


Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE NO.:	0049			 <p style="text-align: center;">Zaw Win</p>
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:	Zaw Win			
GENDER:	Male	Ethnicity:	Burmese	
DATE OF BIRTH:	1959	Age:	50 in 2009	
RELIGION:	Buddhist			
PARENTS NAME:	U Win			
EDUCATION:	Grade 10			
OCCUPATION:	NLD Secretary of Southwest Township in Mandalay Trader			
LAST ADDRESS:	Southwest Township, Mandalay.			
ARREST DATE:	25 September 2007		PHOTO DATE:	
SECTION OF LAW:	505 (B) 295 (A)			
SENTENCING HISTORY:	8 years			
COURT HEARING:	Mandalay Prison Special Court and Insein Prison Special Court			
NAME OF PRISON:	Moulmein prison			
RELEASE DATE:				
IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:				
CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:				
<p>In August 2009 Zaw Win was transferred to Moulmein prison in Mon State, lower Burma. This is a long distance from his family in Mandalay.</p>				
CAREER BACKGROUND:				
<p>Zaw Win is the Secretary of Mandalay South-West Township for the National League for Democracy (NLD). The NLD is Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's political party, who won the 1990 elections by a landslide victory, but has been prohibited from forming a government by the military regime. He is married to Daw San San Aye and they have one daughter and one son.</p> <p>Zaw Win was arrested for the first time in 1991; he was accused of having contact with pro-democracy organizations in exile, and was released without charge.</p> <p>He was arrested again in 1999. On 13 August 1999 the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), the name the military regime gave themselves, held a press conference. They accused Zaw Win and other NLD members of meeting with pro-democracy organizations working both inside Burma and abroad. They alleged the groups had made acts to create unrest in upper Burma, including Mandalay, and were planning to incite student groups, monks and the poor to riot against the regime and the rise in commodity prices. (Myanmar Information Committee 140899) Zaw Win was charged and sentenced to 10 years imprisonment. (Irrawaddy 040107)</p> <p>He was detained in Insein prison, then transferred to Tharawaddy prison. He was released on 3 January 2007 as part of an amnesty. In an interview after his release, he said "Although I have been released, I am not happy because my colleagues remain detained under wretched prison conditions. Many of them are in poor health, some are very old and several have been in prison for nearly two decades." (Irrawaddy 040107)</p> <p>After his release he returned home to live in Mandalay.</p>				

ARREST DETAILS:

On 25 September 2007, at 11pm Zaw Win and his wife Daw San San Aye were arrested by the Chief of No.7 Police Station, Local Authority U Myint, and Special Branch (SB) Khun Min Thein without a warrant. Daw San San Aye was held for one month and then released. Zaw Win was detained at Shwesarran Riot Squad Battalion No.4, before being transferred to Mandalay Obo prison.

DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:

Zaw Win was arrested for participating in the Saffron Revolution and attending prayer meetings held in 2007 for the release of all political prisoners. (Mizzima 151108) The Saffron Revolution is the name given to a series of marches and demonstrations held throughout Burma to protest the military regime's economic mismanagement and the falling standard of living. In August 2007 the regime removed fuel subsidies overnight causing fuel prices to increase between 100 and 500%. This led to an increase in the prices of all commodities. The name 'Saffron Revolution' comes from the colour of the monks' robes, who led many of the peaceful marches in September 2007. This movement was brutally suppressed by the military and thousands of monks, students and civilians were arrested for participating.

Zaw Win and his colleagues were accused of working with U Gambira, who became the spokesman for the All Burma Monks Allegiance (ABMA), the group who were instrumental in getting thousands of monks to participate in the demonstrations. U Gambira was arrested and sentenced to 68 years imprisonment for his role in the Saffron Revolution; this was later reduced on appeal to 63 years imprisonment. After his arrest he was stripped of his monk's robes, tortured, mistreated and denied adequate medical care by authorities. He is currently in bad health and is reportedly having trouble talking. (Radio Free Asia 090709)

Zaw Win was charged with three counts under Section 505 (B) of the Penal Code (causing offences against the state or against public tranquility) and one charge under Section 295 (A) of the Penal Code (insulting religion).

On 2 October 2008 Zaw Win's lawyer Aung Thein withdrew his representation in the cases of his clients detained for their involvement in the 2007 public demonstrations. He said this was in protest of the court's refusal to allow him enough time to prepare a defence, and that he had obtained consent from his clients. (Democratic Voice of Burma 021028)

On 7 November, lawyers Aung Thein and Khin Maung Shein, were charged under Section 3 of the Contempt of Court Act and sentenced to four months imprisonment each. (US Campaign for Burma 151108)

On 14 November 2008 a special court held inside Oo-Bo Prison in Mandalay delivered prison sentences to three Mandalay NLD members; Shwe Maung, Wunna Aung and **Zaw Win**. They were charged with Section 505 (B) of the Penal Code for inducing crime against public tranquility and sentenced to four years imprisonment each. (US Campaign for Burma 141108).

On 21 November 2008 a special court held inside Insein Prison Compound delivered sentences to six NLD members and four monks, for their support of U Gambira and their participation in the Saffron Revolution. NLD members **Zaw Win**, Shwe Maung and Wunna Aung from Mandalay were sentenced to four years imprisonment each. This brings their total sentence to 8 years imprisonment. (RFA 211108 and US Campaign for Burma 211108)

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

