



Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)

နိုင်ငံရေးအကျဉ်းသားများကူညီစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအသင်း (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ)

P.O Box 93, Mae Sot, Tak Province 63110, Thailand

e.mail: info@aappb.org website: www.aappb.org

Press release – for immediate release

1 May 2009

[Mae Sot, Thailand]

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) today released a report to mark the anniversary of Cyclone Nargis, which struck Burma a year ago. The report highlights the cases of 21 volunteers who are currently facing between 2 and 35 years in prison for their efforts to assist in the aftermath of the cyclone, including gathering dead bodies and burying them.

At least eight of the volunteers had been in hiding since their participation in September 2007's Saffron Revolution, but came out of hiding to co-ordinate relief efforts after the cyclone devastated the Irrawaddy Delta. Five of the volunteers are former political prisoners, who have already spent many years in jail.

AAPP Secretary Tate Naing said, "Their punishment is completely unacceptable. Their 'crimes' were to help people and tell the truth about the situation. We call on ASEAN and UN to press the military regime to release the Cyclone Nargis volunteers – and all political prisoners – immediately."

The organisation renewed its calls for support for its campaign petition Free Burma's Political Prisoners Now!

"Political prisoners – including Cyclone Nargis volunteers - must not be forgotten. Ordinary people everywhere can sign the petition," added Tate Naing.

The campaign aims to collect 888,888 petition signatures before 24 May. This is the date that the military junta claims that Nobel Peace Prize winner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi should be released from house arrest, despite the fact that the United Nations has recently declared that this consecutive sixth year of house arrest contravenes the regime's own laws. The petition can be signed at www.fbppn.net

-ENDS-

AAPP

For more information, please contact:

Tate Naing at +66-(0)81-2878751

Bo Kyi at +66-(0)81-3248935

Notes to editors:

1. The campaign is led by the [Assistance Association for Political Prisoners \(Burma\)](#) and [Forum for Democracy in Burma](#).
2. 199 organizations worldwide have endorsed the campaign. For the full list, please click [here](#)