

# URGENT ACTION

## ROHINGYA LEADERS RELEASED

**Four Rohingya leaders in Myanmar have been released under a presidential amnesty. They had been imprisoned in connection with community protests in 2013.**

Rohingya leaders **Ba Thar**, **Kyaw Myint**, his son **Hla Myint** and **Kyaw Khin** were released on 30 July 2015 from Sittwe prison, Rakhine state in Western Myanmar. They were among at least 11 prisoners of conscience released under a presidential prisoner amnesty. The four men had been arrested in April 2013 after a community protest against a government-led population-registration exercise, which did not allow members of the community to identify as Rohingya. Amnesty International believes they were targeted solely because they are influential Rohingya community leaders calling for the recognition of their Rohingya identity.

All four were charged with various offences under the Penal Code. In 2014, the Sittwe District Court acquitted Ba Thar of all charges, while Kyaw Myint, Hla Myint and Kyaw Khin were sentenced to between one year and 18 months' imprisonment. All three were subsequently released. However, the Rakhine State Law Officer appealed, seeking longer sentences, and in March 2015 all four were sentenced to between five and eight years in prison.

Amnesty International welcomes the release of Ba Thar, Kyaw Myint, Hla Myint and Kyaw Khin, but they should never have been imprisoned in the first place. Amnesty International is continuing to campaign for the release of all prisoners of conscience in Myanmar.

**Thank you to all those who sent appeals. No further action is requested from the UA network.**

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 73/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa16/1314/2015/en/>

Names: Ba Thar, Kyaw Myint, Hla Myint, Kyaw Khin  
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 73/15 Index: ASA 16/2235/2015 Issue Date: 6 August 2015

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