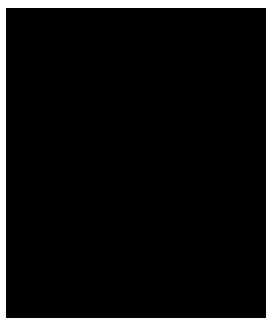


Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE NO.:	0057			
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:	Win Maw aka Maw Gyi aka Japan Gyi			
GENDER:	Male	Ethnicity:	Burmese	
DATE OF BIRTH:	5 September 1962	Age:	47	
RELIGION:	Buddhist			
PARENTS NAME:	U Thar Hla			
EDUCATION:	Rangoon University Student 1984			
OCCUPATION:	Musician and Media Contributor			
LAST ADDRESS:	Sanchaung Township, Rangoon			
ARREST DATE:	27 November 2007		PHOTO DATE:	
SECTION OF LAW:	Section 505/b, 13/1, 33/a			
SENTENCING HISTORY:	7 years on 11 November 2008 and 10 years on 5 March 2009			
COURT HEARING:	Insein prison special court			
NAME OF PRISON:	Thandwe prison			
RELEASE DATE:				
IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:				
<p>At present Ko Win Maw is in bad health and suffers from asthma, he has trouble breathing and is not receiving proper medical treatment. (AAPP Unofficial translation of DVB interview 280909) He had previously suffered from pneumonia in 2008 after being subjected to water torture while in an interrogation centre after his arrest.</p>				
CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:				
<p>On 23 September 2009, Myo Yan Naung Thein, a political prisoner who had just been released in an amnesty, gave an interview. He reported that Ko Win Maw is in bad health and suffering from asthma. He sometimes can't breathe properly at night and then he almost falls unconscious. There are no medics, no doctors, and no proper medical care. (AAPP unofficial translation of DVB interview 280909)</p> <p>On 5 March 2009 Win Maw was sentenced to a further ten years imprisonment under Section 33 (A) of the Electronic Transactions Law. He now faces a total of 17 years imprisonment. Win Maw was also transferred to Thandwe prison in March 2009.</p> <p>On 17 January 2009 Win Maw was transferred back to Insein prison from Taungoo prison in Pegu Divison because the authorities will charge him under the Electronic Transactions Law, reported his wife, Tha Zin, who had recently visited him. (DVB 18012009)</p> <p>On 30 November 2008 it was learned that Win Maw had been transferred to Taungoo prison in Pegu Division. The exact date of his transfer is not know, but it is sometime after he was sentenced on 11 November 2008.</p> <p>On 11 November 2008 Win Maw was sentenced to seven years imprisonment under Section 505 (B) of the Penal Code and Section 13 (1) of The Law Amending the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act 1947.</p> <p>On 16 January 2008 a family member of Win Maw reported that he had contracted pneumonia and had received medical treatment after being tortured by authorities while he was in an interrogation centre. The torture included water torture. The family member also said they had not been allowed to visit him</p>				

for nearly three weeks. (Irrawaddy 160108)

CAREER BACKGROUND:

While Win Maw was a student at Rangoon University in 1984, he was the lead guitarist for the band 'Computer Control', along with his only brother Win Zaw on bass guitar. Win Maw decided to leave university to focus on his music. They were given a nightly spot on the state-run television station in 1994. As the use of the English language on Burmese television is strongly discouraged, they changed their name to 'Shwe Tan Zin' (Golden Melody). (Shoot the Singer, 2004)

In November 1996 Win Maw, his brother Win Zaw and the band's drummer Win Tin were arrested by Military Intelligence Services (MIS). They were charged under Section 5 (J) of the Emergency Provision Act for singing anti-regime lyrics in remakes of Pink Floyd's 'Another Brick in the Wall' and Led Zeppelin's 'Stairway to Heaven' and for writing songs in support of Burma's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. They were sentenced to seven years imprisonment with hard labour, and their music was banned from the airwaves. A group of musicians petitioned the ruling military government, named the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) for their release. This was ignored and Win Maw served out his sentence in Taungoo Prison, he was released in 2002. (Shoot the Singer, 2004)

