

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information (3) on UA 65/95 (ASA 16/04/95, 15 March 1995) and follow-ups
ASA 16/06/95 and ASA 16/09/95 - 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

Amnesty International has learned today that nine young people, who had been arrested at the funeral of U Nu on 20 February 1995, were sentenced to seven years' imprisonment on 28 April 1995. Moe Kalayar, Aye Aye Moe, Cho Nwe Oo, Moe Maung Maung, Moe Myat Thu, Maung Oo, Aung Zeya, Tin Than Oo and Ko Hteik were sentenced under Section 5J of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act, which reads:

"He who causes or intends to disrupt the morality or the behaviour of a group of people or the general public, or to disrupt the security or the reconstruction of stability of the Union;"

Amnesty International has also received information which indicates that the young people who were present at the funeral were not attempting to demonstrate or make any overt political statement. They did deliver a eulogy on U Nu, Myanmar's only democratically elected prime minister. U Nu, a leader of the pro-democracy movement of 1988, was adopted by Amnesty International as a prisoner of conscience from 1989 until 1992.

Amnesty International considers the nine young people prisoners of conscience, arrested solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression and assembly. Therefore, the organization is calling on the Myanmar authorities to release the nine immediately and without conditions.

Amnesty International is concerned that the vaguely-worded provisions of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act has been used to criminalize peaceful political activity.

It is not clear whether or not the other young detainees mentioned in UA 65/95 and follow-ups on 27 March and 28 April are still being held. However, no further action is requested on their behalf at this time.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Moe Kalayar, Aye Aye Moe, Cho Nwe Oo, Moe Maung Maung, Moe Myat Thu, Maung Oo, Aung Zeya, Tin Than Oo, and Ko Hteik;
- expressing concern that the nine were sentenced to harsh terms of imprisonment for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression and assembly;
- again seeking assurances that their treatment conforms to international standards, and that they be given access to their families, lawyers, and medical personnel.

APPEALS TO:

1) Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council,
General Than Shwe,
c/o Ministry of Defence,
Signal Pagoda Road,
Yangon, Union of Myanmar
Telegrams: General Than Shwe, Yangon, Myanmar
Telexes: 21316
Salutation: Dear General

2) Secretary 1, State Law and Order Restoration Council,
Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt,
c/o Ministry of Defence,
Signal Pagoda Road,
Yangon, Union of Myanmar
Telegrams: Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, Yangon, Myanmar
Salutation: Dear General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:

to diplomatic representatives of MYANMAR accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International secretariat, or your section office if sending appeals after 24 June 1995.