

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 16/22/96

29 May 1996

Further information on EXTRA 73/96 (ASA 16/14/96, 21 May 1996) and follow-up (ASA 16/16/96, 22 May 1996; ASA 16/19/96, 24 May 1996) - Fear of torture / Legal concern

MYANMARU Win Htein

New names:           U Hla Kyi  
                      Dr Sit Tin  
                      U Nyunt Win  
                      U Than Win  
                      U Tin  
                      Mahn Johnny  
                      U Hla Myint  
                      Dr Hla Win  
                      U Saw Lwin

released:            U Hla Pe  
                      Ni Ni Way (f), NLD Rangoon Division Youth

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Ten National League for Democracy (NLD) activists, arrested in last week's nationwide sweep of the NLD, have been charged under Section 5(j) of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act. This clause provides for a long term of imprisonment for anyone 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 is seriously concerned that these charges have been brought against the 10, particularly as this provision is frequently used by Myanmar's military authorities to criminalize peaceful political activity. Amnesty International believes that the 10 are prisoners of conscience, and calls on the authorities to release them immediately and unconditionally.

U Hla Kyi, Dr Sit Tin, U Nyunt Win, U Than Win, U Tin, Mahn Johnny, U Hla Myint, Dr Hla Win, and U Saw Lwin are all members of parliament-elect from Ayeyarwady (Irrawaddy) Division in southwestern Myanmar. They are believed to be held in Military Intelligence facilities in that area. The date of their trial is not known.

U Win Htein, NLD spokesman who was arrested last week, has also been charged under Section 5(j) of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act. He is being held at Insein Jail in Yangon (Rangoon), where hundreds of other political prisoners are imprisoned. Along with a number of unnamed NLD youth members, he was moved to that location recently. His trial is set for 5 June 1996.

Amnesty International welcomes the news that U Hla Pe, an elected MP, and Ni Ni Way, an NLD Yangon youth member, have been released. U Hla Pe was released because his wife died, and Ni Ni Way was released due to ill health. She has evidently now recovered. Amnesty International urges the Myanmar authorities to release immediately and unconditionally the remaining 260 prisoners of conscience who have been arrested in the last week.

The NLD meeting went ahead as planned from 26-28 May; however only 18 delegates were able to attend. People were permitted to enter Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's compound, and no barricades were erected by the authorities.

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

- seeking assurances that the treatment of U Win Htein, U Hla Kyi, Dr Sit Tin, U Nyunt Win, U Than Win, U Tin, Mahn Johnny, U Hla Myint, Dr Hla Win, and U Saw Lwin and all the NLD activists conforms to international standards and that they are being given proper access to family, lawyers of their own choice and medical personnel;
- calling for the charges against the 10 to be dropped and for them and all the other NLD activists arrested in the last week to be immediately and unconditionally released.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. 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**

2. 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**

**Salutation: Dear 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 30 June 1996.