

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 293/94 (ASA 16/11/94, 10 August 1994) - and follow-up (ASA 16/13/94, 19 August) - Fear of Torture

MYANMARKhin Maung Swe, 52, opposition politician

Daw San San Nwe (f), writer

U Sein Hla Oo, 58, journalist, editor and opposition politician

Dr Htun Myat Aye, dentist

new name: Ma Myat Mo Mo Tun (f), daughter of Daw San San Nwe

On 23 August 1994, a report in the state-controlled newspaper, *The New Light of Myanmar*, confirmed the arrest of Khin Maung Swe, Daw San San Nwe, U Sein Hla Oo, and Ma Myat Mo Mo Tun, the daughter of Daw San San Nwe. According to the report, they were arrested as part of a group with political activist Khin Zaw Win who was arrested earlier in July (see UA 272/94, ASA 16/08/94, 18 July and follow-ups). No further information has been obtained about the arrest of Dr Htun Myat Aye.

Khin Maung Swe, Daw San San Nwe and U Sein Hla Oo are reported to have made contact with foreign journalists and diplomats and given them "news comments against or critical of the government in order to make foreign governments misunderstand the government". They are also alleged to have exchanged information with a member of an armed opposition group. The report also alleges that they "made arrangements for sending fabricated news on Myanmar" to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Myanmar during his visit in December 1993.

Daw San San Nwe is alleged to have met with former members of the Democratic Party for New Society - a political party which is now banned - to "cause disturbances", and to have "informed one-sided opposite views" to two French reporters in April 1993.

Ma Myat Mo Mo Tun is alleged to have recorded "defamatory letters and documents" on computer disk for Khin Zaw Win, made contacts with "illegal" groups and to have sent anti-government articles to a journal published by an expatriate group.

The report goes on to say that Khin Maung Swe, U Sein Hla Oo, and Daw San San Nwe had been previously arrested and on their release had been warned not to get involved in "the movement with intent to...create disturbances and undermine the maintenance of law...". The report states that legal action will be taken against them as they "make contact with armed groups and their acts are aimed at instigating internal and external machinations against national economy and politics..."

Amnesty International believes that the four may be detained for exercising their fundamental human rights to peaceful expression of their political beliefs. The organization remains concerned about the arrest of Dr Htun Myat Aye, the reasons for which are still unknown. It is not known where he or the other four are being held or whether they have been given access to a lawyer, a doctor or their families. There is still concern about their treatment in detention in view of reports of the torture and ill-treatment of opposition activists in prison.

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

airmail letters

- expressing concern about the arrest of Khin Maung Swe, Daw San San Nwe, U Sein Hla Oo, Ma Myat Mo Mo Tun and Dr Htun Myat Aye, and requesting details of their whereabouts;
- seeking assurances that their treatment in detention conforms to international standards, and that they be given access to a lawyer and medical personnel, as well as to their families;
- expressing concern that Khin Maung Swe, Daw San San Nwe, U Sein Hla Oo and Ma Myat Mo Mo Tun may have been arrested for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression, and if so, they should be immediately and unconditionally released as prisoners of conscience.

APPEALS TO:

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

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

General Maung Aye
 Vice Chairman
 State Law and Order Restoration Council
 c/o Ministry of Defence
 Signal Pagoda Road
 Yangon, Union of Myanmar
Telegrams: General Maung Aye, Yangon, Myanmar
Salutation: Dear General

COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS 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 11 October 1994.