

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 16/56/96

20 December 1996

Further information on EXTRA 185/96 (ASA 16/52/96, 3 December 1996) and follow-up (ASA 16/53/96, 5 December; ASA 16/54/96, 9 December; ASA 16/55/96, 10 December) - Prisoners of conscience / Fear of ill-treatment

MYANMARU Maung Maung (m)

U Than Oo (m), NLD organizing committee, Yangon

Chit Khaing (m), NLD organizing committee, Yangon

U Maung Maung Lay (m), NLD organizing committee, Yangon

Dr Thaung Win (m), NLD member of parliament-elect

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Amnesty International has learned that U Maung Maung, U Than Oo, Chit Khaing, and Dr Thaung Win were released from detention at 11.30am on 11 December 1996. U Maung Maung Lay was released the next day. No further information about them is available. The other 22 individuals named in the previous update (10 December, ASA 16/55/96) are believed to remain in detention along with scores of other NLD members and students. According to reports, they are being held at Insein Prison, Kyaikkasan racecourse, and an army base in Yangon Division.

This is for the information of the UA Network. Please continue action on behalf of the 22 people still held.

#### FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Classes at universities and other educational institutions in Yangon were suspended beginning 9 December and students who boarded at Yangon campuses were sent home. There were sporadic small student demonstrations in Yangon and in the northern city of Mandalay, Upper Myanmar on 10,11 and the early hours of 12 December. Although extensive roadblocks throughout central Yangon were partially lifted later that week, on 13 December five to 10 tanks occupied central Yangon amid an extremely heavy troop presence throughout the city. Since that time Yangon has remained quiet, although a group of about 150 supporters gathered to hear Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speak on 15 December. However, her compound remains barricaded, and she is still not able to leave her home.

Myanmar's military government continues to assert that the student demonstrations were connected to the NLD; however both the students and the NLD deny such assertions.