

Democratic Voice of Burma Political Prisoners News July - 2006

AA

Mater Dolorosa: Another NLD member absconds to Thai-Burmese border

01, July, 2006

Burma's Win Tin is going to be 17 years in jail on 4 July *02, July, 2006*

NLD leader daughter sacked from her job *04, July, 2006*

Burmese political prisoners' health conditions *04, July, 2006*

Daik-U NLD chairmna's funeral not allowed to be held officially *04, July, 2006*

NLD MP Than Nyein is not well in jail *06, July,2006*

Burmese lawyer Aye Myint released *09, July,2006*

Solo protestor Tun Tun rearrested in Burma *10, July, 2006*

ILO and NLD welcome Burmese lawyer Aye Myint's release *10, July, 2006*

Farmer sued for working on his confiscated paddy fields *14,July,2006*

Severe weather causes Burmese prisoners illness *15,July, 2006*

Aung Than Tun will face court over report to ILO *17, July, 2006*

88 Generation Students will salute Burmese martyrs *18, July, 2006*

Solo protester Tun Tun sent to mental hospital *18, July, 2006*

Defiant: student and youth leaders pay homage to fallen Burma heroes *19,July, 2006*

Students arrested for paying homage to Burma's national hero *19,July, 2006*

Unofficial translation of the statement of 88 Generation Students on the 59th anniversary of Martyrs' Day, 19 July 2006. *20,July, 2006*

Three students from Burma's Monywa released*20,July, 2006*

ILO 'informers' trial postponed in Burma's Aunglan *Jul 20, 2006*

Lawyer still unable to appeal for youths imprisoned for writing poem *27, July, 2006*

Gone but not forgotten: Late Burmese poet Kyi Tin Oo remembered *28, July, 2006*

Burmese political prisoner Myo Khin released *29, July, 2006*

Burmese heroine honoured by her MP and fellow activists *30, July, 2006*

Burma's problems could not be solved by junta alone – the opposition *31, July, 2006*

Mater Dolorosa: Another NLD member absconds to Thai-Burmese border

01, July, 2006

Another ex-political prisoner and a member the National League for Democracy (NLD) fled Burma due to the increasing oppression on the party members by the authorities of the country's ruling military junta, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

Mi Mi Tun is a member of Kachin State, Mohnyin Township NLD and her 28-year-old son Nay Zaw was arrested on 14 March by anti-narcotics special police force and died on 2 May from the torture wounds he received in the hand of the police. She reported the matter to Northern Command commander Maj-Gen Ohn Myint and fled to the Thai-Burmese border after the police tried to cause problems for her.

“On 14 March, my son and three friends went out on motorcycles and five special narcotics members led by Khin Maung Nyi stopped and searched them with bamboo poles,” Mi Mi Tun told DVB from an unidentified location on the Thai-Burmese border. “They found nothing (incriminating) on their bodies or on the cycles. They didn't release them but beat them up. My son was treated for his wounds for 23 days at Myikyina. As the medical treatments were not effective, my son died on 2 May. I feel aggrieved for my son's death. Therefore, I went to the commander to report the matter in the hope that the truth might come out if I reported it to him. I brought along with me eyewitnesses. The special narcotics and the police members harassed me upside down so that the matter would not reach the commander. I had no place to live and nowhere to run; that's why I came here.”

She vowed to continue carrying out activities so that the killers of her son are prosecuted.

“I have only one son and he was very 'leinma' (good, obedient, disciplined etc). Now that this happened to my son, I can't be consoled. I can't accept it. Therefore, I will report it to all the international organisations concerned as much as I could.”

[Top](#)

Burma's Win Tin is going to be 17 years in jail on 4 July

02, July, 2006

Renowned Burmese journalist and writer Win Tin, currently being detained at Rangoon Insein Jail, will be spending 17 years of his detention on 4 July.

According to Maung Maung Khin who has been visiting Win Tin every fortnight told DVB that Win Tin said that it is nearly one year since he was taken to the gate of the jail for release, only to be continued to be detained on 6 July 2005. Human rights activists insisted the action was an act of mental torture.

Maung Maung Khin added that Win Tin is not only well but his health is also improving.

“He said before he was unable to take shower in the morning. Now he could,” Maung Maung Khin who went to see Win Tin yesterday said. “The ICRC (International

Committee of the Red Cross) hasn't come to see him for more than a year. But the prison doctors came to see him. Sometimes, the outside specialist doctors came to see him. My health is good, he told me thus."

Win Tin, one of the political mentors of Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, continues to serve his 20-year prison sentence.

He is regularly offered freedom in exchange for a signed promise to give up all political activity. But he has always refused to cut such a deal and break his ties with the National League for Democracy (NLD), which was cheated out of its landslide victory at the 1990 general elections.

