see their family members since their arrests, and they were not allowed to hire lawyers when they were on trial in Rangoon Insein Jail. Now that they have been officially sentenced, they are entitled to see their family members but the authorities recently imposed a one-month ban on the meeting with their love ones for no particular reasons.

[TOP](#)

Shan leaders arrested for celebrating national New Year

Dec 08, 2005- 8 leaders and organizing members of Shan State Literature and Culture Committee including its chairman Dr. Sai Maw Kham, were arrested on 3 December by Burmese military authorities.

It is still not clear as to why they were arrested, as Maj-Gen Myint, the commander of Northeast Command based in Lashio in northeast Shan State, had been ‘persuading’ these leaders to celebrate their national New Year long before the event was held at the end of November and early December.

Some observers said that having allowed the Shan leaders to celebrate the New Year, the Burmese military authorities were not very pleased with the fact that many Shan nationals throughout the state came to celebrate the event with banners and pennants in triumphant mood.

Moreover, they believe that Shan leaders were arrested because they were/are close friends of detained Shan leaders including Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) chairman Khun Htun Oo and Shan State Peace Council (SSPC) patron Gen Hso Ten who were given lengthy jail terms by the junta.

[TOP](#)

2005 Nobel Peace Laureate Baradei calls for release of Aung San Suu Kyi

Dec, 10, 2005- Dr. Muhammad el-Baradei, the head of the UN’s nuclear watchdog, on 10 December, has called for the release of Burma’s Nobel laureate and democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest.

He made the call during an interview with DVB when he came to accept the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize at a ceremony in Norwegian capital Oslo.

“I am very hopeful that the Burmese authorities will see to it that Aung San Suu Kyi will be released soon from house arrest,” el-Baradei told DVB. “She is a woman of principles. She has been fighting for freedom and democracy. She is a Nobel peace laureate. And I think I must come for her to participate fully in Burma’s political life and be able to be free and to speak freely and to go like other human being through that election process and let the best win.”

El-Baradei and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) won this year's award for their efforts to make the world a safer place. Although he didn't give his reaction directly on the attempt by Burma's military junta, the State peace and Development Council (SPDC), to build a nuclear plant near Magwe in central Burma, he insisted that whoever wants to build a nuclear energy plant has to follow the basic international standards and regulations.

In his acceptance speech, el-Baradei said the world must abandon nuclear weapons if it is to survive, and he urged the international community to do more development works and respect human rights.

TOP

Su Su Nway not well

Dec, 10, 2005 - The health condition of detained Burmese heroine and human rights defender Su Su Nway from Rangoon Htan Manaing Village, is said to be deteriorating further, according to her relatives.

Su Su Nway, who is serving a year and a half jail term at the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail, for successfully suing her local authorities over forced labour practices, is still not allowed to receive special medications needed for her chronic heart condition despite the doctor's prescriptions.

A relative of her who recently went to see her at the prison told DVB that Su Su Nway is also suffering from pains all over her body especially joint pains, and she is still not allowed to receive medicines bought outside the prison.

A prison officer explained to DVB that the ban was carried out because of the order from prison administration department.

TOP

Detained Shan leader Hso Ten still not allowed to see family

Dec, 13, 2005 - Shan State Army – North (SSA-N) patron Gen Hso Ten who is serving a 106 year jail term at remote Khamtee in northern Burma, is still not allowed to see his family members.

Hso Ten's family and a lawyer have arrived at Khamtee since last week to see him, and reported their presences as soon as they reached the prison. But the prison authorities only told them that they haven't received any reply or order from higher authorities.

Three other Shan leaders, Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) chairperson Khun Htun Oo, secretary Nyunt Lwin and member Hla Aung were allowed to see both their family members and lawyers who were authorised to lodge appeals on their behalves.

Nine top Shan leaders including Htun Oo were arrested in February, tried secretly inside the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail without lawyers of their choice, given lengthy jail terms and transferred to remote prisons away from their families recently.

Their lawyers from the National League for Democracy (NLD) legal support team have been finding it hard to carry out preparations for the appeals due to the transfers.

TOP

88 generation student Mya San released by Burma junta

Dec 14, 2005 - A Burmese student leader of the 1988 generation, Mya San, was released from the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail on 13 December.

Mya San was involved in the 1988 pro-democracy nationwide uprising and became a personal bodyguard of democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi as a member of Thone Yaung Che (Tri Colours) student group. He was arrested in 1991 for staging a celebratory demonstration for the winning of Nobel Peace Prize by Aung San Suu Kyi. His release came after spending exactly 14 years of his life in prison.

In 2000, he was released from prison after serving 8 years and six months of his life sentence, only to be told at the gate of the prison that he was to be continued to be detained with Act – 10A by the prison governor.

He has been suffering from chronic illnesses including gastric complaints. Before he was released, he was warned that he would be rearrested and prosecuted if he breaks the oppressive laws of the junta enshrined in the so-called “Our Three Duties”.

