


# Political Prisoner Profile

|  |  |                   |                    |   |
|--|--|-------------------|--------------------|---|
| <b>AAPP CASE NO.:</b>  | 0097   |                   |                    |  |
| <b>NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:</b>   | U Sein Win Maung   |                   |                    |   |
| <b>GENDER:</b>   | Male   | <b>Ethnicity:</b> |                    |   |
| <b>DATE OF BIRTH:</b>  | 1955   | <b>Age:</b>       | ±54 in 2009        |   |
| <b>RELIGION:</b>   |  |                   |                    |   |
| <b>PARENTS NAME:</b>   | U Hla Shwe   |                   |                    |   |
| <b>EDUCATION:</b>  |  |                   |                    |   |
| <b>OCCUPATION:</b>   | Journalist & Manager of <i>Myanmar Nation</i> Weekly Journal |                   |                    |   |
| <b>LAST ADDRESS:</b>   | Kayan Thongwa Township, Rangoon                              |                   |                    |   |
| <b>ARREST DATE:</b>  | 15 February 2008   |                   | <b>PHOTO DATE:</b> |   |
| <b>SECTION OF LAW:</b>   | Printers and Publishers Registration Law, Sections 17 and 20 |                   |                    |   |
| <b>SENTENCING HISTORY:</b>   | 7 Years on 28 November 2008                                  |                   |                    |   |
| <b>COURT HEARING:</b>  | Thingangyun Township Court in Rangoon                        |                   |                    |   |
| <b>NAME OF PRISON:</b>   | Kengtung Prison in Shan State                                |                   |                    |   |
| <b>RELEASE DATE:</b>   |  |                   |                    |   |
| <b>IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:</b>  |  |                   |                    |   |
|  |  |                   |                    |   |
| <b>CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:</b>   |  |                   |                    |   |
| <p>U Sein Win Maung was originally incarcerated at Insein Prison in Rangoon however, in December 2008 he was transferred to Kengtung Prison in Shan State, which is approximately 18 kilometers (34 miles) from his family in Rangoon. (RFA 13/12/2008)</p> <p>On 18 September 2009 the Burmese government released 114 prisoners in a general amnesty, including 12 political prisoners. Amongst the political prisoners released during the amnesty was U Sein Win Maung's co-defendant U Thet Zin, who was freed from Kale Prison in Sagaing Division. The reason for releasing <i>Myanmar Nation's</i> Editor-In-Chief U Thet Zin, but keeping Manager U Sein Win Maung imprisoned is unknown. The amnesty was widely perceived to be a media coup, as it was announced almost simultaneously with the decision that Myanmar Prime Minister General Thein Sein would be attending the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York in the following week. (AAPP 18/09/2009)</p> |  |                   |                    |   |
| <b>CAREER BACKGROUND:</b>  |  |                   |                    |   |
| <p>U Sein Win Maung is a manager at <i>Myanmar Nation</i>, which is a privately-owned, weekly journal/magazine in Thingangyun Township, Rangoon Division. The publication was founded in 2004 by Editor-in-Chief U Thet Zin, a journalist and former political prisoner who was arrested, tortured, and sentenced to Insein Prison following his participation in the 1988 Uprising.</p> <p>U Sein Win Maung is married to Daw Aye Aye Tun, a former middle school teacher. Together they have three daughters.</p>  |  |                   |                    |   |
| <b>ARREST DETAILS:</b>   |  |                   |                    |   |
| <p>Around 5 30pm on Friday, 15 February 2008, approximately eight police officers and intelligence officials arrived at <i>Myanmar Nation</i> and searched the office for about four hours. During their search, the officers found and seized the following items 1) a Burmese-translated copy of the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Human Rights Paulo Sergio Pinheiro's 2007 report 2) a book on federalism entitled "Let's Build an Inseparable Union" by Shan ethnic leader Shwe Ohn 3) DVD(s) with video footage of the monk-led September 2007 Saffron Revolution pro-democracy protests which ended in a bloody militia crackdown and 4) hand-written poems/by U Sein Win Maung that were allegedly critical of the junta. (Irrawaddy 18/02/2008 International Freedom of Expression eXchange 19/02/2008 and Amnesty International 21/02/2008)</p> <p>At the end of the 4-hour raid, both U Sein Win Maung and Editor-in-Chief U Thet Zin were arrested, and the two</p>                          |  |                   |                    |   |

men's mobile phones were confiscated. The two men were taken to Thingangyun Police Station on the outskirts of Rangoon for questioning and detention. (Irrawaddy 18/02/2008; International Freedom of Expression eXchange 19/02/2008; and Amnesty International 21/02/2008)

On Monday, 18 February 2008 (three days later), an official from Thingangyun Police Station and four or five government officials from other investigative departments raided the journal office again for another three hours. They seized hard disks from Editor-in-Chief U Thet Zin's computer which contained news reports and photos, and they instructed U Thet Zin's wife, Khin Swe Myint, to suspend publications until further notice. (Democratic Voice of Burma 19/02/2009)

U Thet Zin's wife Khin Swe Myint said, "I can't imagine why they were taken away from their office. This journal is published officially *after* clearance from the Censorship Board. They didn't do anything that violates the rule of law." (International Freedom of Expression eXchange 19/02/2008)

The men were detained at Thingangyun Police Station for 10 days before being officially charged with illegal publishing and printing under Sections 1 and 20 of the Printers and Publishers Registration Law. They were transferred to Insein Prison on 25 February 2008. (Democratic Voice of Burma 03/03/2008)

"The Printers and Publishers Registration Act of 1992 is a legacy of the