

**Democratic Voice of Burma
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Young man stages solo protest in Arakan State

June 19, 2007

A 25-year-old man from Arakan State's Taunggoat township staged a solo demonstration outside a local market early this morning, calling on the military to help decrease commodity prices.

Eyewitnesses told *DVB* that Kyaw Min Naing started to draw a crowd at about 5am this morning when he started shouting demands for curbs on inflation.

"He was calling for an end to the hardships faced by grass-roots people . . . As dawn came the market became crowded and more and more people came to watch him. He had a big audience," an eyewitness said.

Kyaw Min Naing reportedly then moved to his protest to several bus stops and a local hospital. Rumours have spread that he was arrested after the demonstrations and his whereabouts are unknown.

Sources close to Kyaw Min Naing said his mother and sister had interrogated about his political activities and that he had not been seen since this afternoon.

"We still haven't heard about whether he has been arrested or not," an eyewitness said.

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People's militia behind opposition arrests

June 20, 2007

The Swan Arr Shin, or the people's militia, in Rangoon were responsible for the arrests of three National League for Democracy members yesterday, according to one detained member, U Kyin Hlaing.

After he and his two colleagues Ko Ohn Kyaw and Ko Sein Hlaing were released late yesterday, U Kyin Hlaing told *DVB* that the men who detained on their way to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's 62nd birthday celebrations had them identified themselves as being with the Swan Arr Shin.

"We were waiting for a boat to come across a river to Rangoon while on our way to the celebrations . . . we found ourselves surrounded by between 40 and 50 Swan Arr Shin members," U Kyin Hlaing said.

"They grabbed us by the arms and told us to come with them for a while. We asked them who they were and they said they were from the Swan Arr Shin," he said. The three men were reportedly questioned for several hours at the Kyaikkasan interrogation centre before being released.

"When we got there we were taken aside by two officers. They asked us whether or not we had been invited to the celebrations and we said we were," U Kyin Hlaing said. [Top](#)

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USDA harass injured NLD member

June 25, 2007

Members of the Union Solidarity and Development Association allegedly ventured into an operating theatre in a Mandalay hospital last week to harass bashed National League for Democracy member U Than Lwin while he underwent surgery.

U Than Lwin, a 70-year-old elected member of parliament, was hospitalised on June 15 after he was punched in the head as he walked down a Mandalay street by an unidentified man wearing a knuckle-duster.

His son and daughter said that Burma's notorious special police and a number of USDA members continued to loiter around his hospital bed this week and that some had even entered an operating theatre last Wednesday while U Than Lwin underwent surgery on his badly broken nose.

"Some of them were wearing their USDA uniforms . . . some of them waited at the door of where my father was being treated and some even came inside and stood by his bed. I asked them what they were doing and they turned away," U Than Lwin's son Ko Zaw Min Lwin said.

The operation on U Than Lwin's nose was reportedly successful but his family said he had been left weak and unable to talk after being under anesthetic. Mandalay USDA officials have been unable to comment on why members appear to be staking out the hospital.

“There is no privacy near my father. As the special police are watching us closely, we can’t talk freely,” U Than Lwin’s daughter Ma Khin Mar Lwin said.

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Family fear for AIDS activist after reports of hunger strike

June 26, 2007

The family of detained AIDS activist and National League for Democracy member Phyu Phyu Thin said yesterday they feared for her safety after receiving reports that she was staging a hunger strike.

Phyu Phyu Thin’s sister, Sabai Oo, told *DVB* that the family had received credible reports saying that the activist was seven days into a hunger strike at the Kyaikkasan interrogation centre and was growing weak.

“We are worried that something might happen to her . . . We were told no one bothered to look after her until the fifth day of her strike. Now we have been told that she can't even sit up and we were worried that she might die,” Sabai Oo said.

“But we don't know who we should talk to . . . We are helpless.”

High-profile activist and former political prisoner Su Su Nway said that reports had also emerged that Phyu Phyu Thin was refusing to drink water. She said that NLD doctor Tin Myo Win had asked the Burmese authorities for permission to visit the detained activist but that he had been told by officials that reports of the hunger strike were not true.

“If the news of the hunger strike is not true, then why can’t they let her family see her? . . . We are seriously concerned for her well-being and would like to urge the authorities to let her family visit her,” Su Su Nway said.

Phyu Phyu Thin, who ran a small HIV/AIDS clinic, which cared for about 30 patients, was arrested on May 21.

