


Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE NO.:	0105			
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:	Thet Thet Aung			
GENDER:	Female	Ethnicity:	Burmese	
DATE OF BIRTH:	December 9, 1977	Age:	31	
RELIGION:	Buddhist			
PARENTS NAME:	U Thaw Win			
EDUCATION:	B.A. Philosophy			
OCCUPATION:	88 Generation Students (Burma/Myanmar)			
LAST ADDRESS:	Sanchaung Tsp., Rangoon.			
ARREST DATE:	October 19, 2007			
SECTION OF LAW:	Section 505 (b) , 130 (b), 17/20, 33 (a), 17/1, 24/1, 32 (b)/36, 6, 5/96 (Section 4)			PHOTO DATE:
SENTENCING HISTORY:	Sentenced to 65 years in prison on November 11, 2008			
COURT HEARING:	Insein prison special court			
NAME OF PRISON:	Insein Annex prison, Myingyan prison			
RELEASE DATE:				

IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:

Thet Thet Aung, sentenced to 65 years, has been suffering from a heart disease, hypertension and gout. Her health condition has been rapidly deteriorating since May 2009.(180609 RFA)

In a January 2008 interview with the *Democratic Voice of Burma* **Thet Thet Aung's** mother, Daw Su Su Kyi had already expressed concern about her daughter's health: "I am really worried about my daughter as she has a heart condition and hypertension." (DVB, January 29, 2008)

CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:

Thet Thet Aung is currently detained in Myingyan Prison, Mandalay Division, upper Burma since she was transferred there from Insein Prison on November 20, 2008. This facility is 396 miles away from Rangoon, where her children live. Her husband Chit Ko Lin was transferred to Pakokku Prison, Magwe Division, in February 2009.

Thet Thet Aung was sentenced to 65 years in prison on November 11, 2008 after having been detained since October 19, 2007 and convicted of charges related to her participation in demonstrations during August of that year.

CAREER BACKGROUND:

Thet Thet Aung is a member of the 88 Generation Students Group. She is married to Chit Ko Lin, who has also been sentenced, and is the daughter of U Thaw Win. Before her arrest, she lived in Sanchaung Township, Rangoon. She passed the Matriculation Examination in 1995 and graduated with a B.A. in Philosophy from Dagon University in 2002. She worked as a government bureaucrat for 6 months, and married Chit Ko Lin in 1999.

Thet Thet Aung has three sons. Aung Ko Ko is 9 years old; Wai Yan Ko Ko is 7 years old and Htoo Aung Linn is 2 years old. **Thet Thet Aung** resigned from her government position after her first child was born. She and her husband have been selling diapers to a department store to earn income. Her mother has been taking care of her three children since she and her husband were detained.

Thet Thet Aung and Chit Ko Lin are both members of the 88 Generation Students Group and were strong activists during the Saffron Revolution. Following an overnight fuel price hike on August 15, 2007, the 88 Generation Students Group, along with other opposition groups staged peaceful walking

protests throughout Rangoon, which then spread across Burma. On August 19, 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. 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.

Many of her friends were arrested on 21 August, but she managed to evade arrest then. Together with fellow women activists Mie Mie and Nilar Thein, **Thet Thet Aung** played an active role in the demonstration the following day. (aapp)

ARREST DETAILS:

Thet Thet Aung was arrested in the early hours of October 19, 2007 while staying at the home of Daw San San Tin, the mother of student activist Ko Nyi Nyi. Daw San San Tin and Ma Noe Noe, who were also staying at the house, were arrested as well. Daw San San Tin's arrest is said to be linked to her family's close relationship with activist Htay Kywe.

Chit Ko Lin, **Thet Thet Aung**'s husband, had already been arrested on the morning of October 8, 2008 near Mingala market in Rangoon, but on that occasion Thet Thet Aung had managed to escape. The security forces then took his mother and his mother-in-law into custody two days later. Her home and those of other family members were searched. From her hiding place, Thet Thet Aung spoke to *The Irrawaddy*. She said, "It's like taking hostages. They arrested my mother and my husband's mother because I escaped. Our children are now at home without an adult. I am very worried about them." (111008 Irrawaddy)

In an interview with *RFA Unplugged* on October 17, 2007, **Thet Thet Aung** said:

"On the 9th, they came back around 2:00 p.m. and searched until 6:00 pm. I was told that they took away my national ID card and that they wanted me. My family was asked to inform me. On the evening of the 9th, they went around and searched houses – my aunts' houses. On the morning of the 10th, they took away my mother and my mother-in-law. They blamed me. They said that only when I was captured would they release my mother and my mother-in-law, my parents. They said they wouldn't release them unless I was captured... The youngest child is only about one year and two months old. Also, the child is not a healthy one. The child had a blood transfusion at birth. The day after birth, the child's blood was transfused, and we had to save his/her life. So, he/she needs a lot of care. The education of the children – the health of the children ... the two older ones – one is eight and the other one is not yet six. They are only at those ages. I'm really concerned for their health and education. I'm also concerned for my parents and my husband. They are really inhumane. My parents - my mother is over 50. She has heart disease, high blood pressure, stomach problems and also terrible asthma. She has to be on constant medication for her asthma. She has to take her medicine day and night. My mother-in-law is over 70. I am extremely worried now for my children. I'm really worried and am thinking what I can do for them [breaks down and cries, sobs] – for my parents and my children and my husband. I'm feeling panicked. Just think about it, I'm worried for my children and my parents."

Chit Ko Lin's mother was subsequently released.

DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:

Thet Thet Aung is currently detained in Myingyan Prison, Mandalay Division. She was transferred there from Insein Prison on November 20, 2008.

