

**Democratic Voice of Burma**  
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**Political prisoner denied medical treatment, says family**

*March 1, 2007*

Political prisoner Nyi Nyi Oo, who suffered a stroke in Taungoo Prison in January, is being denied proper medical treatment, according to his sister Ma Za Za.

Ma Za Za said that while Nyi Nyi Oo was officially being treated in the prison's hospital wing he was not receiving adequate medical attention. Ma Za Za called on the authorities to allow her brother to be treated at a proper clinic.

"The left half of his body is paralysed. He has been bedridden since January 15. His mouth is a bit twisted and he has high blood pressure. He is quite thin and his body is infested with sores," Ma Za Za said.

"He wants to go back to his cell because he is in the hospital wing in name only. They are ignoring him there," she said.

Officials at the Toungoo Prison refused to comment on Nyi Nyi Oo's condition yesterday. Nyi Nyi Oo was arrested and sentenced to death in 1989 for his alleged involvement in a series of explosions at the Thanlyin oil refinery.

His sentence was later reduced to 20 years. He has served 17 years of his prison term. Ma Za Za said she filed an official request with the prison to have her brother treated at a private hospital but that the request was denied.

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## Politicians praise military for positive steps

March 1, 2007

Two veteran politicians in Rangoon praised the Burmese military yesterday over their handling of several political situations in the past month.

Thakin Chan Tun and Amyotharyay U Win Naing told *DVB* that the Burmese government's decision to release nine detained protestors, sign a new agreement with the International Labour Organization and allow peaceful political prayer campaigns should be welcomed.

Amyotharyay U Win Naing said the three steps made by the military were extremely positive.

"Some people say that you must regard these as laughable actions. The actions coincide with the visit of a national council member from China and some people claim that they were done with the instructions of the Chinese," Amyotharyay U Win Naing said. "Whether they did it on the instruction from somewhere or with their own conscience, I accept [these steps] as positive as they are good progress," he said.

Thakin Chan Tun said the government's apparent decision to leave the group of regular Tuesday prayer campaigners alone after months of intimidation was a small sign of progress.

He also said that while the nine protestors arrested after a demonstration in Rangoon last week should never have been detained in the first place, the government's decision to release them should be praised.

"By looking at these points, can't we say that there are some prospects for progress?"

But both Thakin Chan Tun and Amyotharyay U Win Naing said the Burmese military had a long way to go to prove that they were willing to allow political freedom in Burma. The government continues to refuse to release political prisoners in the country and denies the opposition the right to campaign.

"I am not saying that all the problems are cleared and we will have nothing else to do. In fact, although the release is good, we will not be able to solve the root of the problems," Amyotharyay U Win Naing said.

"If there are no further positive actions from the authorities, then there will be little benefit to these actions."

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## Special police arrest activist, senior politician

March 8, 2007

Burma's special police today arrested veteran politician U Win Naing and activist Htin Kyaw after the pair held a press conference on the political situation in the country.

Sources close to U Win Naing's family told DVB the two men were taken into custody at about 2pm.

"It was the special police branch. They said they were directed by Naypyidaw . . . They said some senior people in Naypyidaw have to ask them some questions," the source close to U Win Naing's family said.

U Win Naing and Htin Kyaw reportedly held a press conference at midday today, which was attended by a number of reporters working for local and international media groups.

According to sources in Rangoon, the two men gave information to the media about the lack of political freedom in Burma and poor living conditions in the country.

"They managed to hold the press conference for two hours. [Both men] were giving answers to the press. They managed to answer with no problem," DVB's source said.

The authorities have not indicated how long the men will be detained.

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## **Police arrest man for defacing official newspaper**

March 8, 2007

Special police arrested a 65-year-old former sailor from Thingangyun township yesterday after he wrote a politically sensitive satirical phrase over official newspaper clippings he had stuck on his wall.

According to eyewitnesses, U Thein Zan scrawled "Are you sure, Maung Kalu?"—a common headline style on pro-military propaganda articles—over the top of a copy of the state-run Myanmar Ahlin newspaper after becoming enraged by recent commodity price rises.

Sources close to U Thein Zan told *DVB* on condition of anonymity that the police arrested him at about 2pm yesterday and immediately took him to Insein prison where he was charged with violating Act 505. He was due to be tried at the Thingangyun court today.

U Thein Zan, who made a living by repairing radios and tapes, became outraged over conditions in Burma after hearing his daughter-in-law describe how much the price of eggs and chicken had increased.

He reportedly said he wrote the slogan on the newspaper clipping because he wanted to highlight the difference between what the official press says is happening in Burma and what the conditions on the ground really are.

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## Political prisoner released from Insein after 22 days

March 29, 2007

U Thein Zan from Thingangyun township, who was arrested on March 7 for defacing a copy of a government newspaper, was released from Insein prison yesterday after spending 22 days in detention.

Two men, identified to U Thein Zan's family only as U Soe Myint and U Kyi Maung, reportedly acted as guarantors for U Thein Zan, who was released despite having been denied bail on Monday, according to his lawyer.

Early this month, U Thein Zan wrote "Are you sure, Maung Kalu?"—a common headline on pro-military propaganda articles—over the top of a copy of the state-run Myanmar Ahlin newspaper he had stuck on his fence after becoming enraged by recent commodity price rises.

U Thein Zan told DVB yesterday it was the price of onions that had provoked him.

"My wife bought four onions the size of a man's thumb from the market and she told me that they cost 300 kyat. As I was born in 1942 and had seen better times, I became very angry and questioned whether these four onions could cost 300. Then I put the newspaper clippings," U Thein Zan said.

He said since his act of political defiance was small, he doubted the authorities would take further action against him. It remains unclear who U Soe Myint and U Kyi Maung are, and why they decided to give 10 million kyats to the authorities to guarantee U Thein Zan's release.

U Thein Zan's family told DVB they had asked the two men which organisation they came from but that they only replied that they were civilians.

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