

Democratic Voice of Burma
Political Prisoners News
2004 January

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NLD members rearrested by SPDC of Burma

1 Jan 04

The NLD members who were arrested in connection with the notorious Dipeyin incident and released not long ago were rearrested by Burma's military junta, the SPDC (State Peace and Development Council).

At least 40 ex-political prisoners including Ko Hla Soe, Ko Myint Oo and Ko Than Win of Southeast Mandalay Township, Daw Hnin Pa Pa of Northwest Mandalay Township and a member from Tun Tone Ward of Mandalay were rearrested on 22 December for allegedly having foreign contacts, keeping a mobile phone and money.

AAPP (Assistance Association for Political Prisoners) and the Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS) denounced the arrests in a statement issued on 1 January.

The organisations also pointed out that the SPDC army is also using Burmese civilians who were deported from Thailand as guides in its assaults on the rebels on the Thai-Burma border.

There are more than 1500 political prisoners languishing in Burmese prisons and two delegates from Amnesty International who visited Burma denounced the human rights abuses of the government.

Old political prisoners are particularly suffering from many types of illness due to the inhumane conditions they are being kept in the prisons. [TOP](#)

NLD members discriminated by SPDC of Burma

2 Jan 04

The secretary of Rangoon Khayan Township NLD, U Aung Naing Oo was barred from setting up a private business venture by the local authorities because he is a member of the NLD (National League for Democracy) led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Business licenses of other NLD members from other townships in Rangoon are also withdrawn from them by the local authorities of the military junta of Burma, the SPDC (State Peace and Development Council).

U Pa Lay, a NLD member from Taungdwingyi Township in central Burma was also barred from his drawing his hard-earned pension. Recently, a member from Rangoon Ko Mya Soe (a) Ko Shwe Gyo was sentenced to 4 years in prison for building his home without license.

The SPDC is planning to discriminate all the relatives of NLD members for life, according to local people.

Observers believe that the discriminations on NLD members are part of the junta's concerted plan to stamp out supports for NLD in Burma along with its 'road map' plan which is designed to perpetuate the military dictatorship in Burma. [TOP](#)

Political prisoner still held in Mandalay Prison without charge

6 Jan 04

The military junta of Burma, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) is still detaining Ko Minn Thu, the chief organiser of Mogok Township NLD at Mandalay Prison without any charge.

Ko Minn Thu was arrested during June 2003 following the attack on NLD supporters and leaders including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi by SPDC-sponsored thugs in upper Burma on 30 May.

His colleague, the MP of Mogok Daw May Hnin Kyi who was also arrested and recently released herself said Ko Minn Thu was in charge of security matters and rallying young people when Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited Mogok in May.

The chairman and two vice chairmen of Mogok NLD were also arrested and each given three year prison sentence for their roles in welcoming Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to the town.

Recently, the SPDC rearrested 6 NLD members for allegedly having foreign contacts. There are more than 1300 political prisoners still languishing in Burmese prisons according to human rights organisations. [TOP](#)

Another NLD member arrested

7 Jan 04

A youth member of National League for Democracy (NLD) Ko Aung Naing Thu from Mandalay Southeast Township was arrested by military intelligence agents of the ruling junta State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

Ko Aung Naing Thu, a university student was arrested a couple of days after the new year celebration and he is the son of Daw Hnin Pa Pa who was arrested on 22 December.

Both mother and son were actively involved in organising the visit of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to Mandalay in May 2003.

Daw Hnin Pa Pa was arrested for allegedly having foreign contacts and it is not known what her son was arrested with.

Recently, seven NLD members were arrested by the local military authorities and they are being detained in Mandalay Prison.

The chairman of Mandalay Division NLD, U Bo San who was arrested recently is still not allowed to see his family members and they have no idea where he is being detained.

Despite the arrests and discriminations, NLD members, political activities are still co-ordinating with members from other townships in Mandalay Division at their own risk, according to an organising member U Maung Maung Than.

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7 students given long-term imprisonments for forming a football union

9 Jan 04

Seven university students were given long-term imprisonments by the military junta of Burma, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) for attempting to form a university 'football union'.

