

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

AI Index: ASA 16/34/90

Distr: UA/SC

7 November 1990

Further information on UA 440/90 (ASA 16/29/90, 1 November 1990) - Fear of Torture/Legal Concern

MYANMAR (BURMA):Khin Maung Swe
Chan Aye
Soe Thein
plus: Kyaw Min
Tin Htut
Aung Khin Sint
Sein Hla Oo

Unofficial reports now say that more than 50 members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) were arrested between 23 and 31 October 1990. Those arrested include at least ten members of the Myanmar national assembly elected in May, five members of the Central Executive Committee of the NLD, which overwhelming won those elections, and ten NLD party youth organizers. Reports now specify that all eight members of the leadership of the student-dominated Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS) have been arrested. Security forces are said to have shut and sealed up many NLD and DPNS offices.

Unofficial reports name a fourth member of the NLD Central Executive Committee arrested as Kyaw Min. Three other top NLD figures arrested have been named as Tin Htut, a member of the league's Central Work Committee, and Aung Khin Sint and Sein Hla Oo, identified as leaders of the NLD at the level of Myanmar's divisions.

There are now allegations that the military authorities who administer Myanmar through their State Law and Order Restoration Council have begun imposing what are described as "trumped up charges" against political prisoners by "making up criminal charges" against them. At the same time, it has been reported that the military is moving political prisoners from the Myanmar main prison at Insein to detention centres outside Yangon (Rangoon), the capital.

Amnesty International is concerned that all the prisoners named above may in fact be held because of their peaceful exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and assembly and other fundamental freedoms. It is also concerned that any of them who may have been moved to detention centres outside Yangon would be particularly vulnerable to torture or other ill-treatment by interrogators and warders. It is concerned that any charged with criminal offences may not receive fair trials.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Telegrams/telexes/faxes/express and airmail letters:

- expressing concern that Khin Maung Swe, Chan Aye, Soe Thein, Kyaw Min, Tin Htut, Aung Khin Sint, Sein Hla Oo and other political leaders and students arrested since 23 October may be detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and assembly;

- urging that unless they are to be charged with a genuinely criminal offence and fairly tried, they should be released immediately and unconditionally;

- urging that their treatment in detention conform to international standards and that they be given access to their families and lawyers of their own choice.

APPEALS TO:

General Saw Maung
Commander-in-Chief of the Army
Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council
Yangon
Union of Myanmar

Telegrams: General Saw Maung, Yangon, Myanmar
Telexes: 21313 MOFARN BM (via Ministry of Foreign
Affairs)
Faxes: +95 1 2 2950 (via Ministry of Foreign
Affairs)

Brig Gen Khin Nyunt
1st Secretary
State Law and Order Restoration Council
c/o Ministry of Defence
Yangon,
Union of Myanmar

Telegrams: Brig.-Gen. Khin Nyunt, SLORC, Yangon, Myanmar
Telexes: 21316 MILPRO BM
Faxes: +95 1 2 2950 (via Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

COPIES TO:

Gen U Ne Win
Patron
Myanmar War Veterans Organization
Yangon
Myanmar

Venerable Bhadhanta Khamawuddha Agha Maha Pandit
State Maha Nayaka Committee
Yangon
Myanmar

and to diplomatic representatives of Myanmar (Burma) to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 19 December 1990.