

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 65/95 (ASA 16/04/95, 15 March 1995) and follow-ups (ASA 16/06/95, 27 March; ASA 16/09/95, 28 April; ASA 16/11/95, 11 May) - Ill-treatment / Fear of torture

MYANMAR        Moe Kalayar (f)  
                  Aye Aye Moe (f)  
                  Cho Nwe Oo (f)  
                  Moe Maung Maung  
                  Moe Myat Thu  
                  Maung Oo  
                  Aung Zeya  
                  Tin Than Oo  
                  Ko Hteik

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At least one Urgent Action participant has received a letter, dated 31 May 1995, from their local Myanmar Embassy in reference to the 11 May follow-up to UA 65/95. Part of the text of the letter reads:

"...However, the reports you had received were based on unsubstantiated and totally incorrect allegations. These persons were arrested not because of their peaceful gathering at the funeral of U Nu nor because of exercise of their rights to freedom of expression. The truth is that they were arrested only because they tried to snatch away the remains of U Nu against the wishes of U Nu's family, with the purpose of instigating civil unrest and strife. They were trying to create anti-government protests and demonstrations..."

Amnesty International has had contact with more than one independent source since the Urgent Action was issued. They indicated that the young activists were not attempting to remove U Nu's body and that they were peaceful in their actions. They may have been chanting political slogans, but they conducted their actions in an entirely non-violent manner.

Amnesty International considers the nine young people named above to be prisoners of conscience and continues to call for their immediate and unconditional release. However, no further action by the Urgent Action Network is requested at this time. If you receive an official reply such as the one mentioned above, please do not respond to the authorities. Thank you for to all who sent appeals on this case; the government clearly took note of them.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On 10 July 1995 Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, prisoner of conscience and 1991 Nobel Peace Prize laureate, was released from her home in Yangon, the capital. She had been detained without charge or trial under house arrest for almost six years. The leader of the non-violent opposition movement, Aung San Suu Kyi.

Amnesty International welcomes this step taken by the military authorities, and calls on them to continue to make improvements in their human rights record.