He was convicted of "subversion" and "anti-government propaganda." In 1996, he was held for five months in a dog-kennel at Rangoon's Insein prison. He has since had two heart attacks and lost most of his teeth. Now 76+, he has been shuttling back and forth between his cell and the spartan prisoners' wing of Rangoon hospital for the past few years.

These days, Burma's military rulers treat him with a little more respect and he now has his own cell. But he is still not allowed to write anything, according Paris-based Reporteurs Sans Frontiers (RSF).

[Top](#)

NLD leader daughter sacked from her job

04, July, 2006

Moe Moe Wa, the villager from Rangoon Syriam (Thanlyin) Township, who was sued with the trumped up charge of swearing at her local authorities, was sacked from her job as a skilled worker level-5 at No.2, Footwear Factory on 30 June. Moe Moe Wa who lives in Thabyekan Village had been working in the factory since 1999. Her father, Tin San is a joint-secretary of Syriam Township National League for Democracy (NLD) and he has been serving a five years jail terms at Rangoon Insein Jail since 2003.

In 2004, Thabyekan Village authority chairman U Nyein and family members entered Moe Moe Wa's home and beat her up. When she sued them over their inhumane behaviours, Nyein and township authority chairman Tin Htay countersued her with the trumped up charge. In May, both Nyein and Moe Moe Wa were fined 500 Kyats each by a court.

The factory authorities accused Moe Moe Wa of having criminal records and sacked her, pointing out the fines against her. But she insisted that the authorities persecuted her thus because she is the daughter of an NLD leader.

[Top](#)

Burmese political prisoners' health conditions

04, July, 2006

The elected representative (MP) Kyaw San who is being detained at the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail, has been suffering from frequent eye complaints, according to his wife May Nwet who went to see him at the prison recently.

“As for his health – when he reads it often, his eyes start to ache. He can’t live without reading. As he is idle inside (the prison), he keeps on reading. I don’t know whether it is the pains from the operated eyes. (His eyes) are red and when I went to see him he said they ached. They also took him to the clinic. Both of his eyes were operated on. I bought him eye drop. His ears are also aching, he said. One ear hasn’t got much hearing nerve and quite heavy (hard of hearing). I bought him 30,000 Kyats worth of medicines. He is quite feeble as he is quite old now. Normally, as he is mentally strong, he rarely got diseases. Now he is into his 75 years, and on 17 June, he was 74 years old; now entering 75.”

Similarly, the wife of Taungoo Township MP Aung Soe Myint, Aye Aye San told DVB about her husband’s condition as follows:

“His health is good, but we have to provide him continuous supply of medicines. He is being controlled by medicines. As for the medicines; constant supply of medicines for diabetes, then, nerve tonic, brain tonic etc. He drinks/takes all these. I am hoping that he will be released in the coming two years. He has been there for three years.”

Aung Soe Myint was arrested and detained at the end of 2003 in connection with a motorcycle accident, and indicted under laws relating to unlicensed vehicles and sentenced to 7 years in jail. Sagaing Division Tantse Township MP Kyaw San was jailed because some ‘illegal’ goods belonging to the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) were found at his Rangoon home while he was away.

[Top](#)

Daik-U NLD chairmna’s funeral not allowed to be held officially

04, July, 2006

Burma’s Pegu Division, Daik-U Township National League for Democracy (NLD) chairman Maung Muang Khin had died of old age yesterday evening.

82-year-old Maung Maung Khin had been carrying out his duties as the chairman of Daik-U Township NLD since it was formed in the late 80s. But the local election commission barred NLD members from carrying out an official funeral for him, which is scheduled tomorrow.

A lcoal NLD member told DVB that the authorities had imposed the ban thus because they are afraid that there could be some sorts of instability as the historic 7 July approaches. On 7 July 1962, Burmese students at Rangoon University were gunned down by soldiers. They were protesting against the military coup led by General Ne Win in March 1962. Over 100 students died in the attack and the Rangoon Student University building was destroyed by bomb blasts.

“We can’t do anything. We are not even allowed to stick the words NLD on the bouquet (wreath), they told us. They told us that it is a special ban on us,” said the NLD member. “We are not feeling very good about tomorrow’s funeral. They only allowed us to hold a normal funeral for the chairman of the whole township and told us not to do anything to do with the party. What they said was 7 July is approaching. In the end, they are afraid that there could be a movement starting from this and they are just trying to control it. Therefore, they told us not even to wear our uniforms.”

Maung Muang Khin was an ex-Burmese soldier who had been supporting the family members of political prisoners as much as he could.
May he rest in peace!

