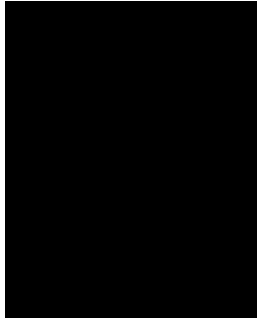


Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE NO.:	0051			
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:	Htin Kyaw @ Kyaw Htin			
GENDER:	Male	Ethnicity:	Burmese	
DATE OF BIRTH:	9 March 1963	Age:	45	
RELIGION:	Buddhist			
PARENTS NAME:				
EDUCATION:				
OCCUPATION:	4 th Engineer (Company), Leader of the Myanmar Development Committee (MDC)			
LAST ADDRESS:	# 631 Nweni 12 th Street, Ward E, North Okkalapa Township, Rangoon.			
ARREST DATE:	25 August 2007		PHOTO DATE:	
SECTION OF LAW:	505 (B), 124 124/a, 505/b, 143			
SENTENCING HISTORY:	Under trial 12 years & 6 mths			
COURT HEARING:	Pabedan Township Court, Insein Prison Special Court			
NAME OF PRISON:	Insein prison Hkamti Prison			
RELEASE DATE:				
IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:				
<p>There are serious concerns for his health. In December 2007 Htin Kyaw spent a month on hunger strike. In March 2008 he spent time in a 'dark cell' as a punishment for shouting political slogans. Sealing off prisoners in dark cells is one of the worst punishments given to prisoners by authorities. Prisoners are locked up in a small cell of about 12 ft square, which has no other openings but a small window of about six by 12 inches. The cells, which are normally used as dog kennels, have no bathroom or toilet and prisoners are forced to defecate in the cell.</p>				
CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:				
<p>Htin Kyaw (also known as Kyaw Htin) appeared in Insein Special Prison Court on 21 March 2008 to defend himself against charges brought by the military regime for his role in demonstrations in August 2007. He was accompanied in court by his defence lawyer U Maung Maung Latt. A further court hearing has been scheduled for 28 March 2008.</p> <p>On 12 December 2007 Htin Kyaw appeared at Pabedan Court and was charged with causing public alarm and instigating public unrest under section 505(b) of the Penal Code. A further court hearing on 18 December at Pabedan Court attracted public attention and was attended by US embassy officials. It was subsequently postponed and rescheduled at Insein prison special court on 26 December. His lawyer was not allowed entry to that hearing. Htin Kyaw also faces charges of treason under section 124 of the Penal Code, which carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.</p>				
CAREER BACKGROUND:				
<p>Htin Kyaw, 45, was the second-in-command of a local NLD Youth Wing branch in 1989. In 1995 he started work as an engineer for a private company. Due to pressure from his company, he was forced to resign from the National League for</p>				

Democracy (NLD). But in 2003, he left his job so he could participate in the pro-democracy movement.

Htin Kyaw is well-known in Burma for his involvement in peaceful demonstrations. In 2006, he and his colleagues set up the “Myanmar Development Committee” (MDC), to peacefully protest against rising commodity prices.

In February 2007, Htin Kyaw led a small group of protesters to Sule Pagoda in downtown Rangoon. They held placards and distributed a statement calling on the government to lower food prices and improve social services. It was one of the first demonstrations of the year. Htin Kyaw was arrested and detained for several days, and the authorities warned him to stop protesting. Under interrogation, Htin Kyaw told the police, “Our demands are the real needs of citizens, and we held the protest to speak out on behalf of citizens.”

Despite the warning from the authorities, after his release from detention Htin Kyaw called a press conference to set out the MDC’s concerns to local and international media. He called for lower commodity prices, better health care and education and reliable power supplies. He explained that the group’s protests weren’t motivated by politics, but by the social and economic crisis gripping the country. Following the press conference, Htin Kyaw was arrested and detained on several different occasions, and prevented from taking part in a religious ceremony at which he intended to enter the monkhood, a common step for men in Buddhist Burma.

On 22 April 2007, the MDC led another protest rally near San Pya market in Rangoon. Htin Kyaw was arrested and security officials dragged him off the street and several men beat him. He and his colleagues were detained for two and half months. During interrogation, Htin Kyaw asked the authorities to make economic changes for the sake of people living in poverty.

“The officials said that Burma’s leaders agreed with our demands [for commodity price drops] but that we shouldn’t expect fresh water to come out of a newly dug well,” Htin Kyaw said.

“I told them they would only find water if they started digging in the right spot and stopped wasting time digging at the wrong location.”

After their release, Htin Kyaw and other leaders of the MDC called on the junta to resolve the problem of rising commodity and fuel prices. As the junta ignored their request, they responded by calling for nationwide protests. Htin Kyaw led several protests in August 2007. As a result, Htin Kyaw was targeted for arrest by the authorities. They offered a reward of 500,000 kyat (US \$400) for his arrest.

ARREST DETAILS:

On 25 August 2007, Htin Kyaw was arrested when he got off a bus near the Thein Gyi Market, Pabedan Township, Rangoon to join a protest. He was arrested by plain-clothes members of Pyithu Swan Arr Shin (a paramilitary group) without a warrant.

DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:

Htin Kyaw was detained in Insein Annex prison, then moved to Insein prison hospital and is now being held in Cell 13, Cell Block 1, in Insein main prison.

He began a hunger strike at the end of November 2007 to protest at prison conditions and to call for the release of all political prisoners. He continued his hunger strike throughout December 2007, and as a punishment for his protest he was placed in solitary confinement. He has also been denied family visits as a further punishment. In March 2008 he was transferred to a dark cell (a very small cell normally used as a dog kennel) as punishment for shouting political slogans against the regime and the upcoming national referendum.