

**MYANMAR** Thaint Wunna Khin (f), aged 3

Ma Khin Khin Leh, 33, her mother

U Aye Swe, aged 55

Daw Tin Tin, 50, his wife

Kyaw Kyaw Oo, 33, their son

U Zaw Myint, aged 49

Daw Tint Tint, his wife, 47

Ko Zaw Zaw Latt, their son, 20

U Ba Chit, 48

U Ye Tint, teacher, 45

U Win Myint, 45, shopkeeper

Dr. Shwe Bo (f), 45, medical doctor

Ma Thida Htway (f), 27, teacher

Ko Lwin Moe Myint, 27, student activist

Ko Myint Oo, 30, market vendor

Ko Ah Thay Lay, 21, student

Ko Hla Win, 23, student

**Two unnamed female physicians in their mid 40s**

Amnesty International considers the 19 people listed above, who were arrested between 19 and 23 July 1999, in Pegu, central Myanmar to be possible prisoners of conscience. They are also at risk of torture and ill-treatment. One of those arrested, Thaint Wunna Khin, is three years old, and the organization is particularly concerned about her health.

Kyaw Wunna and other pro-democracy activists in Pegu were reportedly planning a march on 19 July, Martyrs' Day, the 52nd anniversary of the assassination of General Aung San. General Aung San, who fought for independence from the British, was the father of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD). Between 16 and 18 July, pamphlets were distributed announcing the march and messages were spray-painted on walls in Pegu calling for support for the NLD, prices to be lowered, and civil servants' salaries to be raised.

When the local Military Intelligence (MI) could not locate Kyaw Wunna, they arrested his three-year-old daughter Thaint Wunna Khin and wife Ma Khin Khin Leh on 19 July, and six more of his family on 23 July. A further 11 people who distributed pamphlets were arrested between 19 and 24 July. The local branch of MI, MI3, is believed to be interrogating all 19 people at several locations.

Detainees, especially students and young people, are frequently tortured and ill-treated in Myanmar's detention centres, particularly in the early stages of detention.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The NLD won almost 82% of the seats in the 1990 general election, but have never been permitted to form a government. Instead, hundreds of NLD members of parliament-elect and other NLD activists were arrested and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. Although many have been released since April 1992, hundreds of others have been arrested, particularly since the NLD became more active after the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest in July

1995. The NLD has always advocated non-violent political activities and has opposed the use of violence.

In June 1998 the NLD called on Myanmar's military government, the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) to convene the parliament elected in May 1990. When the SPDC failed to do so by August 1998, the NLD announced that they would convene it themselves. In order to prevent the NLD from convening parliament, beginning in early September 1998 the SPDC arrested hundreds of NLD MPs-elect and other NLD officials and kept them in "Government Guesthouses" without charge or trial. The NLD also announced the formation of a 10-member Committee Representing the People's Parliament (CRPP), which the SPDC has demanded be dissolved. An unknown number of NLD activists arrested in September 1998 are still detained.

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

- urging the SPDC to immediately and unconditionally release three-year-old Thaint Wunna Khin and her mother Ma Khin Khin Leh;
- urging the SPDC to immediately and unconditionally release the other 17 political activists, or charge them with a recognizably criminal offence;
- urging the SPDC to ensure that those detained are not tortured or ill-treated, and that they all have immediate access to their families, lawyers, and proper medical care.

**APPEALS TO:**

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

Union of Myanmar

**Telegrams: General Khin Nyunt, Yangon, Myanmar**

**Telexes: 21316**

**Faxes: +95 1 229 50**

**Salutation: Dear General**

Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman  
State Peace and Development Council  
c/o Director of Defence Services Intelligence (DDSI)  
Ministry of Defence, Signal Pagoda Road  
Dagon Post Office  
Yangon

Union of Myanmar

**Telegrams: General Than Shwe, Yangon, Myanmar**

**Telexes: 21316**

**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 7 September 1999.