The students from Dagon University were arrested during June 2003 and given sentences on 7 January 2004 but their activities were nothing to do with political activities, insisted the spokesman of exiled All Burma Students Union (ABSU) Ko Minn Naing.

Second year law students Ko Aung Gyi, Nang Sian None, and Myo Myint Tun were each given 15 years, Myo Than Htut, Win Htut Lwin and Aung Ko Lwin were each given 13 years and Ko Kyaw Maung was given 7 years.

The junta is increasing arresting activists including students and NLD supporters despite its promise to the international community of a democratic Burma through the 'Road Map' plan.

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Civil servant given death sentence

9 Jan 04

A confidant of the recently deposed Forestry Minister U Aung Phone was given death sentence by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), according to a statement issued by the exiled National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma.

U San Minn, an employee of the Forestry Department was arrested and given death sentence on 24 December 2003 by a special court at the notorious Insein Prison in Rangoon. His three children were also fired from their civil servant jobs.

He was accused of passing on anti-American speeches of the new Forestry Minister General Thein Aung to the US embassy in Rangoon.

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NLD Appeals rejected by Burmese court

10 Jan 04

The appeals of four National League for Democracy (NLD) members who were arrested in the wake of 30 May Dipeyin assault were rejected by a district court in Rangoon.

The appellants are Ko Myo Khin of Yankin Township, Ko Myat Gyi of South Okkalapa Township, Ko Maung Maung Lay of Kyimyintaing (Kemmendine) Township and Ko Ne Win, the chief security officer and organiser of Rangoon Division NLD.

They were arrested in June 2003 for writing letters to the authorities for the reopening of NLD offices and allegedly distributing leaflets on Dipeyin assault.

They are going to lodge their appeals at a divisional court but they are unlikely to be successful as the military junta of Burma, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) is systematically cracking down on NLD members and their supporters.

The appeal of the elected representative of Taungoo, U Aung Soe Myint who was sentenced to seven years in prison was also rejected by township, district and divisional courts.

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Political prisoners' health conditions

10 Jan 04

The elected representative of Minbu Township in central Burma U Soe Myint who has been serving 28-year sentence is receiving medical treatments in Insein Prison for his deteriorating health condition.

58-year old U Soe Myint has been suffering from diabetes, heart condition and high blood pressures and he was paralysed at the beginning of 2003.

His son, Ko Lin Lin Tun who was arrested with him in 1998 is languishing in Mandalay Prison with heart disease, chronic pains and malaria.

Ko Lin Lin Tun was sentenced to 42 years in prison for allegedly distributing leaflets, having contacts with exiled opposition groups and breaking publishing laws.

His younger brother, Phoe Hla Pyit (a) Ko Kyaw Khaing was released in March 2003 from Bassein Prison.

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People arrested for refusing to paint fences

10 Jan 04

5 people from Twante in Rangoon Division were arrested by the authorities of Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) for refusing to paint their fences white.

Daw Nu Phyu, U Aung Sein, U Saw, Ko Naing Oo and an unnamed person were arrested on 24 December 2003, according to a report by the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma.

The local authorities ordered them to 'beautify' their homes at the beginning of December by painting their fences white but the people refused to do so because they have no money.

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Burma's junta releases 26 NLD members

16 Jan 04

Twenty-six members of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party who have been detained since the notorious 30 May Dipeyin assault were released from detention on 16 January, according to a recent statement of the military junta of Burma, State Peace and Development (SPDC).

Although they are all said to be in good health and are back home together with their respective families, no names or details of those released were provided.

U Soe Myint, the NLD spokesman said the organisation welcomes the news in principle but many questions remained since Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo are not among those released.

According to DVB's own research, among the released are Mandalay Division NLD chairman U Bo Zan, vice-chairman U Saw Htay, secretary U Kan Tun and treasurer U Ko Ko Gyi, and Mogok Township chairman U San Linn, vice-chairman U Maung Ko, secretary U Kyaw Tin and Ko Min Thu, and Kachin State chairman U Laseng, secretary U Ne Win, joint secretary U Naing Zaw Win and Mran Bawk-la were released from Myikyina Prison in northern Burma.

