


# Political Prisoner Profile

<b>AAPP CASE NO.:</b>	0124			 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Thu Rein Aung © AAPP</p>
<b>NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:</b>	Thu Rein Aung			
<b>GENDER:</b>	Male	<b>Ethnicity:</b>	Burmese	
<b>DATE OF BIRTH:</b>	14 February 1975	<b>Age:</b>	34	
<b>RELIGION:</b>	Buddhist			
<b>PARENTS NAME:</b>	U Hla Aung			
<b>OCCUPATION:</b>	Labor			
<b>LAST ADDRESS:</b>	Hlaing Thar Yar Township, Rangoon			
<b>ARREST DATE:</b>	1 May 2007		<b>PHOTO DATE:</b>	28 March 2009
<b>SECTION OF LAW:</b>	Section 124/a of Sedition, Section 17/1 of Unlawful Association Act (1908) Section 13/1 of Immigration Act Section 17/1 of Unlawful Association Act			
<b>SENTENCING HISTORY:</b>	28 years and fine 1000 Kyats			
<b>COURT HEARING:</b>	Insein prison special court			
<b>NAME OF PRISON:</b>	Sittwe prison from Insein prison			
<b>RELEASE DATE:</b>	2035			
<b>IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:</b>				
He has an eye problem and suffers from Bronchitis on 4 April 2009.				
<b>CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:</b>				
<p>On 3 December 2008, Thu Rein Aung was transferred to Kyaukpyu Prison in Arakan State. (<i>DVB 03122008</i>)</p> <p>On 4 November 2008, Thu Rein Aung along with six other labour activists were transferred from Insein prison to various prisons in Upper Burma. The activists include Kyaw Kyaw, Thu Rein Aung, Myo Min and Kyaw Min. (<i>USCampaignForBurma041108</i>)</p> <p>On 5 August 2008, Thu Rein Aung met the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma, Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, during his first visit to Insein Prison. Thu Rein Aung reportedly complained that he had been denied dental care for more than a year, and, after Mr. Quintana raised the issue with the prison authorities, a dentist was allowed to treat him. The four other political prisoners he saw were U Win Tin., Kyaw Kyaw, Su Su Nway and the revered monk, U Gambira. The envoy declined to reveal what they talked about on the grounds that these were private conversations and he wanted to protect them. (<i>Mizzima15082008</i>)</p> <p>On 22 January 2008, <i>Mizzima</i> reported that the family of Thu Rein Aung and the families of other labour right activists who were arrested on May Day said they had appealed to the <i>International Labour Organisation (ILO)</i> to intervene in the case and secure their release. One of the relatives commented, "They [the <i>ILO</i>] have told us that they would try their best and would meet the detainees. Without help from the <i>ILO</i>, we have no hope because they [the junta] have sentenced the activists to lengthy prison terms," he added. However, the <i>ILO</i> office in Rangoon declined to comment. U Aung Thein, the defense counsel of those arrested said that the divisional Court has rejected their appeal to reconsider the sentences of the activists. "We are now in the process of filing a petition to the High Court. We have</p>				

submitted an application to allow a petition. This is our only hope to fight for the detainees," Aung Thein said. (*Mizzima22012008*)

#### **CAREER BACKGROUND**

There is very little definitive information available concerning Thu Rein Aung's history and background previous to the time of his arrest.

#### **ARREST DETAILS:**

On 1 May 2007, Thu Rein Aung had planned to attend a meeting talking about labor rights in the American Centre, Rangoon. The event had been organized to coincide with May Day and around 50 labor activists attended. On his way to the meeting, Thu Rein Aung was arrested on Ba-yint-naung Bridge. The authorities arrested him in order to prevent him from attending the meeting and discussing labor rights issues. Also arrested and sharing the same case were; Wai Lin, Nyi Nyi Zaw, Kyaw Kyaw, Kyaw Min, Myo Min.

#### **DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:**

On 24 July 2007 Thu Rein Aung along with Way Lin, Nyi Nyi Zaw, Kyaw Kyaw, Kyaw Min, and Myo Min were brought before a court after more than two months of detention in Insein prison. The men's lawyer U Aung Thein told *Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB)* that they had all been charged with discrediting the government, violating the immigration act and engaging with unlawful associations. "Among the charges filed against them are violations under Section 124 (A) of the legal code, which carry sentences of up to life imprisonment, Section 6, which relations to associations, section 13 (1) on the emergency provisions in the Immigration Act and Section 17 (1),"

At the time he added that all the men were in good health and that they had been given the chance to see their families in court. (*DVB 24072007*)

On 7 September 2007, Thu Rein Aung appeared at Insein prison special court for his court hearing along with Wai Lin, Kyaw Min, and Myo Min. The prosecuting Lawyer was Daw Hla Hla Myaing, vice district officer and prosecuting witness was lieutenant major Myo Thant. The Judge was Aye Lwin, vice district judge (1) from western Rangoon district. They didn't have access to a defense lawyer and dismissed council due to the restrictions in the court. They were not allowed to present a defense witness and family members were prohibited from attending the hearing.

They were charged with 3 counts under the following laws:

- 1 – section 124/a of Sedition
- 2 – Section 17/1 of Unlawful Association Act (1908)
- 3 – Section 13/1 of Immigration Act

Thu Rein Aung was sentenced 20 years + 5 years + 3 years and fine 1000 Kyats.

**\*Profile prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) on 27 November 2008, and was updated 4 May 2009 \***