[Top](#)

NLD MP Than Nyein is not well in jail

06, July, 2006

National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative (MP) Dr. Than Nyein who is being detained Prome at (Pyay) Jail in central Burma, has been suffering from cancerous prostate and liver diseases.

His condition is said to be in a worrying state as there is no doctor at the prison to look after him at the moment, according to his wife Khin Aye who went to see him at the prison recently.

“The prison doctor had moved out since early this year but his replacement hasn’t arrived yet. He said he is worried. In case of emergency, they have to fetch a township doctor,” Khin Aye told DVB. “If the doctor is not here for emergency, I will be in trouble, if something happens to me, he said. As the ICRC (International Committee of the Red Cross) doesn’t come, he can’t say anything about his health.”

The prison authorities have been barring Than Nyein from seeing specialist doctors for his prostate and liver complaints for nearly two years.

“As for me, I want him to be shown to specialists in Rangoon most. Only then would we know properly what is happening to him. Leave aside his heart and high blood pressure, the doctors here can deal with them. His prostate could become cancerous, especially, his liver shrinks and toughens and it could become cancerous.”

Than Nyein was sentenced to seven years in jail in 1997 for trying to form Rangoon Mayangone Township National League for Democracy (NLD) Youth. He was due to be release in 2004, but continued to be detained with Act 10A. He staged a hunger strike to protest against the unjust practice and he was transferred from Rangoon Insein Jail to Thrawaddy, Paungde and Prome Jail, step by step.

[Top](#)

Burmese lawyer Aye Myint released

09, July, 2006

Burmese lawyer Aye Myint from Pegu in lower central Burma, detained for providing ‘wrong’ information to the International Labour organisation (ILO), was released from the local prison today.

According to Aye Myint, before he was released, he had to sign Act – 401 in which he had to pledge that he will serve the remaining 6 years and one month sentence if he commits ‘crime’ again in the future. The ILO also warned Burma’s ruling military junta, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) to release Aye Myint by the end of July.

Aye Myint was sent to prison because he tried to help farmers from nearby Phaungdawthi Village to regain their pasturelands confiscated from them by the army and veteran organisations.

He was arrested in August 2005 and sentenced to seven years in prison in October by a local court and served his sentence in Pegu Jail.

[Top](#)

Solo protestor Tun Tun rearrested in Burma

10, July, 2006

Former political prisoner Tun Tun from Nyaungdone Township in Irrawaddy Division, who staged a solo protest outside Rangoon City Hall on the birthday of Aung San Suu Kyi (19 June), has been rearrested on 7 July.

According to sources close to him, Tun Tun was rearrested because it could be that he prayed loudly for those who gave up their lives for democracy and human rights in Burma at the auspicious Shwedagon Pagoda in Rangoon, on the 44th anniversary of historic 7 July, the day on which Burmese students at Rangoon University who were protesting against the military coup led by General Ne Win in March 1962 were gunned down by soldiers in 1962. Over 100 students died in the attack and the Rangoon Student University Union building was destroyed by bomb blasts.

Tun Tun was not arrested at the pagoda but at his home around midnight by members of Special Branch (SB) police. It is not known where he is being detained or under which act he is being detained, according to his friends.

30+ year-old Tun Tun is an active youth who was not only arrested for staging the solo protest but also sentenced to nearly four years in jail for switching on ‘foreign’ Burmese radio broadcasts (from DVB, BBC, Radio Free Asia, Voice of America) loudly.

[Top](#)

ILO and NLD welcome Burmese lawyer Aye Myint’s release

10, July, 2006

Burma’s main opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) warmly welcomed the release of Aye Myint, the lawyer from Pegu who was jailed for reporting human rights abuses including forced labour to the ILO.

But the ILO said that the release is not really the attempt to end forced labour in Burma and the military government must do more to show its desire to end the practice. An ILO official, Kari Tapiola told DVB that Aye Myint should have never been jailed in the first place, but the military government jailed him because he provided information (on human rights abuses) to the ILO.

He also stated that there is no more reason for the authorities to arrest people like Aye Myint if the government doesn't arrest people who provide information to the ILO. He added that the ILO will continue to cooperate with the government and urge it to end forced labour. Tapiola also urged the people of Burma to bravely report forced labour to the ILO.

The NLD spokesman Nyan Win also welcomed the release of Aye Myint but he added it is not clear whether he was released because of pressure from the ILO or the junta itself wants to carry out changes regarding forced labour practices.

“But what we want to say is, like the release of people who were detained in connection with forced labour, the people (of Burma) and the international community will applaud (the junta), if it tries to end forced labour. That is what we want.”

Aye Myint was sent to jail because he tried to help farmers from Phaungdawthi Village in Pegu Township regain their pasturelands confiscated from them by the army and veteran organisations. He was arrested in August 2005 and sentenced to seven years in jail in October by a local court. He said that he will continue to report forced labour practices and land confiscations to the ILO despite the danger of being sent to jail again.