He sadly acknowledged the changes which have happened within the 14 years of his imprisonment and hoped that there would be a realistic chance for the national reconciliation. However, he does not seem to have much faith in the ongoing constitution-drafting ‘National Convention’ of the ruling military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), to solve the problems of Burma as Aung San Suu Kyi is still under house arrest.

Nevertheless, he expressed his undying hope for a free, peaceful and prosperous Burma, and his old colleagues including Ko Ko Gyi and Pyone Cho expressed their joy at Mya San’s release and thanked all the individuals and organizations who have been working hard for his release.



Where are two detained Shan leaders?

Dec 14, 2005- Burmese lawyers for two prominent Shan leaders who were given lengthy jail terms with seven others including Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) chairman Khun Htun Oo, are unable to proceed with preparations for their appeals because the authorities are not telling them where the two are being detained.

The two, Sai Myo Win Tun and Sa Tha Oo were reported to be transferred from Rangoon Insein Jail to Mandalay Prison in central Burma, but none of their loved ones know where they are being detained at the moment.

Myint Than of New Generation – Shan State and Tun Nyo are being detained at Sandoway (Thantwe) and Buthidaung Prisons in western Burma’s Arakan State respectively. Sai Nyi Moe, who is detained at Pakokku Prison, was allowed to see his family members within last week, according to lawyers of National League for Democracy (NLD) who are trying to help them.

Four out of nine leaders, Htun Oo detained at Puta-O Prison in northern Burma, Sai Nyunt Lwin at Kalemmyo Prison in northwest Burma, Sai Hla Aung and Nyi Moe, had been allowed to see their families at the prisons. Lawyers are also desperately trying to track down and see the remaining five leaders including Shan State Army – North (SSA-N) patron Gen Hso Ten to procure ‘power’ letters from them so that they could lodge appeals on their behalves.

All nine Shan leaders were arrested in February and secretly tried at Insein Jail with having access to lawyers of their choice and they were given lengthy prison terms up to 106 years on 3 November.



Shan leader Htun Oo allowed to meet wife, lawyer

Dec 16, 2005 -

The chairperson of Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) Khun Htun Oo, who is being detained in remote northern Burma’s Puta-O Prison, was permitted to meet his family members and his lawyer for 30 minutes.

On 10 December, Htun Oo, who was sentenced to 93 years in prison for ‘discrediting’ the country’s military government, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) and ‘criticizing’ the junta’s constitution-drafting ‘National Convention’, was allowed to see his family members and lawyer Aung Thein, who said he had obtained a power of attorney to appeal the case.

Aung Thein said the permission did not come easily as they had to wait for about 7 days and apply to different levels of authorities before it was granted.

“We arrived in Putao by air on 4 December. The following day, we proceeded to Puta-O Prison to apply for a family visit and a meeting to obtain the power of attorney from Khun Htun Oo. We were able to send in a parcel (of food and medicines etc) on that day, however, we were told that they need to apply to the director-general of the Corrections Department in Rangoon for the family visit and the power of

attorney,” Aung Thein told DVB. “We waited until 8 December but there was no news. As a lawyer, I could not stay that long, so I prepared two copies of affidavit as a lawyer, together with Khun Htun Oo’s wife Daw Wai Wai Lwin, and took an oath before the court in Puta-O. The judge reported the matter to the district authorities on 9 December, and around noon or 1300 (local time) on the same day, we were informed that the application for a family visit and the meeting to obtain the power of attorney had been approved.”

On 10 December, the lawyer and the wife were allowed to meet Htun Oo separately, and Aung Thein explains about how he obtained the power of attorney and the health situation of Htun Oo.

“With regard to his health situation, he said he suffered when he was first moved to Puta-O Prison. I understand he has high blood sugar levels and other diseases,” said Aung Thein. “But, he seemed to be fit when I met him. What is troubling, however, is the inclement weather in Puta-O. It’s quite cold in the winter, very hot in the summer, and lots of rain during monsoon. Personally, I feel that he, as a 65-year-old man, will not be able to withstand these weather conditions for long.”

Aung Thein also explained that when Htun Oo was first arrested, he asked for a meeting with his family members and the right to hire a lawyer, but was told that the lawyer he asked for was away on a trip, or in a hospital, or could not be located. The authorities gave him different reasons for not allowing him to hire the lawyer of his choice. “But, since he was charged under high treason, the state appointed a lawyer for him and he had to go along with the state-appointed lawyer,” Aung Thein said.

Htun Oo also insisted that he was not guilty of the charges against him, as the authorities might dislike him and suspect him of something but there was no reason for him to be seditious or to be discrediting the government. “As a chairman of a political party, he said, he had worked well with the government for 14 to 15 years without any trouble. He said he was quite surprised that he had been accused of committing such crimes,” Aung Thein recounted his meeting with Htun Oo.

Htun Oo wanted his people to continue working in the party even though he was in prison because his political party, the SNLD, was a legally registered.

Altogether 10 Shan leaders, including Htun Oo, were arrested on 9 February and were imprisoned for over 100 years on 3 May. They were then transferred to remote prisons. Family members and their lawyers have frantically been trying to reach them in order to appeal their cases on time.

