

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 16/21/97

11 July 1997

Further information on UA 187/97 (ASA 16/19/97, 24 June 1997) - Fear for safety / Fear of ill-treatment

MYANMAR Khin Maung Win *alias* Ko Sunny
 Cho Aung Than
 Daw Khin Ma Than (f)
 U Shwe Myint Aung
 U Ohn Myint

and new names: U Myo Aung Thant, trade unionist
 U Khin Kyaw, trade unionist
 and their family members

Amnesty International has obtained the names of two other political activists recently arrested in Myanmar. U Myo Aung Thant and U Khin Kyaw are believed to still be in custody, as are the five other people named above. All seven detainees are feared to remain at risk of torture and ill-treatment during interrogation by the authorities.

U Myo Aung Thant and U Khin Kyaw are Executive Committee members of the Federation of Trade Unions-Burma (FTUB). Myo Aung Thant was arrested on 13 June on his return to Myanmar from Thailand at Mingaladon Airport, Yangon (Rangoon), the capital. His wife and children were also reportedly arrested at the same time but it is not known if they are still held. U Khin Kyaw and his wife were arrested later that day at their home in Yangon. The whereabouts of U Myo Aung Thant, U Khin Kyaw and their families are not known. However Amnesty International has received reliable information that the two men are still in custody and will soon be charged.

Khin Maung Win *alias* Ko Sunny, Cho Aung Than, Daw Khin Ma Than, U Shwe Myint Aung and U Ohn Myint are still detained and are expected to be charged shortly. The names of all seven detainees appeared in a 27 June 1997 press conference by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC, Myanmar's military authorities).

The FTUB is not legally recognized in Myanmar, as independent trade union activity there is completely prohibited under the military government. It was formed in 1991 by trade union members who were dismissed from their jobs and harassed by the SLORC for their trade union activities.

The Government of Myanmar is a party to the International Labour Organisation (ILO, the UN specialized agency dealing with labour issues) Convention No 87 on freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining. Over the past several years the ILO has been concerned with the SLORC's non-compliance with Convention No 87 and at the June 1997 Conference, Myanmar's failure to implement this convention was identified as a situation of particular gravity.

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

- calling on the authorities to immediately make known the whereabouts of the seven detainees and the reasons for their detention;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that all seven are allowed access to their lawyers, doctors and family members;

- calling on the authorities to ensure that while detained all seven are safeguarded from any form of ill-treatment and are held in accordance with international minimum standards.

APPEALS TO:

Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman
State Law and Order Restoration Council
c/o Director of Defence Services Intelligence (DDSI)
Ministry of Defence, Signal Pagoda Road
Dagon Post Office
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 Director of Defence Services Intelligence (DDSI)
Ministry of Defence, Signal Pagoda Road
Dagon Post Office
Yangon
Union of Myanmar

Telegrams: Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, Yangon, Myanmar

Telexes: 21316

Salutation: Dear Lieutenant General

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 25 August 1997.