

URGENT ACTION

U GAMBIRA NEEDS URGENT MEDICAL CARE

U Gambira has been transferred from Kale prison, Sagaing Division, to Myaungmya prison, Ayeryawady Division. Myaungmya prison is more than 600 km from Meiktila where U Gambira's family lives and slightly further away from his family's home than Kale prison.

U Gambira continues to be in need of urgent medical attention as a result of injuries he sustained after he was reportedly tortured in 2009 when in Hkamti prison, north of Kale, after requesting permission to exercise. Prison guards are reported to have shackled him and handcuffed him to a chair, stuffed a cloth in his mouth, and placed a black cloth bag over his head. They then beat him on the head with a stick. U Gambira is reported to have been left handcuffed to the chair for extended periods, during which time he was spoon-fed by the guards. He was transferred to Kale Prison on 12 May 2009 and to Myaungmya prison around 16 November 2011.

U Gambira was held in solitary confinement in Kale prison, northern Myanmar. Some former prisoners who were able to visit him reported that he has difficulty speaking, and that he has scars and marks on his hands, arms and body. In addition, U Gambira is reported to suffer from very severe headaches several times a week, which cause him to cry out in pain. When this happens, prison guards administer an injection, which results in U Gambira falling asleep for about five hours. When he wakes up he is in a daze and finds it very difficult to speak. There is concern that U Gambira is being injected with drugs rather than being treated for his injuries. He is not thought to have received any appropriate treatment since he was tortured.

Please note that two of the addressees and one of the targets below have been changed. The address for Myanmar National Human Rights Commission has been updated below and copies of letters should now be sent to the Minister of Health rather than to the prison authorities.

Please write immediately in English or your own language:

- Calling for U Gambira to be admitted to hospital immediately for a full and independent medical examination, and for him to be given all necessary medical treatment;
- Calling for U Gambira to be released immediately and unconditionally, as he is a prisoner of conscience, detained solely as a result of his peaceful activism;
- Urging the authorities to conduct a full and impartial investigation into the reports that U Gambira was tortured, with the results made public and those responsible brought to justice;
- Noting that torture and other forms of ill-treatment are absolutely prohibited under international law.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 5 JANUARY 2012 TO:

Minister of Home Affairs

Lt Gen Ko Ko

Ministry of Home Affairs

Office No. 10

Nay Pyi Taw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Fax: +95 67 412 439

Salutation: Dear Minister

Chairman

U Win Mya

Myanmar National Human Rights

Commission

27 Pyay Road, Hline Township

Yangon

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Salutation: Dear Chairman

And copies to:

Minister of Health

Dr. Pe Thet Khin

Building 4

Nay Pyi Taw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Salutation: Dear Minister

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country.

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA: 319/11. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA16/006/2011/en>

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



URGENT ACTION

U GAMBIRA NEEDS URGENT MEDICAL CARE

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

U Gambira is serving a 63-year prison sentence for his peaceful activities in the major anti-government protests that began in Myanmar in August 2007. He is a founding member of the All Burma Monks Alliance (ABMA), which was formed in September 2007, and went on to mobilize tens of thousands of monks to join the demonstrations. U Gambira was sentenced in November 2008 after an unfair trial.

Name: U Gambira
Gender m/f: male

Further information on UA 319:11 Index: ASA: 16/009/2011 Issue Date: 24 November 2011