When asked if Burmese lawyers should form a group to effectively counter forced labour in Burma, Nyan Win said:

“We support this idea. But what I want to say is, we also once dreamed of forming a group and carry out activities. But, in the current situation of Burma, there is no legitimate lawyer organisation except the Bar Council, because it is not allowed to be formed. It is not only in this matter that the government (has been interfering with). After they (the generals) gained power (in 1962 in a coup), in order to set up a lawyer organisation legally, no right for legal registration was given. The situation is like that. And the only legal organisation, the Bar Council changed its rules and it is made up of all the people appointed by the government. In this kind of situation, I think that it would be very difficult to form an organisation. As for me, I want to say it as a lawyer. It is very encouraging to have this kind of lawyers to work for the truth. We encourage this kind of action and we are also doing the same. We also encourage other people so that they can do like that. For this, we are satisfied.”

Farmer sued for working on his confiscated paddy fields

14, July, 2006

Although the Burmese military authorities recently released lawyer Aye Myint from Pegu, who was jailed for reporting forced labour and land confiscations to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the authorities are not only not returning the 400 acres of paddy fields to their rightful owners but also suing a farmer for failing to pay 'tax' to them.

Farmer Khin Win from Phaungdawthi Village, Daik-U Township Pegu Division, was sued and taken to court because he worked on the paddy fields which were confiscated from him by army veteran association, without paying tax. Aye Myint told DVB that the veteran association has been trying to settle the case outside the court after his release.

"Now, Daik-U court is running amok as they are afraid that the truth might come out and trying to erase (traces of evidence). The judge is negotiating for them. The other side (veteran association?) said they will withdraw/drop (the charge against Khin Win?). Whether they withdraw it or not, we will have to keep the record in accordance with the law."

The veteran association and pro-junta Union Solidarity and Development Association (USDA) confiscated 420 acres of pasturelands belonging to Phaungdawthi farmers and rented out the lands to the farmers again.

Although the authorities have been intimidating farmers not report the matter to anyone, Aye Myint said farmers enthusiastically have been coming to see him for consultation and he had received more nearly 10 reports from them.

[Top](#)

Severe weather causes Burmese prisoners illness

15, July, 2006

Burmese prisoners at Kalemmyo and Lashio Jails have been ill frequently and suffering from skin diseases due to severe weather condition and lack of medicines.

At Kalemmyo Jail in northwest Burma, inmates have been ill due to the extreme weather condition even during the rainy season. Moreover, due to lack of soaps and medicines, skin diseases are spreading to the whole prison.

The elected representative (MP) of Lashio Township, Than Htay has been ill frequently, according to his youngest son Ko Min who went to see him at the prison last month.

Ko Min added that prisoners at Lashio Jail in northeast Burma have also been ill frequently and suffering skin complaints for the same reasons.

Than Htay and his older son Ko Too were arrested in August 2004 and charged with four trumped up counts of violating import-export acts including possessing 'illegal' cordless phones. Than Htay was sent to Kalemmyo Jail which is the farthest and remotest place from his family.

Before his arrest and subsequent imprisonment, Than Htay was pressured by Lashio Police commissioner himself to quit his party, the National League for Democracy (NLD).

[Top](#)

Aung Than Tun will face court over report to ILO

17, July, 2006

Aung Than Oo from Aunglan (Allen), Magwe Division in central Burma, who was indicted and warranted in his absent for giving ‘untrue’ information to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), said that he is ready to face the trial.

Aung Than Tun has been sued with fellow villagers Thein Zan and Zaw Htay for allegedly giving ‘untrue’ information to the ILO over the death of Ngapyin villager Aung Hlaing Win during a forced labour session.

Although Thein Zan and Zaw Htay attended all the appointments at the court Aung Than Tun missed all of them because he had to receive medical treatments for his worsening piles, and as a result, he was warranted by the court.

“I only learnt about this (the warrant) this month, just two weeks ago,” Aung Than Tun told DVB. “Only then did I learn that I was warranted and indicted. As I learnt it through the grapevine, I am not hesitant to face justice. I didn’t report it myself, the brother of the dead, Ko Min Lwin himself sent the copies to the Interior Ministry and Labour Ministry. But there was no one to send it (the report), Ko Min Lwin had no time and went home. I registered it with my identity card and sent it and they are making a big case out of it by accusing me of giving untrue information.”

Aung Than Tun added that he was not sued by the authorities as such but by Thayet District police chief Sein Win and the trial will be overseen by Township judge Khin Khin Swe. He said he could be either sent to prison or freed due pressure from the ILO after serving the initial sentence.

