


Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE NO.:	0135			
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:	Noble Aye aka Hnin May Aung			
GENDER:	Female	Ethnicity:	Burmese	
DATE OF BIRTH:	11 October 1975	Age:	33	
RELIGION:	Buddhist			
PARENTS NAME:	U Thet Tun Aung, Daw Aye Myint Than			
EDUCATION:	Third year Physics student, Dagon University			
OCCUPATION:	Member of 88 Generation Students, and All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU)			
LAST ADDRESS:	Thingangyun Township, Rangoon			
ARREST DATE:	23 August 2007		PHOTO DATE:	
SECTION OF LAW:	5/96(4), 505/b, 6			
SENTENCING HISTORY:	5 yrs + 6 yrs = 11 yrs			
COURT HEARING:	Insein prison special court			
NAME OF PRISON:	Monywa prison, Sagaing division			
RELEASE DATE:				
IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:				
Noble Aye has been suffering from jaundice since before her transfer to Monywa prison. (AAPP)				
CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:				
<p>On 14 September 2009 it was learnt that Hnin May Aung aka Noble Aye had been sent to a punishment cell within Monywa prison. The reason for her punishment is unclear. She continues to suffer from jaundice.</p> <p>Noble Aye was transferred to the remote Monywa prison, the exact date of her transfer is not known, but it was sometime between when she was sentenced on 28 November 2008 and 6 February 2009. Monywa prison is 517 miles from Rangoon where her mother lives. Her mother is a former political prisoner and is also in poor health.</p> <p>A total of thirteen 88 Generation Students group members, who were being held in Insein prison in Rangoon, were transferred to remote regions away from their families. According to relatives of the prisoners, some families were only informed of the transfers after their relatives had been moved and so were unable to give them any essential supplies such as medicine, clothes and blankets. (DVB09022009)</p>				
CAREER BACKGROUND:				
<p>Hnin May Aung aka Noble Aye's mother Daw Aye Myint Than was the Secretary of the NLD for Thingangyun Township and an executive member of the NLD Rangoon Division Women's Wing. She supported the forming of the Committee Representative People Parliament (CRPP) The CRPP is constituted by representatives of the political parties that won the majority of seats in the 1990 election, and acts as an executive committee of the parliament, most of whose members are in prison, exile or detention.</p> <p>Noble Aye joined ABSFU when she was a student at Dagon University. She took leadership in organizing students during three demonstrations in Rangoon in 1998, and distributed clandestine bulletins from the underground students' organization. She was also a student organizer in support of the CRPP. Noble Aye's family had a close friendship with Min Ko Naing's family. Min Ko Naing is the leader of the 88 Generation Students, a pro-democracy group, formed on 6 September 2005 by Min</p>				

Ko Naing and other prominent activists. The name was taken from the 1988 uprising when the military opened fire on protestors and thousands were killed.

In September 1998 both Noble Aye and her mother were arrested for participating in the pro-CRPP movement. Noble Aye was sentenced to 42 years imprisonment. Noble Aye and her mother were initially placed in separate prisons. However, her mother became seriously ill in Myaungmya prison. When Noble Aye was informed of this by her family during a visit, she strongly demanded until the authorities allowed her to be transferred to care for her mother. While they were in prison they were visited by the Amnesty International Delegation in 2003. She was released on 6 July 2005 as part of an amnesty for political prisoners.

After her release she was not allowed to re-enter her university and was not re-issued her identity card. In Burma citizens must show their identity cards at police check points when travelling, it is also needed open a bank account etc. so it made life much more difficult without her card. She studied English at the American Centre in 2006 and 2007. She also visited and helped the families of other political prisoners, and opened a boarding school for poor children at her home. In 2006 she started working as an editorial staffer in the office of a monthly magazine.

Despite the threat of the military intelligence, as a former political prisoner, Noble Aye continued to work for human rights and democracy. She is a member of the 88 Generation Student group. During 2006 and 2007 Noble Aye participated in the “White Sunday” campaign along with other members of the 88 Generation Students. Every Sunday around 100 pro-democracy activists wore white clothing similar to that worn by political prisoners and went to visit the families of political prisoners in an act of solidarity and protest.

In August 2007 she participated in the protests against the regime’s economic mismanagement, hikes in fuel and commodity prices, and the falling standard of living in Rangoon. 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. Following the overnight fuel price hike on 15 August 2007, the 88 Generation Students, along with other opposition groups staged peaceful walking protests throughout Rangoon, this movement spread across Burma. On 19 August 2007, the group led a march by more than 400 people from Rangoon’s 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 leader U Kyi Maung in Bahan township, walked to Tamwe instead of paying for bus fares pushed higher by increased gas prices. On 22 August 2007 Min Ko Naing was arrested in a late night raid on his home along with twelve other leaders and prominent members of the 88 Generation Students group.

ARREST DETAILS:

Noble Aye was arrested in a midnight raid on her home on 23 August 2007. The authorities were searching for another woman named “Noe Noe” (aka New Hnin Ye) but arrested “Noble Aye”. However even after they learnt Noble Aye’s true identity they didn’t release her. She was charged with 12 other members of the 88 Generation Students group for their participation in the protests against the government and for forming the organization.

Noble Aye aka Hnin May Aung was charged under the following sections of law:

- 1) Section 5/96(4) of the Law Protecting the Peaceful and Systematic Transfer of State Responsibility and the Successful Performance of the Functions of the National Convention Against Disturbances and Oppositions (State Law and Order Restoration Council Law No. 5/96 (7 June 1996))
- 2) Section 505/b of the Penal Code

3) Section 6 of the Law Relating to the Forming of Organisations (State Law and Order Restoration Council Law No. 6/88 (30 September 1988))

DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:

On 21 November 2008 thirteen members of the 88 Generation Students group, who had been detained in Insein Prison for over a year, were sentenced from three years to five years by a special court held inside Insein Prison Compound. Thein Than Tun (aka) Ko Ko Gyi, Zaw Htet Ko Ko, Thara Phee Theint Theint Tun (Female), Lay Lay Mon (Female), **Hnin May Aung aka Noble Aye (Female)**, San San Tin (Female), Aye Thida (Female), and Nweah Hnin Ye (aka) Noe Noe (Female) received five years imprisonment each. Thaw Zin Tun, Saw Myo Min Hlaing, Aung Thike Soe, Chit Ko Lin, San San Tin (Female) and Tin Htoo Aung received three years imprisonment each. (US Campaign for Burma 211108)

On 28 November 2008, fourteen members of the 88 Generation Students Group received additional sentences. Thein Than Tun (aka) Ko Ko Gyi, Zaw Htet Ko Ko, Thara Phee Theint Theint Tun (Female), **Noble Aye (aka) Hnin May Aung (Female)**, Lay Lay Mon (Female), Nweah Hnin Tin Htoo Aung Ye (aka) Noe Noe (Female), Aye Thida (Female), Thaw Zin Tun, Saw Myo Min Hlaing, Aung Thike Soe, Chit Ko Lin, Than Tin (aka) Kyee Than, San San Tin (Female) and Tin Htoo Aung, were each sentenced to six years imprisonment by a court held inside Insein Prison Compound.

In October 2008, the 88 Generation Students, including Noble Aye, who were at that time detained in Insein prison, were awarded “*2008 President’s International Democracy Award*” from the American Federation of Teachers (with more than 1.4 million members) in the U.S.

On 7 April 2009 Noble Aye was awarded honorary citizenship of the city of Villa Santa, Italy. This was awarded by Mayor, Enrico Fontana and was received by Beadee Zawmin, Euro-Burma Office Finance Director.

This profile was prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) on 12 October 2009.