


Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE NO.:	0145			
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:	U Tun Nyo (a.k.a. L Nyo) <i>(Note: "U" is a Burmese honorific title used for a mature man in a senior position to convey respect)</i>			
GENDER:	Male	Ethnicity:	Shan	
DATE OF BIRTH:	±1950	Age:	59 in 2009	
RELIGION:				
PARENTS NAME:	U Ba Myine			
EDUCATION:				
OCCUPATION:	Shan New Generation Youth member			
LAST ADDRESS:	Taunggyi Township, Shan State			
ARREST DATE:	9 February 2005		PHOTO DATE:	
SECTION OF LAW:	Penal Code, Sections 122(1) and 124(a); Endangering National Convention Law No. 5/96, Section 4; Unlawful Association Act of 1908, Section 17(1); Printers and Publishers Registration Law, Sections 17 and 20			
SENTENCING HISTORY:	79 years on 3 November 2005			
COURT HEARING:	Northern Rangoon District Court within the Insein Prison Compound			
NAME OF PRISON:	Buthidaung Prison, Arakan State			
RELEASE DATE:				
IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:				
<p>On 7 November 2008 Shan Herald Agency for News reported that U Tun Nyo was “in desperately in need of health treatment.” It was stated that he was “suffering from heart attack and hypertension.” It was also reported, “His mouth and face have turned black. He also can’t speak too much.” The family applied to the prison warden to have him treated outside the prison, but the request was denied.</p> <p>On 8 February 2007 Asian Human Rights Commission reported on that U Tun Nyo and a number of his seven co-defendants were seriously ill and had been denied permission to get medical treatment outside the prisons where they were being held, despite requests from their families. “Among them, U Htun Nyo (57), who is housed at Buthidaung Prison in Arakan State (western Burma) is said to be in the worst condition. According to an interview with a colleague broadcast on the Voice of America Burmese service on February 3, his left arm has gone numb and he is feeling pain in his chest. A doctor who checked him said he is suffering heart disease and that he had been taking the wrong medicine, which was brought from outside as there is nothing in the jail.” It was also noted that “one of the men, U Myint Than, is already reported to have died in custody on 2 May 2006.” (Asian Human Rights Commission 08/02/2007)</p>				
CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:				
<p>U Tun Nyo is a 59-year-old man who is now serving a 79-year sentence at Buthidaung Prison for his involvement in political activities. <i>(See details below.)</i> Buthidaung Prison is in Arakan State, over 645 kilometers (400 miles) from his family in Shan State’s Taunggyi Township. Transferring political prisoners to distant prisons is one of the tactics used by the regime to further punish prisoners and increase the burden on their families and friends who provide necessary medicines, food, and other support.</p>				
CAREER BACKGROUND:				
U Tun Nyo is a Shan New Generation Youth member.				
ARREST DETAILS:				
<p>U Tun Nyo was arrested on 8 February 2005 along with seven other Shan leaders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Hso Ten (a.k.a. Sai Kyaw Sein): Shan State Peace Council and United Nationalities League for Democracy chair • Khun Htun Oo: Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) Chairman MP-elect and member of the Committee Representing the People's Parliament (CRPP) 				

- Nyunt Lwin: Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD) General Secretary
- Hla Aung: SNLD Central Committee member
- Myint Than (a.k.a. Ah Phyu Shan): New Generation Youth member
- Myo Win Tun: Shan New Generation Youth member
- Nyi Nyi Moe: Shan New Generation Youth member
- **Tun Nyo: Shan New Generation Youth member**

The group was arrested immediately before the convening of the National Convention in February 2005. Authorities arrested them for taking part in a political meeting of senior representatives of the Shan ethnic nationality on Shan National Day, 7 February 2005. The meeting was hosted by the Shan New Generation Youth political party, and was attended by political representatives. After they were arrested, authorities stated that the group had been discussing a common position among political representatives of ethnic nationality political parties with the purpose of agreeing on principles for the political future of Shan State. (Amnesty International 12/12/2005)

U Tun Nyo and the eight other Shan leaders “were accused of treason because they established a new umbrella group [in November 2004] called the Shan State Advisory Expert Group with the objective of working to end decades of civil war in northeastern Shan State (bordering China, Laos and Thailand). The military government accused the new body of being a terrorist organisation that allegedly produced subversive documents.” (Asian Human Rights Commission 18/01/2007)

DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:

U Tun Nyo was tried concurrently with seven other Shan leaders at Northern Rangoon District Court within the Insein Prison compound. “They were held without access to family members, denied legal representation of their choice, and tried in-camera.” (Amnesty International 12/12/2005)

On 3 November 2005, U Tun Nyo was sentenced to 79 years in prison under the following laws:

1. Endangering National Convention Law No. 5/96, Section 4 – Criticism of the national convention and constitution-writing process (*Life Imprisonment of 20 years*)
2. Penal Code, Section 122(1) – High treason against the Union of Burma (*Life Imprisonment of 20 years*)
3. Penal Code, Section 124(a) – Sedition for exciting disaffection toward the government (*Life Imprisonment of 20 years*)
4. Unlawful Association Act of 1908, Section 17(1) – For participating in an unlawful association (*5 Years*)
5. 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration Law, as amended in 1989 by Law No. 16/89, Section 17 – For engaging in a printing enterprise or a publishing business before obtaining a registration certificate from the Central Registration Board (*7 Years*)
6. 1962 Printers and Publishers Registration Law, as amended in 1989 by Law No. 16/89, Section 20 – For not complying with any portion of instructions of the Printers and Publishers Registration Law (*7 Years*)

U Tun Nyo and his co-defendants were sentenced and immediately transferred to prisons scattered all over Burma as follows:

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|-------------------|-----------------|---|
| • General Hso Ten | 106 years | Khamti Prison |
| • Khun Tun Oo | 93 years | Putao Prison |
| • Nyunt Lwin | 85 years | Kalay Prison |
| • Hla Aung | 79 years | Kyaukphyu Prison |
| • Myint Than | 79 years | Sandoway Prison (<i>died in prison on 2 May 2006</i>) |
| • Tun Nyo | 79 years | Buthidaung Prison |
| • Myo Win Tun | 79 years | Myingyan Prison |
| • Nyi Nyi Moe | 79 years | Pakokku Prison |

It is believed that the reason the military regime transferred these eight Shan leaders to prisons throughout Burma is to prevent them from collaborating to plot disruption of government activities.

This profile was prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) on 19 November 2009