


Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE NO.:	0152			
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:	U Saw Hlaing <i>(Note: "U" is a Burmese honorific title used for a mature man in a senior position to convey respect)</i>			
GENDER:	Male	ETHNICITY:		
DATE OF BIRTH:	8 February 1956	AGE:	54 in 2010	
RELIGION:				
PARENTS NAME:	U Nathanthee and Daw Yi			
EDUCATION:	Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and a Master of Arts			
OCCUPATION:	High Court Advocate/Lawyer		PHOTO DATE: ±2005	
ORGANIZATION(S):	Member of Parliament (MP) for Indaw Township, Sagaing Division; and Member of National League for Democracy (NLD)			
LAST ADDRESS:	Indaw Township, Sagaing Division			
ARREST DATE:	30 March 2005			
SECTION OF LAW:	Printers and Publishers Registration Law, Sections 16 and 17/20			
SENTENCING HISTORY:	12 years on 26 May 2005			
COURT HEARING:	Katha District Court			
NAME OF PRISON:	Katha Prison, Sagaing Division			
RELEASE DATE:				
IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:				
<p>Below is a list of U Saw Hlaing's health concerns that have been reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic back pain (DVB 25Apr2005; and DVB 26May2005) • Arthritis (DVB 25Apr2005) • "Weak Nerves" (DVB 25Apr2005) 				
CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:				
<p>U Saw Hlaing is a 54-year-old man and five-time former political prisoner who is now serving a 12-year prison sentence at Katha Prison in Sagaing Division for his political involvement, but under the pretext of possessing "unlicensed" computers. (See "Arrest Details" and "Details of Imprisonment" below.)</p> <p>In a DVB interview with U Saw Hlaing's wife, Daw Nyunt Nyunt Tin, she reported that it has been difficult raising their two children with him in and out of prison so often. She specifically mentioned the hardships of his imprisonment in 1990 when her children were 4-5 years old and 7-8 months old, and she was supporting the family on her salary as a nurse at Indaw Hospital. Even through the difficulties, she supports her husband's "work for the majority" and visits him in prison. (DVB 25Apr2005)</p>				
CAREER BACKGROUND:				
<p>U Saw Hlaing was born on 8 February 1956 to his parents, U Nathanthee and Daw Yi. U Saw Hlaing graduated from grade ten at Indaw's Basic Education High School (B.E.H.S.) in 1974 with distinctions in mathematics and chemistry. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy in 1980 from Rangoon University's Distance Education program. Subsequently, he received a Masters of Arts degree. In 1982 he became a Higher-Grade Pleader, and in 1987 began work as High Court Advocate (lawyer). (National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma: <i>Burma's May 27, 1990 Democratic Election Records</i> by Khin Kyaw Han on 27 May 2006, translated from Burmese to English by AAPP)</p> <p>In 1984 U Saw Hlaing married Daw Nyunt Nyunt Tin. They have two children: one daughter, May Phyu Hlaing (±24 years old in 2010), and one son (±20 years old in 2010). (DVB 22Apr 2005; and DVB 25Apr2005)</p> <p>U Saw Hlaing is a member of the National League for Democracy (NLD) which is 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's pro-democracy political party. On 27 May 1990 U Saw Hlaing was</p>				

elected as Member of Parliament (MP) at the 1990 Multi-party Democratic General Election from Indaw Township Constituency in Sagaing Division. He received 27,598 votes which was 78.56% of the total ballots cast. (National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma: *Burma's May 27, 1990 Democratic Election Records* by Khin Kyaw Han on 27 May 2006, translated from Burmese to English by AAPP) During the 1990 election, the National League for Democracy won “in a landslide gaining 392 of the 485 seats, much to the surprise of the then-ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).” In the years following the election, the Burmese military regime harassed and arrested numerous elected Members of Parliament, including U Saw Hlaing. “Through the Election Commission, the military dismissed from Parliament all MPs who have been charged with an offence and had others banned from running in future elections.” (Bangkok Post 12Jul1998) Ultimately, the election results were not acknowledged by the ruling military regime, and the democratic parties were prohibited from forming the government.

As a political activist/target, U Saw Hlaing has been arrested on at least five prior occasions:

1. In 1976 U Saw Hlaing was sentenced to nine (9) years in prison because of his involvement in the 1976 Thakhin Ko Daw Hmine demonstrations. He was released two years later in 1978 under an amnesty. (National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma 01Aug2007)
2. In 1990 U Saw Hlaing was arrested for allegedly attending a secret meeting to form an interim government at the home of U Ba Bwa, NLD MP from Mandalay’s Amarapura Township on 29 September 1990. He was sentenced under Penal Code Section 122(1) for “high treason.” As a result, on 23 December 1991 the military junta officially dismissed U Saw Hlaing from being a Member of Parliament and banned him from running in future elections under Election Law Section 11(J). He was released from Insein Prison on 27 May 1992. (Burma Solidarity Focus June 2005; and National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma: *Burma's May 27, 1990 Democratic Election Records* by Khin Kyaw Han on 27 May 2006, translated from Burmese to English by AAPP)
3. In 1998 U Saw Hlaing was arrested and de9(i)-5.15007(s)-3.052.3.2i4.01211(a)-2.50591(y)9.93191(-)-0.47353(2)6h

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On 17 May 2005 U Saw Hlaing's wife, Daw Nyunt Nyunt Tin, was interrogated by the court on the business activities of her husband and in which year the computers confiscated from U Saw Hlaing came into his possession. Katha Township MP U Myint Kyi reported to DVB, "Daw Nyunt Nyunt said around March, April 2003. She doesn't remember exactly when...Then, they asked her if they did printing business and she said no, they did not do any printing business with the computers. And not soon after the computers arrived, we were sent to Shwebo Prison and the like. When he was released from Shwebo Prison [on 16 January 2004], he was away from home most of the time during 2004. He had to receive medical treatments in the hospital and he was almost never at Indaw. So, he never managed to do anything for his business." (DVB 17May2005)

U Saw Hlaing was reportedly denied the right to a defense lawyer during his trial. (National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma 01Aug2007; Amnesty International Jun2005)

On 26 May 2005 the Katha District Court judge sentenced U Saw Hlaing to 12 years in prison under the following laws:

1. 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration Law, as amended in 1989 by Law No. 16/89, Section 16 – For possessing or moving a printing-press before obtaining a registration certificate from the Central Registration Board (*5 Years Max.*)
2. 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration Law, as amended in 1989 by Law No. 16/89, Section 17/20 – For not complying with any portion of byelaws or instructions under the Printers and Publishers Registration Law (*7 Years Max.*)

(National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma 01Aug2007)

This profile was prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) on 5 January 2010.