“In a word, (the case/the charge) against me could be withdrawn (dropped), completely withdrawn. It could be like that. But I don’t keep my hope in it. They (the military authorities) are taking the law into their own hand and do whatever they like. As U Shwe Mann, that is Thura Shwe Mann the general, said there is no man above the law, but the army is there.”

National League for Democracy (NLD) lawyer Khin Maung Shein is going to represent Aung Than Tun at Aunglan Township court on 20 July, and two elders will support him by appearing as witnesses.

Aung Than previously carried out his national duties as a forest supervisor before he was fired from his job for taking part in the 1988 nationwide pro-democracy uprising.

[Top](#)

88 Generation Students will salute Burmese martyrs

18, July, 2006

On the 59th anniversary of Martyrs' Day tomorrow, 88 Generation Students led by Min Ko Naing will peacefully march towards the Mausoleum in Rangoon and pay their respect to General Aung San and other national heroes who gave up their lives for the country.

As they are only going to pay their respect to the martyrs, to whom the people of Burma are indebted to, there is no reason for the authorities to be alarmed by their peaceful action, student leaders told DVB.

The newspapers and informers of the ruling junta, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) are describing this kind of march as an attempt to incite the people for unrest. "I want to solve the word 'supu-sandappya' (rowdy demonstration or expression of desire). In fact, to demonstrate is not very different from to express one's desire. Therefore, a government hire a group people and says what it wants to say with the help of the crowd. When the government wants to attack political organisations which do not share its ideas, by means of spreading propaganda one way or another it carries out 'the expression of the attitude of the people' events. That's fine. What is an attitude? An attitude is a desire. What is the expression of desire-attitude? To express means to show. Therefore, the expression of desire is the same as to demonstrate. As for the government that holds the power, it is allowed to express its attitude as much as possible. As for those who do not have power, when they want to talk about their political beliefs, they are accused of staging rowdy demonstration. People who have considerable power to think know that whether it is fair to prepare to commit violate acts and oppress (those without power). Therefore, the majority of the people also know that."

The military authorities have tightened security in Rangoon and rumours of the authorities planning to counter the demonstrators with the so-called members of people's power holding associations (i.e. thugs) are flying around, and local residents are very concerned that violence might flare up.

"As for us, we will show that we are deeply grateful for the deeds of the martyred great leaders. Whoever tries to diminish (their role), whoever forgets the martyred leaders who gave up their lives for the existence of an independent state, whatever difficulties we face, we will have to face them all and salute them. On this matter, we will never start it by any violent means. However much they try to make us feel outraged, whatever they try to trap us with, we want to say from the beginning that we will never resort to violence. We are not breaking any law by saluting our martyred great leaders to whom we are indebted to. We want to say firmly that we are not committing any crime. Therefore, the majority are very concerned as there are some intimidations. I am talking about the facts that there are anxieties among communities and the public. We do not want to be heroes because we have nothing to do. Our country only needs to have true human rights and democracy. We do not want to act the parts of heroes. We are not seeking individual fame. In this matter, it is a simple case. We are going to salute the martyred leaders

peacefully. From our part, we only intend to do the saluting peacefully. If we have this right, we will end the matter peacefully.”

Political circles in Rangoon said that there could be many people who are visiting the Mausoleum and there could be some harassment from the authorities. But whatever happens, the authorities will solve the problems by standing up from the front, they added.

Exiled pro-democracy groups including the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (NCGUB), in their statements issued for the Martyrs’ Day, expressed their concerns at the preparations of the military government to carry violent crackdowns on people who are preparing to pay their respect at the Mausoleum.

[Top](#)

Solo protester Tun Tun sent to mental hospital

18, July, 2006

Solo protestor and former political prisoner Tun Tun who was rearrested on 7 July, has been detained at Rangoon Ywathagyi ‘mental hospital’.

A National League for Democracy (NLD) youth member told DVB that when he went to the hospital with some friends, the chief administrator confirmed that Tun Tun is in the hospital and told them to go to 133-Dagon Police Station and obtain the permit to see him there as the matter is under the supervision of the police. The police only took down their names but have not allowed them to see Tun Tun yet.

Thailand-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) secretary Tate Naing told DVB that the detention of a sane political activist in a mental hospital is an act of mental torture.

“(In the past), there was the case of a woman from the NLD being sent to a mental hospital. (The authorities) wanted to tell the public that she was sent (to the place) thus because she is not sane and mentally ill, and they also wanted to broadcast to the international community to that effect. We regard this kind of action as quite a severe form of mental torture. We believe that the SPDC (the ruling military junta, the State Peace and Development Council) is demeaning the dignity of the individual and destroying the value of the individual.”