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Karenni rebels bear brunt of attack on Shan defectors

June 26, 2007

Four soldiers with the Karenni National Progressive Party were reportedly killed last Thursday when they ran into Burmese military troops while trying to help a group of Shan rebel defectors flee through their territory.

More than 100 members of a splinter faction from the Shan State Nationalities Liberation Organization reportedly led by majors Thurein and Aung Kyaw fled Shan State earlier this month and are believed to be making their way to the Thai-Burma border through KNPP territory.

KNPP spokesperson Raymond Htoo told *DVB* that the soldiers were captured by the Burmese military and killed as they tried to find a route for the Shan soldiers across a river.

“Our troops and those from the SSNLO ran into the State Peace and Development Council’s light infantry battalion 508 while making their way across a river and a fight broke out,” Raymond Htoo said.

“Four of our soldiers were on a barge and were captured when a SPDC speed boat cornered them,” he said. The Burmese military had reportedly ventured into the area to locate the SSNLO defectors.

The SSNLO, which signed a cease-fire agreement with the military in October 1994, is based in southern Shan State. Tensions from within the group prompted a split late last year with a faction led by major Chit Maung denouncing the rest of the group.

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Solo demonstrators take to Rangoon streets

June 27, 2007

Two men staged solo public protest in Rangoon on Sunday and Monday, one calling for greater civilian rights and the other calling on the Burmese military to release detained democracy icon Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

On Sunday, Ko Maung Oo from Rangoon’s New Dagon township was arrested after walking up and down a street calling for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and complaining about the economic conditions in Burma.

“He also shouted that the government’s 12 season cropping system is causing people to starve,” one eye witness told .

“About an hour later he was arrested by local peace and development council and fire brigade officials.”

On Monday, U Than Lwin from Bahan township took to the streets in protest over a Rangoon courts decision against him in a housing dispute. He reportedly stood in front of city hall holding a placard that said ‘protect civilian rights’ and was briefly detained by police before being released.

“Two policemen came out of city hall and took me inside. I was protesting for between 10 and 15 minutes before this happened,” U Than Lwin later told .

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Mandalay prison cracks down on food for political inmates

June 27, 2007

Mandalay prison officials have imposed increased restrictions on food brought to the prison for political inmates, according to several prisoners’ family members.

Sources close to the prison said the new restrictions banning many types of food for political prisoners have been implemented since the birthday of detained National League for Democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on June 19.

“On Daw Suu’s birthday, the prison authorities seized all the political prisoners’ food and packets of instant coffee mix. They are now allowing less food to be brought in. They have an official notice at the prison gates saying this is a new policy,” the daughter of one political prisoner told *DVB*.

“The families of regular prisoners are allowed to bring in food with no problems,” she said.

A former political prisoner who was recently released from Mandalay prison said many of the civilian prison officers had been replaced by former military personnel who were much stricter on the inmates.

Ko Shwe Maung, a member of the NLD and a former inmate, said that the orders to restrict the food given to political prisons likely came from higher authorities and that the move was designed to decrease inmate morale.

“That normally leads to a point when the political prisoners lose their patience and start complaining or becoming rebellious. Then the officials can say that restrictions were laid down because the prisoners were undisciplined,” Ko Shwe Maung said.

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Dozens of Burmese activists released

June 28, 2007

Forty six of the 52 activists arrested in May after attending prayer campaigns for the release of detained democracy icon Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were released today, according to opposition sources in Rangoon.

Activist Su Su Nway told *DVB* that most of the people arrested on May 15 had now been allowed to return home.

“The ones still under detention are Ma Phyu Phyu Thin, Ko Aye Naing, Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min, Myint Kyaw Oo, Phyo Wai Oo and Ko Aye Lwin,” Su Su Nway said.

The released Free Daw Suu campaigners said they were held in a number of separate locations around Rangoon after they were arrested by militia posing as civilians. Many said they were forced by the police to sign agreement before they were released.

Ko Aung Din, who was detained at the security police brigade three's compound, said some of the activists staged hunger strikes while in custody.

“They told us that we were to be their guests but three people, including me, went on a hunger strike. One of us, Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min, was told as we were taken home that he would be going in another care. He never arrived back home,” Ko Aung Din said.

Another released activist, U Mya Hlaing, said that while he had been set free, fellow campaigner Ko Aye Lwin was not. Ye Myat Hein, who was also arrested with the group, said that the detainees were first taken to the Kyaikkasan interrogation centre before being sent to different police barracks. "They said they were just detaining us temporarily. They also said they would not charge us with anything. On May 17, nine of us were transferred to police brigade nine in Hlaing Tharyar. One of us is still under detention there."

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