

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 16/024/2003

08 September 2003

Further Information on UA 159/03 (ASA 16/009/2003, 02 June 2003) and follow-ups (ASA 16/010/2003, 6 June 2003; ASA 16/011/2003, 4 July 2003; ASA 16/021/2003, 25 July 2003; ASA 16/023/2003, 02 September 2003) - Fear for safety / possible "disappearance"

MYANMAR

**Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (f) aged 58, General Secretary of the National League for Democracy (NLD)
U Tin Oo, aged 75, Deputy Chairman of the NLD
Daw Win Mya Mya (f), a NLD divisional organizer
Members of Parliament, monks, doctors, lawyers, photographers, students**

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is not now on hunger strike. She was seen on 6 September by the International Committee of the Red Cross, who reported that she was well.

Concern remains for the safety of at least 117 people, including other NLD members and organizers, elected Members of Parliament, senior party officials and students, who are believed to have been detained or "disappeared" following a violent attack on the NLD on 30 May 2003. Among those held incommunicado is Daw Win Mya Mya, a NLD divisional organizer from Mandalay, who was reportedly injured during the attack.

There have been reports those detained on 30 May have been ill-treated in detention, and that many, including those held in Khamti Prison, are suffering from illnesses exacerbated by their treatment in detention. A list of named individuals can be found on <http://web.amnesty.org/pages/mmr-040603-action-eng>.

Arrests of political activists are continuing. At least 75 additional people have been arrested since events on 30 May, in many instances on account of their calls for an investigation into the attack and for the release of those detained on 30 May. Some have reportedly been sentenced to prison terms. (See UA 207/03, ASA 16/17/2003, 11 July 2003 and follow-ups).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The State Peace and Development Council confirmed to Amnesty International in July 2003 that they were holding a number of people detained on 30 May, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo "in temporary custody;" that a number of others detained after 30 May were being held "in temporary custody for their security while still under interrogation;" and that eight senior politicians believed to be under house arrest have been requested to "stay at home peacefully". However, authorities have failed to clarify the legal basis for these detentions or the whereabouts of those detained.

Authorities have also stated that 91 people have been released from detention. They have reportedly been required to sign undertakings not to engage in activities "detrimental to the state", or to face future prosecution. Peaceful political activities have frequently been characterized by authorities as prosecutable offences "detrimental to the state".

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of those detained, including those who are being held incommunicado, following the attack on NLD members on 30 May 2003;

- urging authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and others, including Daw Win Mya Mya, detained for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression, association and assembly and calling for an end to the arrests of others on this basis;
- urging authorities that pending their release, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and others are granted immediate access to lawyers, doctors, relatives and appropriate medical care;
- urging authorities to make public information on the names, whereabouts and legal basis for the detention of all those reportedly detained or missing;
- calling for guarantees that no detainees will be tortured or ill-treated;
- expressing concern at the reported killings of NLD members and others on 30 and 31 May 2003, and urging authorities to permit a thorough and independent investigation into these incidents, to make the results public and to bring those responsible to justice, in accordance with international standards.

APPEALS TO:

General Khin Nyunt
Prime Minister
Ministry of Defence, Signal Pagoda Road
Dagon Post Office
Yangon
Union of Myanmar

Telegram: General Khin Nyunt, Yangon, Myanmar

Telex: 21316

Fax: + 95 1 652 624

Salutation: Dear Prime Minister

Lieutenant General Soe Win, Secretary 1
State Peace and Development Council
Ministry of Defence, Signal Pagoda Road
Dagon Post Office
Yangon
Union of Myanmar

Telegram: Lieutenant General Soe Win, Yangon, Myanmar

Telex: 21316

Fax: + 95 1 652 624

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 20 October 2003.