Tun Tun was arrested on 19 July for staging a solo protest outside Rangoon City Hall to mark the 61st anniversary of detained NLD leader and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and he was released two days later. But he was taken away again by Special Branch (SB) police agents for allegedly praying loudly for the health and freedom of political prisoners at the serene Shwedagon Pagoda in Rangoon on 7 July.

[Top](#)

Defiant: student and youth leaders pay homage to fallen Burma heroes

19, July, 2006

Although the Burmese military authorities threatened various kinds of violence against those planning to march towards Martyrs' Mausoleum in Rangoon, 88 Generation Students and National League for Democracy (NLD) youth members were today able to pay homage to slain national heroes who were assassinated in 1947.

Armed security personnel had been placed at all important junctions in Rangoon and members of the so-called people's power holders association (i.e. thugs) were also placed around Shwedagon Pagoda and Mausoleum areas, disguised as cleaners with hoes and shovels in their hands, according to those who took part in the march towards the historic site.

Moreover, the army, police and fire brigades carried out show-of-strength displays to intimidate the public and three checkpoints were set up along the road leading to the Mausoleum and detailed searches were made on each one who visited the place.

Despite the heavy security presence, 88 Generation Students led by Min Ko Naing and other students, numbered around 30, all clad in black shirts, arrived at the Mausoleum at around 11.30am local time. Similarly, more than 200 National League for Democracy (NLD) youth members wearing T-shirts bearing the image of General Aung San and peach-coloured 'pinni' Burmese jackets reached the Mausoleum at around 12.30. They were told not to wear T-shirts bearing image of General Aung San or his detained daughter Aung San Suu Kyi and to remove their jackets which are the NLD party uniform. After nearly 20 minutes stand-off between authorities stationed at the road-block, the NLD members placed four flower baskets in the middle of the street facing the Martyr's mausoleum and paid tribute to the slain leaders, in an act of defiance.

On 19, July 1947, General Aung San, six cabinet ministers, and a government secretary and body guard were gunned down during a cabinet meeting at the Government Secretariat on Theinbyu Road in downtown Rangoon.

A political rival of General Aung San, Galon U Saw, was executed after being found guilty of having planned the assassination.

[Top](#)

Students arrested for paying homage to Burma's national hero

19, July, 2006

At least 3 88-Generation Students from Monywa in Sagaing Division and Bassein in Irrawaddy Division were arrested today for saluting the statue of Burma's national hero Aung San, on the 59th anniversary of the Martyrs' Day.

Some students at Monywa, Sagaing Division in central Burma woke up early today to pay their homage to slain Burmese national heroes including General Aung San who were assassinated on 19 July 1947. They were arrested by security personnel while saluting the statue and singing a patriotic song in unison in front of the statue situated in the town centre.

“Near there, the police and fire brigade members have been placed there since the previous days,” a local resident told DVB. “It was learnt that they ‘took away’ the students and slapped their faces. There were people who saw them being taken away. But we do not know their names or whether they are state (school) pupils or college students. We still haven’t heard that they were released.”

Similarly, there have been reports that seven students were arrested at Bassein (Pathein) in the delta region of Irrawaddy Division for the same reason. But when we contacted the police station an officer on duty denied the reports and said that nothing had happened in Bassein, insisting that the town was peaceful and calm.

[Top](#)

Unofficial translation of the statement of 88 Generation Students on the 59th anniversary of Martyrs’ Day, 19 July 2006.

20, July, 2006

“Today is a sad and thought-provoking (regrettable?) day on which the whole Burma’s nationality faced the great invaluable loss.

“The independence (of Burma) was won through dialogue at the end of more than 100 years of national struggle. The ability to build unity with ethnic nationals, (and) the ability to negotiate with foreign nationals, show that the political culture of Burma including that of the martyred leaders, was high.

“After the independence, the Anti-Fascist People’s Freedom League (AFPFL), led by Bogoyoke (General Aung San), won a decisive 95.3% of (of the votes from) all the constituencies when a nation-building parliamentary election (referendum?) on rebuilding Burma with multi-party parliamentary system was held.

“For a leader who claims the support of the public especially that of the ethnic nationals to emerge, we have to wait with historical age. It is not easy for such a thing to occur. If that kind of person dies, for a country that relies on personality, it not only loses good prospects for the country, but also the ability to solve problems. We are still enduring the dire consequences because it was not attempted to gain the support of the public the right way but through political violence and the assassination of martyred leaders trusted by the public.

“As it is an era of building a democratic system, in order not to include the bad seeds such as ugly political violence and assassination in the (past) history of Burma, we seriously urge all those who have patriotic spirit to diligently defend against and avoid (violence), and solve (political problems) by means of dialogue.”