10 members including Mandalay Division women leader Daw Mya Mya Win and Amarapura Township chairman U Hla Myint were released from Shwebo Prison in central Burma.

Elected representatives who are being detained together with U Tin Oo in Kale Prison were not among those freed.

All NLD Central Executive Committee members and many supporters were detained after they were attacked in a lethal ambush staged by pro-junta gang at Dipeyin in northern Burma on 30 May 2003. Scores of people were killed.

In November 2003, the United Nations' human rights envoy to Burma, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro demanded the junta release some 1,300 political prisoners, particularly the elderly and infirm.

According to NLD circles, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was reported to have said that she would engage in talks and discuss matters concerning the 'National Convention' only after the Dipeyin incident is investigated first. Opposition members overseas are also working for the UN Security Council's involvement in the investigation of the Dipeyin assault.

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Released NLD leader says Burma's SPDC wants to 'delete' Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during Dipeyin assault

17 Jan 04

A woman leader of National League for Democracy (NLD) who was recently released from a Burmese prison said that the notorious Dipeyin incident was an attempt by Burma's military junta, State peace and Development Council (SPDC) to wipe out the Nobel laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi entirely from the face of Burmese politics.

Daw Win Mya Mya, the leader of Mandalay Division NLD Women also demanded the regime to issue the exact list of those who were killed, maimed and imprisoned in connection with Dipeyin incident in order to solve future political problems.

Daw Win Mya Mya is one of the 26 political prisoners released from Shwebo Prison by the junta after she was seriously wounded and hospitalised in an ambush staged by the junta-sponsored thugs at Dipeyin in Upper Burma on 30 May 2003.

When she was hospitalised after the horrific ordeal, no family member of hers was allowed to see her and she was sent on to the prison as soon as she had recovered a little bit.

Many NLD leaders and supporters including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo are still being detained by the junta. [TOP](#)

3 more political prisoners released in Burma

18 Jan 04

3 more National League for Democracy (NLD) political prisoners who were arrested in connection with Dipeyin incident were released by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) after 26 people were released on 16 January.

The MP of Myingyan U Paw Khin, the MP Mandalay Northwest Township U Tin Aung Aung and the MP of Khin Oo Township Dr. Win Aung were released from Kale Prison in upper Burma.

But their colleague U Tin Oo, the vice-chairman of NLD is still not released.

Meanwhile, the junta arrested 11 more people including Daw Hnin Pa Pa a woman leader from Mandalay Southeast Township NLD, her son Ko Aung Naing Thu, U Hla Soe, Aung Aung, Ko Win Kyi, U Than Win, his son Ko Ye Min Tun on 22 & 28 December 2003. [TOP](#)

Aung San Suu Kyi needs unwavering international support says Bono

19 Jan 04

Bono, the lead singer of Irish band U2 called on the United States and the United Nations to pressure Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) to free detained democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the "modern icon of moral courage".

The singer and US Senator Mitch McConnell (Kentucky) called for trade and political sanctions to push the junta towards democracy in an open letter published in the International Herald Tribune newspaper.

"The future of Myanmar (Burma) rests with the return of democracy and the release of Aung San Suu Kyi and her colleagues," they insist and added that she needs unwavering, uncompromising international support.

They also argued that the US and Japan strict sanctions on Burma are not enough and urged other nations to follow suit. "Without more pressure from trading partners and regional powers, the SPDC has little to fear," the letter said. They called on the Bush administration, the European Union and the UN to make Burma a foreign policy priority.

Furthermore, they say US Secretary of State Colin Powell should discuss it with his counterparts around the globe, and the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan should push Burma's neighbouring countries harder to take action to secure Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's release and impose an arms embargo on the SPDC.

The Nobel peace laureate is being held under house arrest after she and leaders of her National League for Democracy were attacked by thugs backed by the junta on May 30, 2003 at Dipeyin in upper Burma. [TOP](#)

NLD vice-chairman should be moved to Rangoon

19 Jan 04

Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) has released three National League for Democracy (NLD) leaders from Kale Prison in northern Burma.