One year after his release, he visited Mae Sot with his brother Win Zaw. While there, they agreed to return to Rangoon and provide information about the situation in Burma to the Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB), a non-profit Burmese news organization based in Norway. He started this work as a media contributor in February 2006. He provided information, photos and videos about a variety of issues until his arrest in 2007 including:

- Rising commodity prices, on 15 August 2007 the junta removed the subsidies for fuel, causing costs to increase between 100 and 500% overnight, this in turn led to the increase in food and other commodity prices.
- Activities of the National League for Democracy (NLD), Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's political party who won the 1990 election.
- Activities of the 88 Students Generation group, a pro-democracy group formed on 6 September 2005 and led by Min Ko Naing. During 2006 the 88 Generation students organized the "White Sunday" campaign; where they wore white clothing similar to that worn by political prisoners and visited the families of political prisoners in an act of solidarity and protest. In August 2007 they led the demonstrations against the regime's mismanagement, hikes in fuel and commodity prices and the falling standard of living. Many of them were arrested for their participation and have been sentenced to up to 65 years in prison.
- The arrests of the 88 Students Generation members.
- The events of the Saffron Revolution in September 2007 when thousands took to the streets to protest led by the monks. These peaceful demonstrations were brutally suppressed by the military resulting in thousands of monks, nuns and civilians being beaten, shot, killed or arrested.

ARREST DETAILS:

Win Maw was arrested on 27 November 2007, along with two friends Myat San and Aung Aung, as they sat in a Moon – Barkley teashop, near Sule Pagoda in Rangoon.

Amnesty International issued a strong statement condemning the arrests, saying: "Two months after the violent crackdown on peaceful demonstrators, arbitrary arrests continue unabated as part of the Myanmar [Burma] government's systematic suppression of freedom of expression and association, contrary to its claims of a return to normalcy."

DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:

On 30 January 2008 he was charged under section 505(B) of the Penal Code by Special Branch Police for having upset public tranquility by sending false news by phone and email including photographs, during the protests in August and September 2007 to the Norway-based news organization, Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) It is not illegal for a person in Burma to have contact with overseas media, so Win Maw was not breaking the law by sending the news to DVB. He was accused of sending false news with intent to harm the public. (Asian Human Rights Commission 090908)

The case opened in Insein prison special court on 28 March 2008 in Case No. 313/2008, and was presided over by Judge U Tin Latt-(L.L.B) (Special Power) Mingalar Taungnyunt Township. The prosecutor was police officer Ye Nyunt (La-58188) from Information Forces. His defense lawyer was U Khin Maung Shein. The case was heard in a closed court, which is against the normal judicial procedure in Burma.

The police gave a list of evidence to the court that included legally published books owned by Win Maw's father and bearing his signature, some photos of democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, which also are not illegal, and a computer hard disk. There was no information submitted that was on the disk, only the disk itself. They also recorded on the evidence list 18 "political" texts but they admitted in court they were actually English learners from the American Center in Rangoon where Win Maw had gone to study. (Asian Human Rights Commission 090908)

On 10 October 2008 detained activists **Win Maw**, Myat San, Tint San, Aung Thwin, Aung Myint, Aung Zaw Oo, Kyaw Soe, and Maung Kan dismissed their defense lawyer in protest at their unfair trial in Insein prison special court. They demanded justice and a free and fair trial to be held in public. (Irrawaddy 131008)

On 11 November 2008 Win Maw was sentenced to seven years imprisonment under section 505 (B) of the Penal Code and Section 13 (1) of The Law Amending the Myanmar Immigration (Emergency Provisions) Act 1947.

On 5 March 2009 he was sentenced to a further 10 years imprisonment under Section 33 (A) of the Electronic Transactions Law. The latest sentencing means Win Maw will now serve a total of 17 years. He was sent to Thandwe prison in March 2009.

HONOURABLE AWARDS:

Ko Win Maw is the second recipient of the Kenji Nagai award for journalism together with Ma Hla Hla Win on 26 January 2010.

This profile was prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) on 10 October 2008 and updated on 5 October 2009 and 28 January 2010