88 Generation Students

[Top](#)

Three students from Burma’s Monywa released

20, July, 2006

Three students from Monywa, Mandalay Division in central Burma, who were arrested for paying homage to slain national heroes on 19 July, were released after interrogations, according to the police on duty and local residents.

Although the names of the students are not known, local residents told DVB that they are from Monywa Technological University and Computer University. They were arrested by the police for saluting the statue of general Aung San which is situated in the heart of the town three times, on the 59th anniversary of Matryrs' Day.

"They were interrogated for awhile. They had been released," a police officer on duty told DVB. "I don't know why. I am in charge today. I don't know who was in charge yesterday. I was travelling yesterday. I only returned last night. I learnt that they were interrogated for awhile...and released straight away."

Although the police officer didn't admit openly as to why the students were arrested, local residents told DVB that they were arrested and interrogated because they saluted the statue of Aung San.

[Top](#)

ILO 'informers' trial postponed in Burma's Aunglan

Jul 20, 2006

The trial of three people accused of sending 'untrue' reports to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), was today postponed by Aunglan (Allen) Township court in central Burma.

National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative (MP) Thein Zan, member Zaw Htay and Arakan State Taungup Township NLD member Aung Than Tun were accused of reporting 'untrue' information to the ILO over the death of Win Lwin from Ngapyin Village in Aunglan Township, during a forced labour session.

Lawyer representing the three, Khin Maung Shein said the judge told him that the case has been transferred to Thayet District Court and the trial is to be postponed to 21 August, with summons to the accused pending.

[Top](#)

Lawyer still unable to appeal for youths imprisoned for writing poem

27, July, 2006

Lawyer for two youths from Pegu in Lower Burma, Aung Than and Zeya Aung who were imprisoned for writing and distributing a political poem, is still unable to lodge appeals on their behalf because the authorities are still refusing to transfer 'power' letter to him.

Pegu Division National League for Democracy (NLD) lawyer Mya Hla told DVB that 60 days were given for the appeals to be lodged from the time the sentences were passed but he now had only until 7 August to lodge the appeals due to the delaying tactic of prison authorities at Insein Jail.

Four youths from Pegu including Aung Than and Zeya Aung were arrested for writing and distributing a poem titled Daung Man (the might of the fighting peacock) and given prison terms up to 19 years on 9 June.

Aung Than was given 19 years, Zeya Aung of King Star teashop received 19 years, Aung Aung Oo of A20 Computing Business got 14 years and a textile printer named Sein Hlaing received 19 years. Only Sein Hlaing has been detained at Pegu Prison and the rest were taken to Rangoon Insein Jail.

Aung Than and Zeya Aung were indicted under the infamous 1950 Emergency Provision Act – 5J and the Printing Act, and for having contacts with ‘illegal’ organisations, and crossing the border illegally, and Aung Aung Oo, under the Printing Act and Sein Hlaing, for printing symbols of a raised clenched fist on shirts.

All the youths except Sein Hlaing were arrested on 29 March and Sein Hlaing was arrested in late May when Aung Than told his interrogators that the T-shirt images were printed at Sein Hlaing’s shop.

All of them were tried behind closed doors inside the local prison, without having access to legal representatives.



Gone but not forgotten: Late Burmese poet Kyi Tin Oo remembered

28, July, 2006

A religious memorial ceremony marking the 2nd anniversary of the passing away of the late poet and political prisoner Kyi Tin Oo was held at Rangoon Hlaing Township’s Parami Buddhist monastery on 24 July, according to a family member.

The ceremony was attended by Kyi Tin Oo’s old literary friends and former political prisoners.

Kyi Tin Oo was arrested in 1994 and sentenced to 10 years in jail. He was released on 26 March 2004 and died on 24 July 2004 from the consequences of the physical and mental tortures he suffered in the hand of military intelligence agents during the detention.

He was suffering from a combination of diseases including diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease, and detained beyond his release date. His son Aung Kyaw Hein (aka) Kyaw Kyaw was also sent to Kale Prison in northern Burma with a 14 year sentence.

Kyi Tin Oo died while his wife, a fellow poet Yi Wai was on her way to Kale Prison to visit their imprisoned son. Before he died, he thanked all his literary friends who helped him through thick and thin, and he expressed the sorrow of not being able to say goodbye to his faithful beloved wife (and son) at his deathbed.

When he was released, Kyi Tin Oo told DVB that he was likely to die more than a year after his release and that he had the urge to write poetry all the time despite having to struggle for his survival constantly.

“With these diseases, I won’t last long,” he predicted in a prophetic way. He added that the way the junta treated him and his fellow political prisoners, it was clear that the generals want them to be extinct. “My freedom amounts to nothing at the moment. At present, I would like to try and improve my health condition to be able to go and see the face of my son. We have been separated for six years. I want to go and see him.”