U Paw Khin the Member of Parliament (MP) of Myingyan, Dr Win Aung the chairman of Khin-U (NLD), and U Tin Aung Aung the MP of Mandalay Northwest - were released on 17 January. But the NLD vice-chairman U Tin Oo who was detained with them is not released yet.

U Tin Aung Aung said that ailing U Tin Oo, 77, should at least be moved to Rangoon from Kale even if they still want to keep him in prison so that he could be near to his family. 'Even if he is strong in spirit, his age and physical conditions are not. It's quite cold at night and U Tin Oo has fever around midnight or 1am every night,' he said.

He also said that the weather condition in Kale is very extreme and it is also in the malaria infested zone.

The released MPs were unable to say goodbye to U Tin Oo as they themselves did not know about the release and thought they were being moved to another place. [TOP](#)

Release my father says U Tin Oo's son

22 Jan 04

The vice-chairman of National League for Democracy (NLD), U Tin Oo should be released as soon as possible by Burma's military junta State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) due to his age, insisted his son Ko Thant Zin Oo who is now living in Japan.

U Tin Oo was sent to Kale Prison in northern Burma with his colleagues after they were attacked by SPDC-sponsored thugs at Dipeyin in upper Burma on 30 May 2003.

Ko Thant Zin Oo stated that his father is now 78 years old and the weather condition in northern Burma is too atrocious for him, and that he should be reunited with his family in Rangoon so that he could discuss national reconciliation with the authorities.

Meanwhile, more than 100 elected representatives of NLD all over Burma are sending a letter directly to SPDC's Prime Minister General Khin Nyint demanding the release of all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the reopening of NLD offices.

U Tin Oo was a retired army officer and a Buddhist monk when he joined the NLD in 1988 after seeing the soldiers of his beloved army killing their own countrymen who were protesting peacefully in the streets of the cities.

He was awarded the highest military honours for his exploits during WW2 and subsequent career in the Burmese army receiving many battle wounds. [TOP](#)

NLD youth rearrested in Burma for distributing anti-HIV/AIDS leaflets

22 Jan 04

Ko Myint Ngwe, the chief youth organiser of upper Burma National League for Democracy (NLD) was rearrested by military intelligence (MI) agents of Burma's junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

Ko Myint Ngwe, who is also a member of Yenangyaung Township NLD in central Burma was recently released from Khamti Prison in northern Burma after he was detained in connection with Dipeyin assault.

He was rearrested on the evening of 21 January on his way home from a meeting with local NLD members regarding the distribution of leaflets on the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Yenangyaung NLD has been legally distributing leaflets and educating the local people on the dangers of HIV/AIDS and organised fundraising events for victims.

Ko Myint Ngwe is currently detained at the local police station and NLD members are meeting district and divisional authorities to discuss his release. [TOP](#)

Farmers arrested for airing grievances in Burma

22 Jan 04

Five farmers were arrested in Ma-ubin Township, Irrawaddy Division in lower Burma by the country's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) for airing grievances.

Over 100 farmers from Ma-ubin Township were summoned by local authorities in December 2003 and ordered to cultivate summer paddy on the pain of confiscation of their arable land if they refuse.

But when five farmers pointed out the vast discrepancy between the junta designated cost and the actual cost, they were taken away by the Ma-ubin Township authority and no news has been heard from them since.

Similarly, local people in nearby Pantanaw Township are facing great difficulties because authorities have been collecting various taxes and 'funds' from them for meetings and other social functions held in town.

The farmers are being forced to give rice on a pro rata basis to the government and if they fail to do so for any reason, they have to compensate the quota with cash.

As export of rice was stopped for six months at the beginning of January by the junta, farmers have been facing difficulties and some were even forced to withdraw their children from schools.

To rub salt to the wound, the local authority chairman has been forcibly selling insecticides and fertilizers to the farmers and those who were not even involved in any form of cultivation because the authority could not find any use for them. [TOP](#)

Burma's SPDC says it has released 151 prisoners but...

23 Jan 04

The military junta of Burma, State Peace and Development Council of Burma (SPDC) has issued a statement that it has already released 151 persons arrested in connection with the 30 May Dipeyin incident.

