

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 16/16/96

22 May 1996

Further information (1) on EXTRA 73/96 (ASA 16/14/96, 21 May 1996) - Fear of Torture / Legal concern and new concern: Prisoners of Conscience

MYANMARU Win Thein; Dr. Aung Khin Sint, and some 90 other NLD activists, including at least six women

Amnesty International has obtained the names of some 90 National League for Democracy (NLD) activists who have been arrested in the last three days. Arrests are continuing hourly. The vast majority of those arrested are NLD members of parliament-elect. However U Win Htein, the current NLD spokesman and a former prisoner of conscience released in February 1995, is not an MP. He was taken from his home at 10pm on 21 May 1996 to an unknown location. When he asked the arresting officers for a warrant, he was told that a warrant was not needed as charges had already been brought against him. Dr Aung Khin Sint, another former prisoner of conscience who was also released in February 1995, has been re-arrested as well.

Amnesty International does not know where these 90 people are being held and fears that they may be subjected to ill-treatment and torture. Evidently no charges have yet been brought against them. The group was arrested solely for planning to attend a peaceful meeting and should be released immediately and unconditionally.

In spite of these arrests, the NLD is still planning to hold a conference from 26-29 May, because, according to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi: *"our elected representatives still have a duty to the people who elected them. We are the only party with a mandate from the people."* NLD Chairman U Aung Shwe also sent a letter of protest about the arrests to the State Law and Order Restoration Council, but has not received a reply.

The wives of the two MP's who had been arrested in their place have now been released.

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

- seeking assurances that the treatment of U Win Htein, U Aung Khin Sint and all the NLD activists conforms to international standards and that they are being given proper access to family, lawyers of their own choice and medical personnel;
- seeking information about the whereabouts of the group and the exact charges against them;
- urging that they be immediately and unconditionally released

APPEALS TO:

1) Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman
State Law and Order Restoration 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

2) Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, Secretary 1

State Law and Order Restoration Council
c/o Director of Defence Services Intelligence (DDSI)
Ministry of Defence, Signal Pagoda Road
Dagon Post Office
Yangon, Union of Myanmar

Telegrams: Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, Yangon, Myanmar

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 22 June 1996.