

Public

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To: Health professionals
From: Medical team / Asia Program
Date: 19 August 2002

UPDATE ON MEDICAL ACTION
Six prisoners of conscience, Myanmar:
Dr Aye Tha Aung released
(original action ASA 16/009/2002, 14 August 2002)

Key words ill-health / prisoners of conscience

Dr Aye Tha Aung released

On Friday 16 August Myanmar authorities announced that they had released Dr Aye Tha Aung and five members of the National League for Democracy.

According to news agency AFP, government spokesperson Colonel Hla Min said that Aye Tha Aung was released on humanitarian grounds. Colonel Hla Min stated that "Aye Tha Aung has been spending most of his time together with his family at Yangon General Hospital taking medical treatment provided for by the government (..)". The *BBC* reported on 16 August 2002 that Aye Tha Aung had told the *BBC* that he would be having an operation for lung cancer on Monday 19 August 2002.

U Thar Ban, Dr Zaw Min, Dr Than Nyein, U Win Tin and Ko Aung Htun remain imprisoned and in need of adequate medical treatment.

Recommended actions & addresses

Please write letters in English to the authorities below, using professionally-headed paper if you use this in your profession:

- introducing yourself as a member of Amnesty International=s health professional network and/or write in your professional capacity
- welcoming the release of Dr Aye Tha Aung
- expressing concern that U Thar Ban, Dr. Zaw Min, Dr. Than Nyein, U Win Tin, and Ko Aung Htun have been imprisoned for their peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly, and calling for their immediate and unconditional release from detention

- expressing concern at reports of the deteriorating health of the above prisoners, and urging that pending their release they are given medical treatment according to their individual needs as provided for by international human rights standards, such as the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Article 22).

Addresses

Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt

Secretary 1
State Peace and Development Council
c/o Ministry of Defence
Ahlanpya Phaya Street
Yangon
Union of Myanmar

Major General Ket Sein

Minister of Health
Ministers Office
Yangon
Union of Myanmar

Colonel Tin Hlaing

Minister of Home Affairs
Ministry of Home Affairs
Corner of Saya San Street and No 1 Industrial Street,
Yankin Township
Yangon, Union of Myanmar

and to diplomatic representatives of Myanmar accredited to your country.

If you receive no reply from the government or other recipients within two months of dispatch of your letter, please send a follow up letter seeking a response, referring to your previous letter(s). Please check with the medical team if you are sending appeals after 19 October 2002, and send copies of any replies you do receive to the International Secretariat (att: medical team).

Monitoring of action

If you have access to e-mail you can help our attempt to monitor letter-writing actions. If you write one, two, three or more letters, please send us an e-mail and let us know. Please write in the subject line of your e-mail the index number of the action and the number of letters you write

e.g. ASA 16/010/2002 - 3

Please send your message to medical@amnesty.org Thank you.