He never managed to see his son.

[Top](#)

Burmese political prisoner Myo Khin released

29, July, 2006

Rangoon Yankin Township National League for Democracy (NLD) member Myo Khin was released from Prome (Pyay) Jail in lower Burma yesterday.

49-year-old Myo Khin has been actively involved in pro-democracy movement since 1988 and imprisoned twice for his role. In 1997, he was arrested for the first time for forming and performing a dance troupe called ‘Khutdaung Ar-man’ (the strength of fighting peacock) and sent to prison with trumped up charges.

Although he was released in 1999, Myo Khin was again rearrested in 2003 after the infamous Dipeyin (Tabayin) Massacre. He was accused of having contacted with the outlawed armed student group, All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) and sentenced to three years in jail under Act – 17/1.

During his detentions, Myo Khin opposed all unfair oppressions on political prisoners within the prison. In April 2005, with other political prisoners, he staged hunger strike to protest against unfair treatment and oppressions of prisoners in Rangoon Insein Jail. They were beaten up by the henchmen of prison authorities, and Myo Khin was transferred to Prome Jail for his peaceful action.

Myo Khin made a living as a video artist.

[Top](#)

Burmese heroine honoured by her MP and fellow activists

30, July, 2006

A formal ceremony honouring human rights activist Su Su Nway, the villager from Rangoon Kawmoo Township’s Htan Manaing, was held at the home of the local National League for Democracy (NLD) elected representative (MP) Myaungmya Ba Swe’s home today.

Only around 50 party members and supporters were able to attend the ceremony as the authorities, especially the police carried out extensive and unnecessary searches and interrogations of potential attendants. The ceremony was originally to be held on 25 July and permission was sought from the local authorities but it was rejected by the order of the divisional authorities.

Su Su Nway is the first person ever in Burma to have successfully sued her local authority members over forced labour practices. But, as an act of revenge, she was subsequently counter-sued with trumped up charges by them and jailed for 18 months last October 13 on charges of criminal intimidation after complaints lodged by local officials.

She was sent to the notorious Rangoon Insein Jail and released on 6 June due to pressure from the international community especially the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

[Top](#)

Burma's problems could not be solved by junta alone – the opposition

31, July, 2006

If Burma's military junta tried to finish its sham Nyaung-Hnapiin National Convention for drafting a new constitution, and attempted to continue to rule the country, it won't last long as it would be unacceptable to the people, the opposition leaders said.

Their comments came after the ruling junta, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) national convention organising commission chairman Lt-Gen Thein Sein said that 75% of its National Convention is finished in accordance with the 7-points roadmap plan.

“The National Convention is implicated in what they term the 7-points road map,” said the spokesman of National League for Democracy (NLD) Nyan Win. “It mainly involves the future Burma's constitution. This constitution is not for an organisation per se; it belongs to the country. Although it is so, they never tell the public about the time frame etc. If they say so, we believe that they should tell the public. If they continue to do so without the desire of the public, we believe that the government that has no support of the public will not last long.”

“The way they are doing this discussion by naming it the National Convention indicates political problem exists. If there is no political problem, the 1974 constitution could have become permanent,” said 88 Generation student leader Ko Ko Gyi. “Only when there was political problem did they attempt to write a new constitution. Therefore, it is a political problem. When you try to solve this problem, if you try to do it without political forces, you can think in ordinary way (what will happen). We want to say seriously that this won't help us build an enduring and stable future.”

Ko Ko Gyi added that there could more discontent in Burma if the ruling generals try to drag the country into a one-party system again:

“From practising the multi-party system of 1948 to 1962, after the (military) coup, they tried to build the nation with a single party, central controlled system. The 1988 pro-democracy uprising shows that the attempt was not successful. And, they now say that they are building the multi-party system and they are still trying to build the country with the one-party, and central controlled system. If they are continuing with this form, they are only doing democracy for show, which was (not) what the people really demanded

and desired, and in essence, it will become a one-party system prior to (19) 88. In 88, the public demonstrated and demanded for change in massive number. Then, they said they will hold the election and set up a multi-party system, and with that promise they held the election. Therefore, as the 1990 election is 16 years old now, the public's hope for change are deteriorating and disappearing slowly. Therefore, the public's disgruntlement and the real desire for change have increased. Therefore, they cannot solve problems and fulfil (their needs) for show only. That is how I see.”

Although the international community including the UN has been pressuring the military junta to hold talks with the election winning NLD, the generals are still refusing to budge and continuing with its so-called 7-points roadmap plan. The junta has been convening the National Convention on and off since 17 May 2004, but critics said that it will not be able to bring forth a true constitution as the main political forces have not been involved.

[Top](#)