But, the SPDC failed to give a detailed list of how many prisoners remain incarcerated in jails. The statement also noted that National League for Democracy (NLD) Vice-Chairman U Tin Oo is in good health at Kale Prison in northern Burma and well looked after by health officials.

Despite the claim, there are some unconfirmed reports that the ailing leader is staging a hunger strike in protest of his imprisonment.

Thakhin Soe Myint, a NLD senior leader said the NLD Central Executive Committee members contacted the International Committee of the Red Cross in Rangoon since they heard that U Tin Oo is not accepting any food from the jail and wrote a letter to the junta's Prime Minister General Khin Nyunt explaining that U Tin Oo was a war veteran and a NLD leader working for the good of the country.

On 30 May 2003, NLD leaders and supporters were brutally attacked with iron bars and spiked bamboo sticks by thugs affiliated to the SPDC, killing scores and wounding many.

Hundreds of NLD leaders and supporters were arrested and all NLD offices throughout Burma were forcibly closed down by the junta.

The 1991 Nobel laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and several top NLD leaders along with more than 1300 political prisoners are still detained by the junta. [TOP](#)

NLD MPs demands the release of political prisoners in Burma

27 Jan 04

More than 100 elected representatives of National League for Democracy (NLD) on 22 January sent a letter to General Khin Nyunt, the Prime Minister of Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) urging him to immediately release all political prisoners including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo.

The MP of Thayawaddy, Pegu Division in central Burma and a retired army officer Maung Aye told DVB that the NLD also argues that if the junta could talk to armed rebel groups such as the Karen National Union (KNU), it should be able to do the same to unnamed, elected representatives of the people like the NLD leaders.

A team of KNU delegates led by the organisation's vice-chairman, General Saw Bo Mya recently went to Rangoon and held ceasefire talks with the junta in an effort to end more than five decades of civil war in Burma. The KNU managed to obtain a provisional ceasefire.

The NLD won a landslide victory in 1990 election but power was never handed over to the party by the generals. Moreover, NLD leaders and members have been harassed, arrested, imprisoned and killed by the junta throughout.

Recently, the SPDC has been 'seducing' all armed ethnic groups including the KNU to support its 'road map' plan with a constitution drafting 'National Convention' in an effort to propagate military dictatorship and destroy the NLD completely in Burma. [TOP](#)

SPDC's MIS Chief meets U Tin Oo in prison

27 Jan 04

The second-in-command of Burma's Military Intelligence Service (MIS) General Kyaw Win went to Kale Prison in northern Burma to meet with U Tin Oo, the vice-chairman of National League for Democracy (NLD) who is reportedly staging a hunger strike.

According to a local from Kale who doesn't want to be identified, General Kyaw Win went to see U Tin during recent days.

Although details of the meeting are not known, it is certain that U Tin Oo has been staging a hunger strike since 18 January, according to Dr. Thein Win, the MP of Kale. He added that 77 year-old U Tin Oo is suffering from chronic pains relating his old battle wounds due to the atrocious weather of northern Burma.

U Tin Oo was sent to Kale Prison by Burma's junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) after NLD members and leaders were brutally attacked by thugs sponsored by the junta at Dipeyin in upper Burma on 30 May 2003. [TOP](#)

Boy sent to prison by Burma's SPDC

27 Jan 04

A 15-year-old schoolboy from Monywa was arrested and imprisoned by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) in connection with 30 May Dipeyin incident.

Maung Chan Tha Kyaw, a high school student was arrested on 3 June at Monywa during a protest following the incident. He denied affiliation to any political party and participating in the stone throwing activities during the protest but the police arrested him nevertheless. He was charged with 'obstructing the police on duty' as he was near the scene when he was arrested.

He was detained at Monywa police station and tried at the local court on 7 July and given prison sentence until he reaches the age of 18 in 2005 when he could be charged legally.

Maung Chan Tha Kyaw passed his high school exams but he won't be able to resume his studies at a university because of his imprisonment, said his father U Khin Maung. [TOP](#)

Youth defies SPDC of Burma

27 Jan 04

Ko Myint Ngwe, the chief youth organiser of upper Burma National League for Democracy (NLD) who was arrested on 21 January is defying the prison authorities by not conforming to the regulations and rules of the prison.

