

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 16/19/00

14 September 2000

Further information on UA 263/00 (ASA 16/17/00, 5 September 2000) and follow-up (ASA 16/18/00, 6 September 2000) - Fear of torture/prisoners of conscience

MYANMARU Soe Myint, 78, - National League for Democracy (NLD) Central Executive Committee member, NLD Yangon Division Chairman

Dr Myo Aung - NLD Yangon Division organizing committee member (reportedly not detained)

NLD Youth members: Htun Zaw Zaw, Myo Nyunt, Htun Myint, Thein Lwin, Aung Htoo, Khin Oo, Moe Thaw (alias Pauk Pauk), Myint Kyaw, Shwe Gyo, Than Htut, Nyan Lin Aung, Aye Myein Lin, Than Htun, Thein Swe, Zaw Min Kyaw, Min Aung Nyo

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi - NLD General Secretary

U Tin U - NLD Vice Chairman

Senior NLD leaders who had been asked to remain in their homes have now been allowed to "resume their daily activities as usual", the Myanmar authorities announced today.

There are reports that NLD vice chairman U Tin U, at least one other senior NLD leader and some foreign diplomats have been allowed to visit Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at her home.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin U had been held incommunicado since 2 September. The security forces had stopped them and other NLD members on 24 August as they left Yangon for a meeting. The group refused to turn back and stayed at the roadside in the Yangon suburb of Dallah until 2 September, when some 200 riot police forcibly returned them to Yangon.

Amnesty International has received no further information about the whereabouts of the 16 NLD Youth members named above, or about U Soe Myint, who were reportedly detained in Insein Prison after they were returned to Yangon.

BACKGROUND

The military authorities have launched a series of crackdowns on the National League for Democracy since the party won over 80% of the parliamentary seats in the May 1990 elections. The NLD has not been allowed to form a government, hundreds of its members are imprisoned for their peaceful political activities, and thousands have been forced to resign from the party.

Political prisoners in Myanmar are often tortured during interrogation by Military Intelligence after they are arrested. After sentencing they can also be tortured if they break arbitrary and harsh prison rules. Prison conditions are extremely poor. Political prisoners are denied adequate food, medical care, and sanitation, and dozens have died through lack of proper care.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language:

- welcoming the reported lifting of restrictions and end of incommunicado detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Tin U and other NLD Central Executive Committee members;

- expressing concern for the safety of U Soe Myint and the 16 named NLD Youth members whose whereabouts and status have not been made public;
- urging that all those still detained should be allowed immediate access to lawyers, their families and medical treatment;
- urging the SPDC to release U Soe Myint and the 16 named NLD Youth members immediately and unconditionally, unless they are charged with a recognizably criminal offense.

APPEALS TO:

Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, Secretary 1
State Peace and Development Council
c/o Director of Defense Services Intelligence (DDSI)
Ministry of Defense, Signal Pagoda Road
Dagon Post Office
Yangon
Union of Myanmar

Telegrams: General Khin Nyunt, Yangon, Myanmar

Telexes: 21316

Faxes: + 95 1 222 950

Salutation: Your Excellency

Colonel Hla Min
Office of Strategic Studies
Department of International Affairs
c/o Ministry of Defense, Signal Pagoda Road
Dagon Post Office
Yangon
Union of Myanmar

Telegrams: Colonel Hla Min, Yangon, Myanmar

Telexes: 21316

Faxes: + 95 1 222 950

Salutation: Dear Colonel

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 26 October 2000.