


Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE NO.:	0104			
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:	Mar Mar Oo (aka) Ma Swe			
GENDER:	Female	Ethnicity:	Burmese	
DATE OF BIRTH:	19 March 1964	Age:	45	
RELIGION:	Buddhist			
PARENTS NAME:	U Ohn Maung			
EDUCATION:	B.A.(Myanmar)			
OCCUPATION:	Private Tutor, 88 Generation Students group member and former political prisoner			
LAST ADDRESS:	Kamaryut Township, Rangoon			
ARREST DATE:	8 August 2008		PHOTO DATE:	20 November 2008
SECTION OF LAW:	Section 505 (b) , 130 (b), 17/20, 33 (a), 17/1, 24/1, 32 (b)/36, 6, 5/96 (Section 4)			
SENTENCING HISTORY:	Sentenced to 65 years in prison on 11 November 2008			
COURT HEARING:	Insein prison special court			
NAME OF PRISON:	Insein Annex prison, Tharawaddy prison			
RELEASE DATE:				
IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:				
Mar Mar Oo suffers from an itchy skin condition and severe symptoms related to her menstrual cycle.				
CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:				
Mar Mar Oo held in Tharawaddy prison, Pegu division on 4 June 2009.				
CAREER BACKGROUND:				
<p>Mar Mar Oo is the only child of U Ohn Maung. She lived in Mandalay until she passed the matriculation examination. She was involved in August 1988 pro-Democracy movement when she was a high school student. After the military coup, she was one of the youth members of <i>National Unity Front</i> (Ma-Na-Ta) and acted as a librarian.</p> <p>Mar Mar Oo had been detained twice prior to her arrest in 2008. In 1989 while Burma was under marshal law, she was the first woman activist accused by a special Mandalay marshal law court under the section 5/j of the Emergency Provision Act and was sentenced to 3 years in prison with hard labour. At that time, she was still a high school student. After she was released, she passed the matriculation examination and moved to Rangoon. Mar Mar Oo was arrested again in Rangoon because of involvement in the 1996 students' movement. She was accused under section 5/j of the Emergency Provision Act and 17/20 of the Printers and Publishers Registration Act and sentenced to 14 years in prison with hard labour by the Insein Special court. At that time she was a first year honours student majoring in Burmese in Rangoon University.</p> <p>Mar Mar Oo has also worked as a private tutor for secondary school students.</p> <p>After her release from prison, Mar Mar Oo became involved in the 88 Generation Students group and as a member of that group, participated in the August 2007 movement to protest against the regime's economic mismanagement, hikes in fuel and commodity prices, and the falling standard of living. Following an overnight fuel price hike on 15 August 2007, the 88 Generation Students group, along with other opposition groups, staged peaceful walking protests throughout Rangoon, which then spread across Burma. On 19 August 2007, the group led more than 400 people, on a march, from Rangoon's</p>				

Kokine junction to Tamwe market in a protest against high fuel prices. The activists, who had attended a memorial service for late *National League for Democracy (NLD)* leader U Kyi Maung in Bahan township, walked to Tamwe instead of paying for bus fares pushed higher by increased gas prices. The Burmese government had raised the price of subsidised fuel by between 100 and 500 percent, causing the cost of public transport and a number of staple commodities such as rice and cooking oil to increase dramatically.

ARREST DETAILS:

After evading authorities for one year, Mar Mar Oo was arrested on 8 August 2008 in Rangoon where she was in hiding. According to the *All Burma Federation of Students Union (ABFSU)*, Burmese Military intelligence officials forcibly entered and searched some houses where members of the ABFSU were staying. After the searches, Mar Mar Oo, fellow 88 Generation Student group member Myo Thant and three visitors were arrested by the authorities along with three members of the ABFSU, Aung Kyaw (Rangoon Western University), Htain Lin (University of Education, Rangoon) and Chit Tun Lwin (Maubin University).

DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:

After her arrest, on 6 October 2008, Mar Mar Oo and other group members attended a hearing in Insein prison's special court.

On 13 October 2008, Mar Mar Oo and Nilar Thein (arrested on 10 September 2008) were added to the group of 35 88 Generation Student group members being prosecuted. Detainees included Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi, Pyone Cho, Min Zeya, Mya Aye, Jimmy, Zay Ya, Kyaw Kyaw Htwe, Arnt Bwe Kyaw, Pannate Tun, Zaw Zaw Min, Thet Zaw, Nyan Linn, Than Tin aka Kyee Than, Htay Kywe, Hla Myo Naung, Aung Thu, Myo Aung Naing, Thet Thet Aung, Thein Than Tun, Tin Htoo Aung, Zaw Htet Ko Ko, Chit Ko Linn, Thaw Zin Tun, Aung Gyi @ Aung Thike Soe, Saw Myo Min Hlaing, Thin Thin Aye(F), Sandar Min(F), Nwe Hnin Ye(F), Thara Phe Theint Theint Tun(F), Aye Thida(F), San San Tin(F), Lay Lay Mon(F), Hnin May Aung(F). The trials had started on August 27 and continued on September 9. They, 9 women and 26 men, were brought before the Rangoon Eastern District Court, which was held inside the Insein Prison. Some had been detained in prison more than a year, since 21 August 2007, without trial. Their cases were to be heard by eight courts, Insein Township Court, Hlaing Tharya Township Court, Rangoon Eastern District Court, Rangoon Northern District Court, Thinganyun Township Court, Dawbon Township Court, South Okkalapa Township Court, and North Okkalapa Township Court. All courts were held inside the Insein Prison.

