


Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE NO.:	၁၇၆			
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:	U Myint Aye			
GENDER:	Male	Ethnicity:	Burmese	
DATE OF BIRTH:	၁၉၅၅	Age:	59	
RELIGION:	Buddhist			
PARENTS NAME:	U Maung Sein and Daw Hein Mya			
EDUCATION:	University of Foreign Language			
OCCUPATION:	Co-founder of Human Rights Defenders and Promoters (HRDP), former political prisoner			
LAST ADDRESS:	Kawthar Road, Rangoon			
ARREST DATE:	August 2009			
SECTION OF LAW:	Sections 6 of the Emergency Provisions Act, 1948 of the Organization of Association Law 1990 and 1991 of the Unlawful Association Act 1990 and 1991 of the Registration Act 1990			PHOTO DATE:
SENTENCING HISTORY:	Life + years			
COURT HEARING:	Insein prison special court			
NAME OF PRISON:	Loikaw, Kayah State			
RELEASE DATE:				
IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:				
U Myint Aye suffers from hypertension and diabetes.				
CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:				
<p>On 5 January 2009, the <i>Nation's League for Democracy</i> (NLD) leader and former political prisoner, U Win Tin, visited the family of U Myint Aye and other political prisoners' families to offer them support and encouragement. On his return, U Win Tin commented: "The authorities tailed me wherever I went. And after I left, the authorities investigated them," (radio 01/00).</p> <p>On 16 December 2008, U Myint Aye was transferred to Loikaw prison in Kayah State. (radioaddy 1/00).</p>				
CAREER BACKGROUND:				
<p>U Myint Aye married Daw La La Win, from Tharpound Township, while he was studying at the University of Foreign Language in 1989. In 1997, he was made the chairman of the <i>Nation's League for Democracy</i> (NLD) in Kyint Myint Tying.</p> <p>U Myint Aye co-founded <i>Human Rights Defenders and Promoters</i> (HRDP) in February 2002. The organization was formed to raise awareness among the people of Burma about their rights under the UN Declaration on Human Rights.</p> <p>After the Depayin massacre on 30 May 2003, U Myint Aye continued with NLD party activities even when the party works had been discontinued. These activities included collecting the youth and elders to salute during National Day at Shwedagon pagoda and then march to Tharthana Gonyang Temple, around Ngathet Gyi, where the event was held. In November 2003, U Myint Aye led a group from his house to Shwedagon pagoda for the full moon day; he donated rice and clothes in Kyoung Pyo Township (Taninthayi division), Tapin Township (Rangoon division) and Pago Township (Pago division). In 2004, on the anniversary of the Depayin massacre, U Myint Aye organised young people to distribute books about human rights on the anniversary of Depayin.</p> <p>In February 2005, U Myint Aye was dismissed from the NLD for not following the party principles. He</p>				

continued promoting human rights and freedom; frequently referring to UN Declaration of Human Rights, and holding discussions about the subject with youth groups. He was invited to promote and explain the issue of rights in Irrawaddy division, Rangoon division, Magwe division, Pegu division, Shan state and Kachin state.

In September 2006, U Myint Aye was arrested after issuing a statement calling on the authorities to release detained members of the 88 Generation Students group. He was released in February 2008.

On 16 October 2006, *Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP)* filed a case before the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General of *Human Rights Defenders*, following the arrest of U Myint Aye and other members of the *HRDP* in September 2006.

About a month after he was released, at the end of March 2008, two unidentified men attacked U Myint Aye in the street. Daw Le Le Win, Myint Aye's wife, told *Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB)* her husband was attacked in Myenigon, Sanchaung township, while on his way home. "U Myint Aye returned home with a packet of noodles at around 9.30pm and there was blood all over his body... I was shocked and did not know what to do. He was wearing a white shirt which was covered in blood and was very disturbing to look at". Myint Aye was first taken to Rangoon's West Hospital, which is close to his home, but hospital staff refused to treat him because of the severity of his injuries. He was then taken to Rangoon General Hospital where he was given tests and five stitches in his head, and was also questioned by authorities. (DVB 10/00%)

Following Cyclone Nargis in May 2008, *HRDP* members provided food, medicine and clothing for cyclone victims in Bogalay Township, Irrawaddy delta region, under the regime's surveillance. *HRDP* donated more than 70 rice bags to the monasteries where the cyclone victims take refuge.

