

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 16/13/94
Distr: UA/SC

19 August 1994

Further information on UA 293/94 (ASA 16/11/94, 10 August 1994) - Fear of Torture

MYANMAR (BURMA): Khin Maung Swe, 52, opposition politician
Daw San San Nwe (f), writer, and her daughter
U Sein Hla Oo, 58, journalist, editor and opposition politician
new name: Dr Htun Myat Aye, dentist

Dr Htun Myat Aye, a dentist who had worked for UNICEF in Yangon (Rangoon) was also arrested on 5 August 1994. It is not known where he or the four others arrested on that date are being detained. Amnesty International fears for their safety in view of the reports it has received of the torture and ill-treatment of detained government opponents.

Khin Maung Swe, U Sein Hla Oo and Daw San San Nwe have all been previously imprisoned by the military government, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). Khin Maung Swe, MP-elect for the main opposition party, the National League for Democracy (NLD), was arrested in October 1990 in Yangon and sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. Amnesty International adopted him as a prisoner of conscience, imprisoned solely for the peaceful expression of his political beliefs. He was released on 1 May 1992, although he was rearrested briefly on 27 July 1993.

U Sein Hla Oo, another MP-elect for the NLD, was arrested in 1990 at the same time as Khin Maung Swe, and also sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment. Amnesty International believed that he may also have been a prisoner of conscience. He was released on 1 May 1992. U Sein Hla Oo and Khin Maung Swe met regularly in Yangon after their release to provide each other with mutual support.

Daw San San Nwe was arrested in Yangon in July 1989. She was a member of the Writers Group of the NLD, although she had not taken part in the uprisings of 1988. Amnesty International does not know how long Daw San San Nwe was in detention, but the organization has learned that after her release, she was not politically active, and the government banned her from publishing her writing for some time.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes and airmail letters:

- expressing concern at the arrest of Dr Htun Myat Aye, and the arrest of Daw San San Nwe's daughter, and requesting details of their whereabouts;
- expressing concern at the rearrest of Khin Maung Swe, a former prisoner of conscience, U Sein Hla Oo, a former possible prisoner of conscience, and Daw San San Nwe, and requesting details of their whereabouts;
- seeking assurances that their treatment in detention conforms to international standards, and that they be given access to their families, lawyers, and medical personnel;
- urging that all five be promptly charged with a recognizably criminal offence, or released.

APPEALS TO

General Than Shwe
Chairman
State Law and Order Restoration Council
c/o Ministry of Defence

Signal Pagoda Road
Yangon, Union of Myanmar
Telegrams: General Than Shwe, Yangon, Myanmar
Telexes: 21316
Salutation: Dear General

Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt
Secretary 1
State Law and Order Restoration Council
c/o Ministry of Defence
Signal Pagoda Road
Yangon, Union of Myanmar
Telegrams: Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, Yangon, Myanmar
Salutation: Dear Lieutenant General

General Maung Aye
Vice Chairman
State Law and Order Restoration Council
c/o Ministry of Defence
Signal Pagoda Road
Yangon, Union of Myanmar
Telegrams: General Maung Aye, Yangon, Myanmar
Salutation: Dear General

COPIES TO: diplomatic representatives of Myanmar accredited to your country

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your Section office, if sending appeals after 30 September 1994.