Their seven Defense Lawyers were U Aung Thein, U Khin Maung Shein, Daw Khin Htay Kywe, U Kyaw Hoe, U Myint Thaug, U Pho Phyu, and U Nyi Nyi Hlaing. (131008 RFA)

They were charged with 21 counts under the following laws:

- 1) Section 130/b of the Penal Code (committing depredation of foreign governments at peace with Burma) for open criticism of China and Russia for their use of veto power to reject the Burma resolution at the UN Security Council;
- (2) Section 4 of 'Endangering National Convention' (SPDC Law No. 5/96) for criticism of the national convention and constitution writing process;
- (3) Section 17/20 of the Printers and Publishers Registration Act for failure to obtain permission to print publicity pamphlets and for possession of printers without registration;
- (4) Section 33(a) of the Electronic Transactions Law;
- (5) Section 17 (1) of the Unlawful Association Act;
- (6) 24/1 of the Law Amending the control of money (for illegal possession of foreign currency);
- (7) 32(b)/ 36 of the Television and Video Law;
- (8) Section 6 of the Organization of Association Law for forming an organization without permission;
- (9) 505(b) of the Penal Code for denouncing the government.

On 15 October 2008, all Township Courts handed over the cases to three District Courts: Rangoon Eastern District Court, Rangoon Western District Court and Rangoon Northern District Court. These three District Courts heard the cases inside Insein prison Compound.

The trial continued on October 27. Many defendants withdrew power of attorney from their lawyers, as they believed the trial was not fair. Some refused to answer the questions of the prosecutors. Security was still tight and the defendants were concerned for their safety. On October 29, nine of the student

leaders (Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi, Pyone Cho aka Htay Win Aung, Mya Aye, Hla Myo Naung, Nyan Lin, Aung Thu, Myo Aung Naing and Ko Htay Kywe) were sentenced by the Northern District Court inside Insein prison to 6 months imprisonment under section 228 of the Penal Code for contempt of court after refusing to respond when asked by the presiding judge three times whether they were guilty or not. According to attorney Aung Thein, one of three lawyers for the activists, the judge ruled that the activists had "interrupted a public servant at a judicial proceeding" by repeatedly asking for an open trial that relatives could attend. Some of the other defendants then stood up and demanded the judge to sentence them too. Security forces surrounded the court and the judge ordered them to remove all the defendants from the court and adjourned the trial.

On 31 October 2008, the nine who were convicted of contempt of court were transferred to Ma-ubin prison in the Irrawaddy Division. Their trial will continue in Ma-ubin District Court, held inside the Ma-ubin prison Compound. On November 1, their families were allowed to visit them in Ma-ubin prison.

On 11 November 2008, Mar Mar Oo was sentenced, along with 13 other activists (Min Zeya, Zaw Zaw Min, Kyaw Min Yu aka Jimmy, Than Tin aka Kyee Than, Zay Ya aka Kalama, Arnt Bwe Kyaw, Kyaw Kyaw Htwe aka Marky, Pannate Tun, Thet Zaw, Thin Thin Aye aka Mie Mie, Nilar Thein, Sandar Min aka Shwee, Thet Thet Aung), to 65 years in prison.

She was convicted of 5 counts of the indictment:

- 1) One charge under Section 6 of the Organization of Association Law for forming an organization without permission; for this charge she was sentenced to 5 years.
- 2) Four charges under Section 33(a) of the Electronic Transactions Law; for each of these she was sentenced to 15 years.

On 9 November 2008, NLD lawyers U Khin Maung Shein and U Aung Thein, who were representing Mie Mie among other student activists, were each sentenced to four months' imprisonment for 'contempt of court' (*The Irrawaddy*07112008). They were charged under section 3 of the Contempt of Court Act (*US Campaign for Burma* 07112008) and (*RFA*06112008). The two lawyers had appeared in court to defend themselves on 6 November (*AAPP* 07112008).

On 20 November 2008, Mar Mar Oo was transferred to Tharawaddy prison in the west of Pegu division in lower Burma, 78 miles from Rangoon.

Profile prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) on November 20, 2008 and was updated on the 4 June 2009