U Myint Aye has been arrested at least six times since 1988 on account of his human rights activities and participation in pro-democracy demonstrations. He was detained in 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006 and 2007.

ARREST DETAILS:

On 8 August 2008, the anniversary of the '8888 uprising', the Chief of Police of Kyi Myint Taing Township, came to the house of U Myint Aye and carried out a search. He came together with the divisional investigation police deputy chief and a team of police and administration officers. During the search, which lasted for over two hours, the police officials removed a number of items and documents. When they were finished searching the home they told U Myint Aye that he was to go with them. He did not return to the house since that date

On 9 August 2008, a team of police officers came to U Myint Aye's home and asked for some of his clothes, indicating to his family that he will remain in detention for some time.

DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT

While U Myint Aye was in detention, he and other members of the *Human Rights Defenders and Producers* network, were accused of planning to cause an explosion in Shwe Pyi Thar Township. The country's Police Chief, Brigadier General Khin Yi, spoke to journalists in a press conference on 7 September 2008. He told reporters that Myint Aye had confessed that he offered cash awards to those who committed terrorist acts in Rangoon. According to Khin Yi, U Myint Aye's cash awards differed depending on the location of the blast: 10 million kyat awarded for bombing City Hall, 7 million for the city center, 5 million for government offices etc. The Burmese police chief said Yan Shwe (who was

arrested at the same time) directly received explosives from U Myint Aye, but was denied his due cash award for planting the bomb at the USDA office in Shwepyithar on July 1. Yet, contrary to Khin Yi's statement, an armed student group known as the *igorous Bur ese Student Warriors* (*BS*), claimed responsibility for the blast at the Shwepyithar USDA office on 2 June 2008. The *BS* , in a statement posted on an exile Burmese blog, claimed the blast was carried out by their members, who are urging the junta to implement political reforms in the country. (*Mizzi 000 000*)

On 2 October 2008, U Myint Aye was forced into a confession by police, after 7 days of constant interrogation. His defense lawyer, Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min, said U Myint Aye had been tortured while in prison. "Prison authorities questioned him continuously....They didn't let him sit down and sleep. He finally collapsed." Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min also stated that Military Intelligence officers also forced U Myint Aye to watch his colleagues Yan Shwe, Myo Min, Than Zaw Myint being tortured. (*hitpying 0 10 000*) He was told that if he didn't confess they would continue to torture them. In order to save his comrades, U Myint Aye confessed. During his trial, Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min informed the judge about the torture, however the judge did nothing except record the complaint.

On 20 October 2008, U Myint Aye appeared before northern Rangoon provincial court along with two other activists. (*D B 110 000*) They were being prosecuted by the Shwe Pyithar township police chief on explosives charges:

1. Section 3 of the Explosive Act,
2. Section 6 of the Organization of Association Law (1988),
3. Section 17/1 of the Unlawful Association Act (1908),
4. Section 13/1 of Immigration Act

At the end of October 2008, one of U Myint Aye's lawyers, Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min, was sentenced in absentia to 6 months imprisonment while he was in hiding. On 7 November 2008 U Khin Maung Shein, another lawyer of U Myint Aye, was sentenced to 4 months imprisonment. (*rj 11 000*)

On 25 November 2008, U Myint Aye appeared in court again at Insein Prison Special Court. Their families were not informed about the court hearing. (*rj 11 000*)

The junta's court delivered sentences to U Myint Aye and other members of *HRDP* on 28 November 2008. U Myint Aye, Yan Shwe and Zaw Zaw Aung received life imprisonment. In addition to the life imprisonment, U Myint Aye also received an additional 8 year imprisonment and Yan Shwe and Zaw Zaw Aung received a further 13 years and 8 years respectively. (*SC pignforBur 110*).

his profile as prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) on 25 April 2009 and as updated on the 2 April 2009