

## MYANMAR

### Imprisonment of students

Students in Myanmar have traditionally been at the forefront of opposition to the authorities, often at personal risk. In Myanmar they have been particularly targetted with imprisonment and ill-treatment. They played a leading role in the pro-democracy movement and democratic elections which broke out in 1988. At that time hundreds were killed, and hundreds imprisoned. Treatment of the students drove thousands of them to leave their country out of fear, with exile applicants from their families. Despite continuing harsh repression in Myanmar thousands of students staged large-scale demonstrations as recently as October and December 1990. Initially the protests revolved around the alleged beatings of three students by municipal police in October. However student demands grew to calling for their own trial and for human rights and democracy; the demonstrations were broken up with tear gas, batons and beatings, and colleges and universities have been suspended.

Amnesty International does not know exactly how many students have been arrested in Myanmar since 1988. We have the names of only about 450 -- a high enough figure you might think -- but the true number is undoubtedly even greater. Information on prisoners is hard to obtain because of a repressive regime which both stifles freedom of expression and provides only limited information. Of these 450 students we believe more than 260 are still detained -- again this probably only represents a percentage of the real total.

Students, some as young as 15 years-old, have been arrested mainly for taking part in demonstrations calling for democracy; for putting up anti-government posters at schools, colleges or in the streets; for student union activities; for involvement in politics; for advocating human rights. For example, in December 1991 over 800 students were reportedly arrested after taking part in demonstrations in Yangon (Rangoon, the capital). The demonstrations were calling for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who had just been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and who at the time was under house arrest. She is the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD), the main opposition party in Myanmar which won over 80% of the seats in the May 1990 elections, but which has not been allowed to take power by the ruling military State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). In June 1992 five students were each sentenced to 10 years imprisonment for distributing a leaflet calling for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners and for free and fair participation in discussions on a new constitution. In February 1995 nine students were arrested and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment just for giving a speech praising a former prime minister at his funeral. And in October 1996 nine students were sentenced to 13 years imprisonment for distributing political leaflets and spreading "false and frivolous news".

Students have often received ill-treatment and often torture. Kyaw Myo Thant, a student arrested in July 1989 for his part in organizing demonstrations, died in detention in May 1990. He suffered internal injuries after being severely beaten for complaining about his arrest and asking to be treated as a political prisoner. By the time he was taken to hospital it was too late for him to be properly treated. Min Ko Naing, former chairman of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions, was arrested in March 1989 for his leading role in the

pro-democracy movement. He was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment and is still detained. He is believed to suffer from psychological problems following severe torture during the initial stages after his arrest and prolonged detention in solitary confinement. Many students were beaten and tortured during a hunger-strike for better conditions in Tharawaddy prison in December 1990.

On the attached page, we list some of those students who are still detained, including many sentenced to long terms of imprisonment by military tribunals with no right of appeal. Amnesty International does not know if they are all prisoners of conscience (POCs). Some of them, in many cases, do not have sufficient information about them or their activities to be able to identify them as such. Even so we believe that the Myanmar Government should look into why all these students are in prison and release all those who are held in contravention of Articles 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

*Article 19*

*Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers*

*Article 20*

*1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association...*

Amnesty International is calling on the authorities to:

- **immediately and unconditionally release all those students detained as prisoners of conscience;**
- **review all other cases and release immediately and unconditionally those found to be detained solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and association;**
- **make public the names of all students in prison, their whereabouts and the charges against them;**
- **ensure that all detained students are provided with adequate medical care and are given access to their family;**
- **ensure that all detained students are treated in accordance with international standards**

Appended to:

Gen. General Than Shwe  
Chairman  
State Law and Order Restoration Council  
c/o Ministry of Defence  
Signal Pagoda Road  
Dagon Post Office  
Yangon, Union of Myanmar  
His Excellency U Ohn Gyaw  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Lt General Khin Nyunt  
Secretary 1  
State Law and Order Restoration Council  
c/o Ministry of Defence  
Signal Pagoda Road  
Dagon Post Office  
Yangon, Union of Myanmar  
His Excellency U Pan Aung  
Minister of Education  
Ministers' Office

