

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 16/01/98

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Further information on EXTRA 147/97 (ASA 16/31/97, 31 October 1997) - Fear of torture/ill-treatment / Possible prisoners of conscience

MYANMARDaw San San (f)  
U Soe Myint  
Dr Than Nyein, NLD Member of Parliament-elect  
Win Win Htay alias Ma Po (f)  
Daw May Win Myint (f), NLD MP-elect  
Khin Maung Myint  
U Win Thaung  
U Mya Thaung

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Seven of the people arrested on 28/29 October 1997 for attempting to hold a meeting of the National League for Democracy (NLD) Youth in Mayangone township with NLD leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi have been brought to trial at a court in Insein Prison, Yangon. On 9 December U Soe Myint, Dr Than Nyein, Win Win Htay, Daw May Win Myint, U Win Thaung, U Mya Thaung and Khin Maung Myint were sentenced to six years' imprisonment under Section 5j of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act. Section 5j provides for the detention of anyone who "causes or intends to disrupt the morality or the behaviour of a group of people..., or to disrupt the security or ... stability of the Union" and is frequently used to imprison political prisoners in Myanmar. Khin Maung Myint was sentenced to an additional two years' imprisonment under Section 16A of the 1986 Gambling Act for possession of a Thai lottery ticket. None of those sentenced were allowed access to lawyers or family members.

Daw San San is believed to be held under the provisions of the 1975 State Protection Law, which allows for up to five years' untried detention for "endangering the state sovereignty and security". She has not been allowed any visits from her family.

Amnesty International believes that the charges against the eight men and women are politically motivated, and that they are prisoners of conscience.

Other parts of the Amnesty International membership will now be working on these cases. No further action by the UA Network is requested. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.