

**EXTERNAL (for general distribution)**

**AI Index: ASA 39/02/93**

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**28 July 1993**

*Please bring this action to the attention of the refugee coordinator in your section.*

**Further information on UA 198/93 (ASA 39/01/93, 17 June 1993) -  
Ill-treatment/medical concern**

**THAILAND: Burmese asylum-seekers and refugees including:  
Maung Maung Than  
Par Pa  
Ko Htay Lwin**

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Amnesty International has obtained further information about Maung Maung Than and Par Pa, two Burmese refugees who had been arrested in Bangkok before they were able to attend the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna from 14 - 25 June 1993. At the time of their arrests there were fears that they may have been subjected to ill-treatment while in detention at the Immigration Detention Centre (IDC) in Bangkok. However Amnesty International learned today that they both agreed to go to the "safe area" in Rachaburi Province, southwestern Thailand. The "safe area" was established by the Thai authorities to house Burmese refugees in September 1991.

On 6 July an Amnesty International member received a letter from the Thai Embassy in London about Maung Maung Than, Par Pa, and Ko Htay Lwin, which described the "safe area" as follows: "Here the students are housed, fed and provided with medical treatment and are given the opportunity either to continue their studies or to take up vocational training. This support is given on condition that their residence in Thailand is temporary, and that the students undertake not to engage in any political activity during their stay". Many Burmese students and young people have refused to enter the "safe area", preferring to remain in Bangkok where they are at risk of arrest and detention by the Thai authorities.

The letter from the Embassy claimed that Ko Htay Lwin, who died in hospital after being brought there from IDC, had in fact received proper medical treatment. The letter also gave the date of his death as 29 May 1993, not 24 April, as previously reported. However Amnesty International remains concerned that he may not have received adequate medical treatment while he was in detention from 9 April until 22 May, when he was taken to hospital by prison officials. This concern is heightened by the continuing poor conditions at IDC, including lack of sanitation and food, and severe overcrowding.

Amnesty International remains concerned for the safety of all Burmese

asylum-seekers and refugees held at IDC and calls on the Thai authorities to give clear instructions to prison officials in IDC not to ill-treat anyone detained there.

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

- expressing concern at the continued detention of Burmese asylum-seekers and refugees at the Immigration Detention Centre (IDC) and calling on the Thai authorities to ensure that these individuals are brought promptly

before a court to examine whether their detention is legitimate in light of Thai national law and international human rights standards;

- urging the Thai authorities to instruct prison officials at both the IDC and the Bang Khen Police Academy not to beat or otherwise ill-treat or torture Myanmar nationals detained there;

- urging the Thai authorities to ensure that detainees are provided with adequate medical care, sanitation, and food.

**APPEALS TO**

1) General Chawalit Yongchaiyut  
Minister of the Interior  
Ministry of the Interior  
Asdang Road  
Bangkok 10200  
Thailand

**Telegrams: Minister of Interior, Bangkok, Thailand**

**Telexes: 84791 INFODEP TH (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Faxes: + 66 2 224 6191; + 66 2 223 2215**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

2) Chuan Leekpai, Prime Minister  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Government House  
Nakhorn Pathom Road  
Bangkok 10300  
Thailand

**Telegrams: Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai, Bangkok, Thailand**

**Telexes: 84791 INFODEPT TH (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)**

**Faxes: + 66 2 280 1443**

**Salutation: Dear Prime Minister**

**COPIES OF YOUR APPEALS TO:** to diplomatic representatives of THAILAND accredited to your country.

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.** Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 8 September 1993.