


Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE NO.:	0040			 <p>Htar Htar Thet © AAPP</p>
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:	Htar Htar Thet			
GENDER:	Female	Ethnicity:	Burmese	
DATE OF BIRTH:	1981	Age:	28 in 2009	
RELIGION:	Buddhist			
PARENTS NAME:	U Khin Maung Nyo			
EDUCATION:	Bachelor of Science majoring in Zoology			
OCCUPATION:	Office Worker			
LAST ADDRESS:	North Okkalapa Township, Rangoon			
ARREST DATE:	3 November 2007		PHOTO DATE:	
SECTION OF LAW:	17/1, 13/1, 295(A), 143, 145			
SENTENCING HISTORY:	19 years			
COURT HEARING:	Special court held in Insein prison			
NAME OF PRISON:	Hkamti prison			
RELEASE DATE:				
IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:				
CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:				
<p>In early December 2008 she conducted a hunger strike, the reasons for this and further details were not published. (Irrawaddy 301208) On 29 December she was transferred to Hkamti prison in Sagaing Division, this is 1200 miles from her family in Rangoon.</p> <p>On 28 November 2008 it was reported she had been transferred to Bago prison. (Democratic Voice of Burma 281108)</p>				
CAREER BACKGROUND:				
<p>Htar Htar Thet was working as an office worker in Rangoon in 2007. She was accused of participating in the September 2007 Saffron Revolution. This was a series of marches and demonstrations against the military regime's economic mismanagement, hikes in fuel and commodity prices and the falling standard of living. On 15 August 2007 the junta lifted the subsidies on fuel, causing prices to rise between 100 and 500% overnight, with food and other commodities' prices following suit. Following this, a series of marches and demonstrations were held, beginning in Rangoon and spreading across the country. The peaceful marches were led by students groups and monks groups. The name Saffron Revolution comes from the colour of the monks robes. This movement was brutally cracked down on by the military, resulting in thousands of arrests and beatings and hundreds of deaths.</p>				
ARREST DETAILS:				
She was arrested on 3 November 2007 for participating in the September 2007 Saffron Revolution.				
DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:				
<p>The case was heard by Judge Daw Aye Myaing of the Hlaing Township Court in Rangoon (Yangon) in a special court held inside the Insein prison compound. Her case was tried along with three Human Rights Promoters and Defenders (HRPD) and NLD youth members Tun Tun Oo, Maung Maung Latt and Aung Zaw Moe.</p> <p>She was accused of participating in marches and demonstrations with the monks in September 2007 and charged under Sections 295 (A) and 505(B) of the Penal Code. Section 295 (A) relates to insulting</p>				

religion and carries a maximum sentence of two years imprisonment. Section 505(B) relates to offenses against the state or against public tranquility and also carries a maximum sentence of two years imprisonment.

She was accused of refusing to follow the orders of the authorities during the demonstrations in September 2007. The authorities had ordered all protestors to disperse and stop demonstrating, and imposed a curfew under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code. This order required all civilians to return to their residence and remain inside between 6pm and 6am. For this she was charged under Sections 145, 147 and 152 of the Penal Code. Section 145 relates to joining and continuing an unlawful assembly when it has been commanded to disperse, and carries a maximum sentence of two years imprisonment. Section 147 relates to rioting and carries a maximum sentence of two years imprisonment. Section 152 relates to assaulting or obstructed a public servant who is endeavoring to disperse an unlawful assembly and carries a maximum sentence of three years imprisonment.

Htar Htar Thet, Tun Tun Oo and Maung Maung Latt were accused of travelling to Mae Sot to attend a five day leadership training. While they were in Mae Sot the prosecution alleged they had contact with Kyaw Htet the Vice Chairman of the Forum for Democracy in Burma (FDB). The FDB is a democratic political coalition of organizations and individuals working in exile. They allege the three had left Burma legally through immigration, but instead of returning to Burma the same day as required by law, they stayed in Mae Sot for 5 days and returned to Burma illegally. They were charged under Section 13/1 of the Law Amending the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act 1947 which carries a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment.

Htar Htar Thet, Tun Tun Oo and Maung Maung Latt were accused of having contact with the Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) and other exiled news organizations. The prosecution alleged the three received money from Kyaw Htet of FDB and gave it to other activists, media groups and other anti government organizations working inside Burma. They were charged under Section 17/1 of the Unlawful Association Act which carries a maximum sentence of three years imprisonment.

At the hearing on 3 October 2008, the family members of the defendants were not allowed to enter the courtroom, nor leave food for them. Thereafter, at the hearing on 6 October, Tun Tun Oo, speaking on behalf of the four defendants, informed the court that as the family members had been denied the right to attend the hearings and as the defendants no longer had faith in the judicial process, they had decided that they would no longer cooperate with the court. They would refuse to be examined, give testimony, or cross-examine witnesses through their counsel. They also would withdraw the power of attorney from the two lawyers at the next hearing. After he made this statement, the judge instructed that the statement be submitted to the court through the lawyers. (Asian Human Rights Council 231108)

On 7 November, after submitting their clients' wishes in writing to the court, their lawyers, Aung Thein and Khin Maung Shein, were charged under Section 3 of the Contempt of Court Act and sentenced to four months imprisonment each. (US Campaign for Burma 151108)

Htar Htar Thet was sentenced on 15 November 2008 to 19 years imprisonment under the following sections of law:

- 1) 5 years imprisonment under Section 13 (1) of the Law Amending the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act
- 2) 3 years imprisonment under Section 17 (1) of the Unlawful Association Act
- 3) 2 years imprisonment under Section 145 of the Penal Code
- 4) 2 years imprisonment under Section 147 of the Penal Code

- 5) 3 years imprisonment under Section 152 of the Penal Code
- 6) 2 years imprisonment under Section 295 (A) of the Penal Code
- 7) 2 years imprisonment under Section 505 (B) of the Penal Code

She received the maximum sentence for each charge.

Tun Tun Oo was also sentenced to 19 years imprisonment.

Maung Maung Latt received 10 years imprisonment and Aung Zaw Moe was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment.

This profile was prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) on 9 October 2009.