The trials of 35 members of the 88 Generation Students Group started on August 27, 2008 and continued on September 9. They, 9 females and 26 males, were brought before the Rangoon Eastern District Court, which was held inside the Insein Prison. Some had been detained in prison more than a year, since August 21, 2007, without trial. Their cases were heard by eight courts, Insein Township Court, Hlaing Tharya Township Court, Rangoon Eastern District Court, Rangoon Northern District Court, Thinganyun Township Court, Dawbon Township Court, South Okkalapa Township Court, and North Okkalapa Township Court. All courts were held inside the Insein Prison.

Detainees included Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi, Pyone Cho, Min Zeya, Mya Aye, Jimmy, Zay Ya, Kyaw Kyaw Htwe, Arnt Bwe Kyaw, Pannate Tun, Zaw Zaw Min, Thet Zaw, Nyan Linn, Than Tin aka Kyee Than, Htay Kywe, Hla Myo Naung, Aung Thu, Myo Aung Naing, **Thet Thet Aung**, Thein Than Tun, Tin Htoo Aung, Zaw Htet Ko Ko, Chit Ko Linn, Thaw Zin Tun, Aung Gyi @ Aung Thike Soe, Saw Myo Min Hlaing, Thin Thin Aye(F), Sandar Min(F), Nwe Hnin Ye(F), Thara Phe Theint Theint Tun(F), Aye Thida(F), San San Tin(F), Lay Lay Mon(F), Hnin May Aung(F). On October 13, Mar Mar Oo (F), arrested on August 7, and Nilar Thein were added to the group of 35.

Their seven Defense Lawyers were U Aung Thein, U Khin Maung Shein, Daw Khin Htay Kywe, U Kyaw Hoe, U Myint Thaug, U Pho Phyu, and U Nyi Nyi Hlaing.

They were charged with 21 counts under the following laws:

- 1) Section 130/b of the Penal Code (committing depredation of foreign governments at peace with Burma) for open criticism of China and Russia for their use of veto power to reject the Burma resolution at the UN Security Council;
- (2) Section 4 of 'Endangering National Convention' (SPDC Law No. 5/96) for criticism of the national convention and constitution writing process;
- (3) Section 17/20 of the Printers and Publishers Registration Act for failure to obtain permission to print publicity pamphlets and for possession of printers without registration;
- (4) Section 33(a) of the Electronic Transactions Law;
- (5) Section 17 (1) of the Unlawful Association Act;
- (6) 24/1 of the Law Amending the control of money (for illegal possession of foreign currency);
- (7) 32(b)/ 36 of the Television and Video Law;
- (8) Section 6 of the Organization of Association Law for forming an organization without permission;
- (9) 505(b) of the Penal Code for denouncing the government.

At the August 27 trial, nine student leaders (Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi, Pyone Cho aka Htay Win Aung, Mya Aye, Hla Myo Naung, Nyan Lin, Aung Thu, Myo Aung Naing and Htay Kywe) as well as the other detainees demanded that they should not be handcuffed during the hearing and that their family members, public and media should be allowed to attend the hearing. During the September 10 hearing, they were still handcuffed, but their family members were allowed to attend. The judge heard from the prosecutor who made his cases based on documents obtained from Internet.

On September 9, Min Ko Naing was quoted in *Burma Digest* (October 1, 2008) as saying, "You can sentence us to a thousand years in prison for our political activities, but we will continue to defend ourselves in accordance with the law. Nobody can hide from justice."

On October 15, 2008, all Township Courts handed over the cases to three District Courts: Rangoon Eastern District Court, Rangoon Western District Court and Rangoon Northern District Court. These three District Courts heard the cases inside Insein prison Compound.

The trial continued on October 27. Many defendants withdrew power of attorney from their lawyers, as they believed the trial was not fair. Some refused to answer the questions of the prosecutors. Security was still tight and the defendants were concerned for their safety. On October 29, nine of the student leaders (Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi, Pyone Cho aka Htay Win Aung, Mya Aye, Hla Myo Naung, Nyan Lin, Aung Thu, Myo Aung Naing and Htay Kywe) were sentenced by the Northern District Court inside Insein prison to 6 months imprisonment under section 228 of the Penal Code for contempt of court after refusing to respond when asked by the presiding judge three times whether they were guilty or not. According to attorney Aung Thein, one of three lawyers for the activists, the judge ruled that the activists had "interrupted a public servant at a judicial proceeding" by repeatedly asking for an open trial that relatives could attend. Some of the other defendants then stood up and demanded the judge to sentence them too. Security forces surrounded the court and the judge ordered them to remove all the defendants from the court and adjourned the trial.

On October 31, the nine who were convicted of contempt of court were transferred to Ma-ubin prison in the Irrawaddy Division. Their trial continued in Ma-ubin District Court, held inside the Ma-ubin prison Compound. On November 1, their families were allowed to visit them in Ma-ubin prison.

In November 2007, members of the 88 Generation Students Group were allowed to receive visits from their families for the first time.

On November 11, 2008, **Thet Thet Aung** was sentenced, along with 13 other activists (Min Zeya, Zaw Zaw Min, Kyaw Min Yu aka Jimmy, Than Tin aka Kyee Than, Zay Ya aka Kalama, Arnt Bwe Kyaw, Kyaw Kyaw Htwe aka Marky, Pannate Tun, Thet Zaw, Thin Thin Aye aka Mie Mie, Sandar Min, Mar Mar Oo, and Nilar Thein), to 65 years in prison. She was convicted of 5 counts of the indictment:

- 1) One charge under Section 6 of the Organization of Association Law for forming an organization without permission; for this charge she was sentenced to 5 years.
- 2) Four charges under Section 33(a) of the Electronic Transactions Law; for each of these she was sentenced to 15 years.

On the same day, the nine activists sent to Ma-ubin prison were also convicted on the same counts. It is expected that those convicted will receive more sentences