


Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE NO.:	0047			
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:	Thein Aye			
GENDER:	Male	Ethnicity:	Burmese	
DATE OF BIRTH:	13 December 1963	Age:	45	
RELIGION:	Buddhist			
PARENTS NAME:	U Tun Aye			
EDUCATION:	Government Technology Institute Electrical Engineering Bachelor of Science major Mathematics			
OCCUPATION:				
LAST ADDRESS:	Insein Township, Rangoon			
ARREST DATE:	12 October 2007			
SECTION OF LAW:	Section 212 of the Penal Code			
SENTENCING HISTORY:	2 years and 6 months			
COURT HEARING:	Insein Township Court			
NAME OF PRISON:	Myitkyina prison			
RELEASE DATE:				
IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:	Thein Aye suffers from a mental illness and has not been receiving medical treatment while he has been in prison.			
CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:	<p>On 21 November 2008 Thein Aye was transferred to Myitkyina prison in Kachin State, this is 919 miles from his family in Rangoon. The weather in Myitkyina is very cool.</p> <p>Prior to his transfer his mother was visiting him in Insein prison once a week.</p>			
CAREER BACKGROUND:	<p>Thein Aye is a former political prisoner. In 1996, while a student at Government Technology Institute, in Maubin Township, he attended student demonstrations in Rangoon to protest against the military regime. He marched at the front of the group and carried a fighting peacock flag. This flag is used by pro-democracy organisations and is a symbol of the decades-long democratic struggle against military dictatorship in Burma. He was arrested, charged under section 5 (j) of the Emergency Provisions Act and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment. He was released from Taungoo prison.</p>			
ARREST DETAILS:	<p>He was arrested on 12 October 2007 when Burmese authorities came to his house looking for De Nyein Linn, who is a close friend of the Thein Aye and his family. In a media interview Thein Aye's mother, Khin Kyi said "Government officials in civilian clothing armed with six-shooters and walkie-talkies came to the house and said they were military officers searching for De Nyein Linn. But when they did not find him as he was not hiding in our house, they took my mentally-ill son instead," 23 days after Thein Aye's arrest his family had still received no information about his whereabouts or condition. His mother said "I'm very worried for my son as he is mentally not well and his nonsense talks sometime may lead him to get beaten up to death. Even monks are getting arrested and mistreated these days and they don't leave my son alone." (Democratic Voice of Burma 051107)</p> <p>De Nyein Lin is a leader of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABSFU) and took a leading role in the Saffron Revolution in 2007. This was a series of marches and demonstrations against the</p>			

military regime. Led by students and monks, the name Saffron Revolution comes from the colour of the monks' robes. The peaceful protests were brutally suppressed by the military, and thousands were arrested for participating.

De Nyein Lin was subsequently arrested on the 23 October 2007. He was sentenced to 15 years and six months and is currently in Khamti prison. Even after De Nyein Lin was arrested authorities did not release Thein Aye.

DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:

His case was heard by the Insein Prison Special Court, held inside Insein prison compound. He was charged under Section 212 of the Penal Code for concealing an offender.

On 11 November 2008 he was sentenced to 2 years and 6 months imprisonment.

This profile was prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) on 9 October 2009.