

Democratic Voice Of Burma

Political Prisoner News

Dec - 2006

Statement on the continuing detention of the 88 Generation Student leaders

Dec 5, 2006

Two political prisoners beaten over hunger strike *Dec 13, 2006*

Jailed 88 students' families call for acquittal as remand deadline looms

Dec 15, 2006

Insein prisoner ends hunger strike *Dec 27, 2006*

Farmer jailed for false claim against officials *Dec 29, 2006*

Statement on the continuing detention of the 88 Generation Student leaders

Date: December 5, 2006

1. The authorities detained the 88 Generation Student leaders Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi and Htay Kywe on September 27 and Min Zayar and Pyone Cho on September 30 , 2006 under false pretenses that the higher authorities had summoned them to hold discussions.

2. At the press conferences held by the State Peace and Development Council the responsible persons claimed that they had detained the student leaders for questioning with regard to some terrorist attacks and receipt of financial support from some western embassies. This shows that the authorities have clearly made false accusations against the student leaders in order to detain them.

3. The respective embassies have denied the dissemination of financial support and it is clear that the 88 Generation Students have never engaged in any form of terrorist activities.

4. It is evident in Myanmar's history that the authorities tend to solve the country's problems through unfair one-sided accusations and force while they disregard the peoples' wishes. This attitude is detrimental to the country and it is evident if we look at the struggles the people are facing.

5. As long as the State Peace and Development Council continues to repress any person or group whose opinion differs from theirs through numerous accusations, Myanmar will not have any dignity internationally.

6. The people know and accept the fact that the 88 Generation Students have been consistent in engaging only in peaceful non-violent means for national reconciliation, democracy and human rights for which the people of Myanmar can fully participate.

7. Therefore we call for the immediate and unconditional release of the five leaders of the 88 Generation Students who have been detained under false pretenses.

[Top](#)

[Two political prisoners beaten over hunger strike](#)

Dec 13, 2006

Political prisoners San Myint and Myo Thura Tun were reportedly beaten by guards at Moulmein Prison after staging a hunger strike last week, sources close to prison authorities told DVB.

The two men are thought to have launched the hunger strike to protest being forced to share cells with non-political prisoners. Sources told DVB the two men were wounded by the beating and that other political prisoners reacted by attempting to stage a demonstration.

Tensions among inmates and prison guards in Moulmein are thought to have increased considerably after the incident. It is unclear whether San Myint and Myo Thura Tun are continuing to refuse food.

Officials in charge of Moulmein prison could not immediately be contacted for comment.

[Top](#)

[Jailed 88 students' families call for acquittal as remand deadline looms](#)

Dec 15, 2006

The families of five '88 generation student leaders taken into police custody almost three months ago have again pleaded for their release.

Min Ko Naing, Ko Htay Kywe, Ko Ko Gyi, Min Zayar and Pyone Cho were detained in late September and have not been charged. The military have remanded them in custody ever since but under Burmese law, the period of remand must end on December 18.

Min Ko Naing's elder sister, Daw Kyi Kyi Nyunt told DVB her family was increasingly worried about his health.

"His heart is weak . . . We are very worried as we are not allowed to give medicines or see (him) personally," she said.

She said her family and the family members of the other former student leaders planned to appeal to authorities to allow them to spend time with the detainees.

"The two week remand is going to expire on 18 December. If we are not allowed to see them even then, or if the situation is not getting better, we are thinking of requesting the authorities to let the families meet with them," Daw Kyi Kyi Nyunt said.

"The five families will consult. When they were taken away it was said that it was for only a short while. When they were remanded, the families were not notified officially."

Fellow '88 generation student leaders Ko Arnt Bwe Kyaw and Ko Jimmy told DVB they would continue to make public calls for their colleagues' release.

"We believe that the five student leaders are being detained lawlessly. We will continue to carry out activities within the legal boundary," they said.

[Top](#)

[Insein prisoner ends hunger strike](#)

Dec 27, 2006

Political prisoner Kyaw San ended his latest hunger strike in Insein prison last week, according to his wife May Nwet.

May Nwet told DVB Kyaw San staged the hunger strike to protest flooding in his cell but that his health had deteriorated.

"The doctor recommend him (to check) his ears, eyes once a month. Now, he is not allowed after five weeks, six weeks . . . He can't see or get what he wants," May Nwet said.

Kyaw San, a 75-year-old National League for Democracy member, has been imprisoned three times by Burmese authorities and has staged several hunger strikes during his time in Insein prison.

NLD social welfare secretary Hla Thein said many political prisoners in Burma staged hunger strikes.

". . . we will have many more politicians and activists who will express their desire for the emergence of a correct system, a correct situation, freedom from oppression and the emergence of a solution, with their lives," Hla Thein said.

"We dare exchange our lives with the truth by facing the truth. We will continue to recognise and honour the politicians who sacrifice their lives for the benefit of all."

Staff at Insein prison were not available to comment on Kyaw San's condition.

[Top](#)

[Farmer jailed for false claim against officials](#)

Dec 29, 2006

A court in Kaw Hmu township has sentenced 51 year-old farmer Daw Khin Win to a year in prison for filing what authorities have described as a false law suite against the her village peace and development council.

Shortly after local elections in November 2004, Daw Khin Win lodged a formal complaint alleging some new officials were involved in cattle and diesel trafficking.

Two days before her sentence hearing, she told DVB she would rather go to prison than take back her claims against township leaders.

“If they fine me on a charge where I believe myself innocent, and if I agree to pay for it, that’ll make me somehow agreeing that they were right. I rather go into prison hoping that the truth will be revealed one day,” Daw Khin Win said.

She told DVB the two year court battle had taken a heavy toll on her finances and that she was unable to continue to fight against her sentence.

“I have to sell paddy with whatever price I can get as I have to pay for the expenses of travelling back and forth to court . . . It’s about 100,000 to 200,000 kyat for each trip . . . the case has been going for nearly two years now and I am totally worn out,” she said.

U Aung Thein a senior lawyer with the National League for Democracy said the party would help Khin Win appeal against her sentence.

“The Citizens' Right Protection code was passed by the parliament in Burma in 1975. According to it, any citizen has the right to file a report regardless of what the matter is. We think this sentence being passed on old farmer is damaging towards her.”

[Top](#)