He was arrested by the SPDC at Yenangyaung in central Burma for distributing leaflets on HIV/AIDS prevention.

He is being detained among criminals and refusing to sit on the haunch with head bowed as required by the prison rules. He told the authorities that he is not a criminal and would never obey their order.

He is also refusing to sign the 'confession' that he is guilty of any crime and his fate will be decided on 29 January, said Daw Khin Saw Htay, the vice-chairwoman of Yenangyaung Township NLD.

Ko Myint Ngwe was also arrested and detained with 15 other youth at Kale Prison in northern Burma by the military authorities during the notorious 30 May Dipeyin assault for his role as a bodyguard NLD leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Meanwhile, his family is facing many types of difficulties due to his arrest and the family members are in danger of losing their home. [TOP](#)

SPDC rejects NLD MP's appeal

27 Jan 04

The appeal of U Aung Soe Myint, the elected representative of Taungoo Township, Pegu Division in central Burma was summarily rejected by the central court of the county's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) on 29 December 2003.

U Aung Soe Myint was arrested in August 2003 and sentenced to seven years in prison for possessing a motorcycle 'without license'. He was first arrested in connection with a traffic accident but the litigant never sued him because the other party involved was in the wrong.

U Myat Hla, the MP of Pegu argued that if the SPDC wanted to crackdown on all those who do not hold vehicle licenses, Burma would not have enough prison cells to accommodate the offenders.

Critics and observers say that the SPDC deliberately sent him to prison because he is an active NLD member in the area. The junta has been systematically weeding out NLD supporters and members throughout Burma by intimidating, harassing and imprisoning them.

The NLD won a landslide victory in the 1990 election but it was never allowed to rule. [TOP](#)

Monks arrested for not consuming SPDC's donations

28 Jan 04

Around 150 Buddhist monks in Rangoon were arrested, forcibly disrobed, detained and charged with 'rebellion against the state' for not consuming nourishments offered by the officials of Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC).

Monks from Gandayon monastery in Rangoon were arrested after they refused to consume foods offered by ministers and military authorities in Rangoon during the Tazaungdaing Kahtein (Katina) religious festival in late 2003.

Novice monks were sent home and those who were suspected of organising the protest were arrested. They were forced to disrobe and go to prison. Some were forced to join the army.

Recently, some scholar monks in Rangoon were arrested, forcibly disrobed and imprisoned by the military authorities for not observing curfew law imposed by the army. [TOP](#)

A NLD youth, Ko Myint Ngwe released

30 Jan 04

Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) released Ko Myint Ngwe, the chief youth organiser of upper Burma National League for Democracy (NLD) who was arrested on 21 January.

Ko Myint Ngwe, a member of Yenangyaung Township NLD and was arrested and detained by the junta's military intelligence agents for distributing leaflets on HIV/AIDS prevention at Yenangyaung in central Burma.

He was released on 29 January after members of Yenangyaung Township demanded and pressurised the authorities to release him as he didn't commit any crime.

Ko Myint Ngwe was also arrested during the notorious 30 May Dipeyin incident for his role as a body guard of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and imprisoned nearly 8 months at Khamti Prison in northern Burma. [TOP](#)

Released NLD youth vows to continue social and political activities

31 Jan 04

Ko Myint Ngwe, the chief youth organiser of upper Burma National League for Democracy (NLD) who was released recently by Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) vowed to carry on his social and political activities despite the arrests and harassments by the junta's military intelligence agents.

He told DVB that he was arrested on 21 January by the authorities because he stamped the NLD seal on HIV/AIDS prevention leaflets and distributed them to people.

The leaflets were jointly produced by the NLD and United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) and Ko Myint Ngwe has been distributing them for more than two years.

Before he was released, prison authorities attempted to force him sign an agreement stopping him from distributing leaflets. He refused and he was released without exception.

He told DVB that he was released not because the kindness of the authorities but sheer pressures from local people and democracy activists.

Ko Myint Ngwe was also arrested during the notorious 30 May Dipeyin incident for his role as a body guard of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and imprisoned nearly 8 months at Khamti Prison in northern Burma. [TOP](#)