*Amnesty International*  
*April 1997*

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Yangon, Union of Myanmar

Yangon, Union of Myanmar

Send copies of some of your letters to the Myanmar Embassy in your country

Many students arrested since the civil unrest in 1988 have been released, but the 263 listed below are believed to still remain in prison. Where known, the year of arrest and prison sentence is shown. All those sentences of more than 10 years imposed before January 1993 have been commuted to 10 years -- we have provided the original sentence to illustrate the harshness with which some students have been dealt, many of them taking part in demonstrations. Remember -- these probably only reflect a percentage of the students detained.

**1988**

Yin Htw

**1989**

Ko Min Aung 20 years  
Zaw Zaw Aung 10 years  
Zaw Gyi death  
to life  
Myat Kywe eight years  
Ko Kyaw  
Zaw Maung seven years  
Marlar 18 years  
Ko Aye 18 years  
Soe Lwin

Maung San Myint  
Min Ko Naing 20 years  
Ko Aung Win Naing 18 years  
Ko Kyaw Oo 18 years  
Ko Rayu 18 years  
Tint San seven plus  
Ko Maung Soe 18 years  
Thein 18 years  
Aung Myo Thein eight years

Pan Thi eight years  
Soe Moe Thu eight years  
Ko Tu 20 years  
Min Min Tun  
Ko Zaw Moe Tun 18 years  
Nyi Nyi U Death -  
commuted  
to life  
Ko Than Nu Win 18 years  
Khin Maung Yi 20 years  
Thant Zin 10 years

**1990**

Ko Hlaing  
Mohan 20 years  
Nyi Naing eight years  
Gyan  
Ko Gywe eight years  
Ko Tha  
Kyaw  
Nyi Htw  
Ko Aye  
Moe Kyaw  
Tha Min  
That Kyaw

Ko Kywe  
Kyaw Moe  
Win Maw eight years  
Min Min  
Htay Htay Myint (f)  
Maung Maung Myint  
Ma Tin Tin Myint (f)  
Tin Tin Naing (f)  
Ko Kyaw Oo  
Moe Saw Oo seven years  
Ko Kyaw Oo  
Ko Soe seven years

Myint Soe seven plus 10 years  
Ma Tha (f)  
Ko Ko Thant  
Myo Min Thein  
Win Thein 13 years  
Aung Thu  
Wai Lin Tun  
Nyo Tun 20 years  
Thein Tun U 13 years  
Nyi Nyi Win  
Ma Tin Tin Yu (f) seven years  
Ko Min Hswe Zin

**1991**

Aung Aung  
Maung Aung  
Thuza Aung (f)  
Zaw Aung  
Bo Bo  
Ko Ko  
Bo Bo  
Aung Hlaing  
Maung Hlaing  
Nyi Aung  
Maung Zin Hlaing  
Thaung  
Kyaw  
Bo Bo  
Aung  
Sein Kyaw Oo  
Lwin Oo 10 years  
Than Lwin Oo 15 years  
Yan Naing Oo 10 years  
San Oo 10 years  
Maung Soe Soe Oo  
May Thwe Oo (f)

Nyan Nyan Htun 15 years  
Thein Than Htun seven years  
Soe Thu Ya Htun  
Tun Myint Htwe 15 years  
Yin Htwe 15 years  
Zaw Min Khaing 15 years  
Ko Swe Ko 15 years  
Aunt Bwe Kyaw 15 years  
Ko Kyaw 15 years  
Ko Kywe 15 years  
Ko Ko Latt 12 years  
Ba Htoo Maung 15 years  
Maung Soe Win Maung  
Min Min 15 years  
Zaw Min 20 years  
Maung Kyaw Moe  
Myat San 15 years  
Khin Maung Shwe 15 years  
Myint Shwe 15 years  
Kyaw Soe 15 years  
Aung Kyaw Soe  
Pyi Soe 15 years  
Hlaing Moe Than 15 years