According to information in hand, Htun Oo is serving 93 years in Putao Prison and SNLD Secretary Sai Nyunt Lwin, 85 years in Kale Prison and Lawyer Aung Thein has been able to meet them.

Gen Hso Ten, patron of the Shan State Army – North (SSA-N) is serving 106 years in Khamtee Prison (in NW Burma near India) and he was allowed to meet another lawyer on 13 December. Sai Hla Aung who is serving 75 years in Kyaukpyu Prison (Burma’s western Arakan State near Bangladesh) has also been permitted to meet a lawyer.

But, the situation remains unclear for Myint Than from the Shan New Generation group who is serving 75 years in Sandoway Prison, and for Ba Thin, Sai Nyi Moe, Sai Myo Win Tun, and Sa Tha Oo, all of whom are serving time at Buthidaung (Arakan State), Pakokku (central Burma), and other prisons, as well as Veteran Shan leader U Shwe Ohn who is under house arrest in Shan State capital Taunggyi.

[TOP](#)

Political prisoners: Shan leader Gen Hso Ten allowed to see family

Dec 19, 2005 - Shan State National Council (SSNC) chairperson Gen Hso Ten who is serving a 106-year jail term at remote Khamtee (Hkamti) Prison in northern Burma, was at long last allowed to see family members and a representative of the National League for Democracy (NLD) lawyer Aung Thein.

The representative, a female junior lawyer was also able to obtain a power of the attorney from/for the defendant, authorising the NLD legal support team to lodge appeals on his behalf.

Aung Thein also insisted that it is not right to imprison an aged man like Hso Ten who is around 70 years old, at a remote location away from home, with extreme weather condition. Three respected NLD lawyers; Aung Thein, Kyi Win and Nyan Win are taking on the responsibility of lodging appeals for nine

Shan leaders sentenced to lengthy jail terms on 13 October. They were arrested in February with several charges against them.

So far, the lawyers have been able to obtain a power of the attorney for Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) chairperson Khun Htun Oo, SNLD Secretary Sai Nyunt Lwin, Sai Hla Aung and Gen Hso Ten. They are also contacting family members of the remaining Shan leaders so that they could help them appeal their cases. Nevertheless, it is still not known where Sai Myo Win Tun and Sa Tha Oo are being detained.

Meanwhile, a renowned surgeon in Rangoon, who does not want to be identified, told DVB that the international health organisations and human rights groups should take effective actions for Mandalay Amarpura MP, Dr. Zaw Myint Maung who has been detained for 15 years at Myikyina Prison in northern Burma. His wife Dr. Daw Yut Yut May told DVB that her husband has been suffering from both high and low blood pressures alternatively.

Family members of Chaung U Township NLD Secretary Kyaw Swe and a private tuition teacher Nyunt Aung from nearby Monywa in central Burma, also expressed their worries for their loved ones who were recently transferred to remote Kalemyo Prison in northwest Burma near India, where prisoners are suffering from every kind of diseases and forced to buy clean water for drinking and washing.

[TOP](#)

Death camp Burma: Another political prisoner dies in detention

Dec 20, 2005 - Another Burmese political prisoner, Aung Zaw Latt who had been serving a lengthy jail term at Pegu Prison, died on the morning of 16 December.

30-year old Aung Zaw Latt was arrested in September 1999 for his involvement in the failed 9999 uprising, and sentenced to 8 years in prison with the notorious Act – 5J & Act – 17/1.

Before his death, he had been suffering from a severe form of tuberculosis due to lack of proper medical cares in prison.

He was buried on the following day during a summarized funeral service which was attended by political circles in Pegu and a handful of prison authority members.

The death of Aung Zaw Latt came not long after London-based Amnesty International issued a report, which claims the human rights situation in Burma deteriorated during 2005, and some prisoners had been dying in suspicious circumstances.

The report, “Myanmar: Travesties of Justice – Continued Misuse of the legal system”, details human rights abuses carried out by Burma’s ruling military junta, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), and pinpoints the way with which it has been carrying them out.

A spokesperson of AI told DVB that people are even being prosecuted for reporting human rights violations and talking to journalists, and lengthy prison sentences are handed down to political figures for engaging in political discussion.

[TOP](#)

Detention of Aung San Suu Kyi illegal – NLD

Dec 22, 2005 - Burma’s main opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD) submitted an appeal directly to the ‘government’ of the ruling junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), claiming the arrest of its leader Aung San Suu Kyi was legally flawed and against the existing laws.

The party also demanded the junta to release her immediately, insisting that the detention of a Nobel laureate like her with the so-called Act – 10B which claims to be an anti-subversion law allegedly ‘protecting the country from those with malicious intention’, is logically and legally indefensible.

Nyan Win, one of the NLD legal advocates told DVB that the appeal was lodged on 21 December and announced publicly after several attempts by the officials to ground and stop it from reaching the Home Ministry.

[TOP](#)