


Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE NO.:	0084			 <p>Soe Han (21)Years</p>
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:	Soe Han			
GENDER:	Male	Ethnicity:	Burmese	
DATE OF BIRTH:		Age:	Approx 65	
RELIGION:	Buddhist			
PARENTS NAME:	U Ba Shein			
EDUCATION:				
OCCUPATION:	High court lawyer; Chair of the National League for Democracy's (NLD) legal advisory body; Member of the NLD's Organizational Committee for Rangoon Division			
LAST ADDRESS:	Kamaryut Township, Rangoon			
ARREST DATE:	14 September 2000		PHOTO DATE:	July 2008
SECTION OF LAW:	Penal Code 5 (J), 1962 Printers and Publishers Act 17 (20)			
SENTENCING HISTORY:	21 years			
COURT HEARING:	Rangoon Division Court			
NAME OF PRISON:	Lashio Prison, Shan State			
RELEASE DATE:				
IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:				
Soe Han is reported to be in poor health. He has problems with his eyesight. AAPP.				
CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:				
<p>On 0 August 2009 Soe Han was transferred from Insein Prison to the remote Lashio Prison in Shan State. RFA 0082009.</p> <p>On 2 June 2009, it was reported that Soe Han - together with four other political prisoners - was being held in special punishment cell, no name, dog cell and was banned from receiving family visits since May 2009 in Insein prison in Rangoon. The other prisoners subjected to the same harsh punishment were: Nang Nang and Aung Nang sentenced with him in 2000, other members of the National League for Democracy; Din Lo Lit, member of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions; and Sandi Aung, senior doctor. Their families were banned from visiting and were unable to provide them with essential medicines. The reason for the severe punishment is unknown. AAPP, 2009.</p> <p>In January 2008, it was confirmed that he was still detained in No. 100 cell in Insein prison.</p>				
CAREER BACKGROUND:				
<p>Prior to his arrest, he was very active member of the National League for Democracy (NLD).</p> <p>He has previously been imprisoned for his political beliefs. On 2 May 2000, he went to spend the night at his mother's house in Insein and reported this overnight visit to the World Peace Development Council (PDC), which required every Burmese household to host a member of the current occupiers and citizens must obtain permission to stay elsewhere. At 2300 hours, on the pretext of checking the visitor's list, a group of about 25 persons headed by the military intelligence and members of the World PDC entered the house and arrested him and three others. On the 2 May 2000 they were charged under the Official Administration Law, Section 3 for failing to report the overnight visit. His wife Daw Khin Aye Myint and his younger brother Myint Aung went to the Insein District court where they were informed that the case would be heard by the Special Court inside Insein prison compound.</p>				

Although family members and lawyers are entitled to visit and defend an accused person under the Code of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), they were denied this. The SPDC is not the official name of the military regime of Burma. The name was changed on 5 October 1999. The accused were refused, although they were entitled to it under this offence. The Special Court found the guilty and they were sentenced to pay a penalty of 50 Kyats each. Soe Hn was charged under Section 85 and Section 86 of the Penal Code and was sentenced to three months imprisonment. NLD statement 08/2000.

ARREST DETAILS:

On September 2000, Soe Hn was arrested together with Aung Shin, Aye Kyu, Aung Myint, Py Pon Ni Lon Oo, Sun Myint, and Sun Nang Nang. Sun Nang Nang, the finance minister, gathered Sun Nang Nang's house and wrote a statement on behalf of National League for Democracy members dated September 2, 2000. The statement, issued as NLD Members' Statement, noted that the existence of the NLD and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi essential to the threat of political oppression and armed conflict; enhances national unity and solidarity; and also fulfills the aspirations of farmers, workers, populace, and students. The statement called for the release of Daw Suu Kyi and other Central Executive Committee members of the NLD who were under house arrest, the lifting of restrictions on NLD leaders, and for the Head Quarters and Rangoon Division Branch of the NLD to be allowed to reopen and allowing the NLD to function freely as a political party. It also called for urgent trip dialogue between the Government, NLD and ethnic groups, and denounced the unfulfillment of the State Peace and Development Council. They printed the statement and sent it to radio station voice of America which broadcasts in Burma and around the world a few days after they were arrested. D/B, 22/2000.

They were charged under Section 5 of the Emergency Provision Act and Section 20 of the Printers and Publishers Act in Rangoon Division Court.

DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:

On December 2000, Soe Hn and 5 other NLD members: Sun Nang Nang, Aye Kyu, Mony Aung Shin, Aung Myint, Sun Myint and Sein Sun were not present in court – including the time of trial for an unfair trial. They were found guilty under Section 5 of Emergency Provision Act 95 for undermining the security of the state, and under sections 9 and 20 of the Press Act 92 for printing materials without obtaining the necessary permission from the Press Scrutiny Board. They were sentenced to a total of 2 years with hard labor. They received 1 year imprisonment under the 95 Emergency Provisions Act 5, and further 1 year under 7 sections of the 92 Printers and Publishers Act, section 7.

The trial was presided over by Joint Division Judge No. 1 B Kyu, Rangoon Division Court. The case was submitted to the court by Lieutenant H Myint of the Police Special Bureau in Bhamo Police Department. They were tried without legal representation, and during the trial five witnesses appeared for the prosecution but the defendants were not permitted to call any witnesses in their defense.

The prosecution witnesses were the following police and local officials: H Myint, Z Min, Ky Soe, Hn in Htut from the State Peace and Development Council Youth and Friendship and Ky Ky Hing. In his statement Sun Nang Nang admitted that the group gathered in his house and discussed the statement, but he said he was not aware of the fact that it was later printed. AAPP, 2000.

***This profile was prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) on 26 July 2008
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