Kyaw Zwa Moe 10 years  
San Myaing 10 years  
HanMyint 10 years  
Aung Kyaw Myint  
Myo Myint 10 years  
Soe Myint 15 years  
Htun Aung Naing  
Maung Aung Naing  
Kyi Moe Naing 15 years  
Sit Naing 12 years  
Ko Soe Naing  
Thet Naing 10 years  
Win Naing 10 years  
Win Naing 15 years  
Maung Htun Htun Ohn  
Kyaw Kyaw Oo 15 years  
Maung Myo Win Thant  
Aye Thein  
Maung Win Thein  
Nay Win Thein 15 years  
Maung Win Tin  
Nyi Nyi Tun 15 years

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Zaw Tun	12 + seven	Aye Aye Win (f)	Zay Yar	15 years
years		Than Win six years	Ko Kyaw Zaw	
Aung Kyaw U	12 years	Ma Tin Tin Win (f) 10 years	Maung Lin Lin Zaw	
		Zaw Win		

**1992**

Maung Nay Yein		Maung Soe Naing 10 years	Maung Tun Tun	10 years
Kyaw	10 years	Thiha Thu 15 years		
Maung Naing Naing	10 years	Min Thein Tun		

**1993**

Bo Lay	years	Thet Oo	20 years	Ye Tay Za
Nay Tin	20 years	Ne Win		

**1994**

Lin Aung		Nutty	Hla Tut Soe	
Aung H		Cho Oo	Khin Win	
Htoo Ko		Myint Oo	U Khin Zaw Win	15 years
Than Lwin		Than Tun Oo	Mohammad Slim	seven years
Htwe Maw		San Shwe		
Aung Naing		Kyi Soe		

**1995**

Ko Hte	seven years	Moe Kalayar Oo (f) seven years	Moe Myat Thu	seven years
Moe M	years	Maung Maung Oo seven years		
Aye Aye		Cho Nwe Oo (f) seven years		

**1996**

Myo H	13 years	Ye Min	Myo Than	
Ko Khin		Maung Aung Moe	Ko Myo Thant	
Lwin A		Ma Lay Lay Moe	Ko Pho Thar	
Tun My		Ma Lay Lay Mon	Kyin Thein 13 years	
Kyaw	years	Ma Lay Lay Myint	Ko Myint Thein	
Ma Tin	(f) years	Wan Na	Yan Myo Thein	
seven years		Maung Aye Naing	Ma Nilar Thein (f)	
Tun Aye	13 years	Min Naing	Ko Min Zaw Thein	
Aung G		Ko Myo Min Naing	Ko Theta	
Pho Th		Ko Soe Naing	Ko Ye Min Thu	
Ko Tha		Tun Naing 13 years	Ko Soe Tun	
Thi Ha	seven years	Ma Li Nar (f)	Ko Ye Tun	
Aung G		Taung Ni	Maung Maung Wan 10 years	
Ko Hta		Maung Htun Htun	Maung Kyaw Wanna	
Nyei H		Maung Oo	Hla Hla Win 13 years	
Ko To	tun	Maung Oo	Ko Zaw Maung Maung	
Ye Htu		Ko Myo Zaw Oo	Win	
Ma Htwe	seven years	Ko Hpone Thet Paing	Nyan Win 13 years	
Tha M		Maung Tin Aung Pyo	Maung Tin Win	
Ko Ma		Ma Sebe Pyu (f)	Ko Zeyar Win	
Latt	seven years	Maung Khin Sein	Ya Zar	
Ko Ba		Ma Mai Kyaw Shein (f)	Ko Maung Zaw	
Maung	Myint Lin	Ko Kyaw Kyaw Soe	Ko Than Zaw	
Maung	Lin	Ngwe Soe 13 years	Kyaw Zeya	
Ko Ny		Ko Kyaw Swa	Min Zeyar	
Maung	in	Maung Aung Tha	Aung Maw Zin	
Ko Lay		Aye Than	Thant Zin 13 years	

**1997**

Ko Ma		Ko Ye Myint Kyaw	Ko Ye Kyaw Zaw	
Ma Yi	(f)	Ko Soe Thaug		

