

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 16/18/00

6 September 2000

Further information on UA 263/00 (ASA 16/12/00, 5 September 2000) - Fear of torture/prisoners of conscience

MYANMARU Soe Myint, 78, - National League for Democracy (NLD) Central Executive Committee member, NLD Yangon Division Chairman

Dr Myo Aung - NLD Yangon Division organizing committee member

NLD Youth members: Htun Zaw Zaw, Myo Nyunt, Htun Myint, Thein Lwin, Aung Htoo, Khin Oo, Moe Thaw (alias Pauk Pauk), Myint Kyaw, Shwe Gyo, Than Htut, Nyan Lin Aung, Aye Myein Lin, Than Htun, Thein Swe, Zaw Min Kyaw, Min Aung Nyo

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi - NLD Secretary General

U Tin U - NLD Vice Chairman

The government has claimed that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's personal physician, Dr Myo Aung, is with her in her home compound, together with unidentified NLD Youth members who are being visited by their parents. Amnesty International is asking the government for more information on these claims, issued in a 6 September statement. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's residence remains cordoned off by security forces.

The statement also claimed that senior National League for Democracy (NLD) members who had been asked to remain in their homes were receiving visits from relatives and that one had been allowed to visit an ophthalmologist in the capital, Yangon.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and a group of NLD members were stopped by security forces on 24 August as they left Yangon for a meeting 30 miles away. The group refused to turn back, and stayed at the roadside in the Yangon suburb of Dallah for nine days. Some 200 riot police eventually moved the group by force, at about 1.30 am on 2 September.

Two NLD leaders - U Soe Myint and Dr Myo Aung - and 16 NLD Youth members were reportedly detained in Insein Prison, Yangon, on their return. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, party vice-chairman U Tin U and members of the NLD Central Executive Committee were "requested to stay at their respective residences". Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin U were believed to be held incommunicado, despite official denials that they are under house arrest.

The military authorities have launched a series of crackdowns on the National League for Democracy since the party won over 80% of the parliamentary seats in the May 1990 elections. Hundreds of NLD members are imprisoned for their peaceful political activities, and thousands have been forced to resign from the party.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of all NLD members who were forcibly removed from Dallah to Yangon on 2 September;
- urging the SPDC to release immediately and unconditionally any of the NLD members forcibly removed from Dallah to Yangon on 2 September who are detained in Insein Prison;

- urging the SPDC to ensure that all those detained are allowed immediate access to lawyers, their families and medical treatment;
- urging the SPDC to clarify the exact situation of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Tin U, and other NLD Central Executive Committee members whose movements have been restricted and have been held incommunicado;
- urging the SPDC to clarify the whereabouts and situation of the 16 NLD Youth members.

APPEALS TO:

Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, Secretary 1
State Peace and Development Council
c/o Director of Defense Services Intelligence (DDSI)
Ministry of Defense, Signal Pagoda Road
Dagon Post Office
Yangon
Union of Myanmar

Telegrams: General Khin Nyunt, Yangon, Myanmar

Telexes: 21316

Faxes: + 95 1 222 950

Salutation: Your Excellency

Colonel Hla Min
Office of Strategic Studies
Department of International Affairs
c/o Ministry of Defense, Signal Pagoda Road
Dagon Post Office
Yangon
Union of Myanmar

Telegrams: Colonel Hla Min, Yangon, Myanmar

Telexes: 21316

Faxes: + 95 1 222 950

Salutation: Your Excellency

COPIES 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 18 October 2000.