

# URGENT ACTION

## MORE ACTIVISTS FROM SAME GROUP ARRESTED

**Two more human rights defenders from the community-based organization the Movement for Democracy Current Force have been arrested and detained in Myanmar for their peaceful activism. They are being held in Yangon's Insein prison. Both men are prisoners of conscience and must be immediately and unconditionally released.**

**Ko Tin Maung Kyi** and **Ko Zaw Win** are members of the community-based organization the Movement for Democracy Current Force (MDCF). They were arrested on 9 May 2014 for distributing flyers in Bahan and Tammwe townships, Yangon, on 6 May calling on the government to resign. Both men have now been charged under Section 505(b) of Myanmar's Penal Code, which provides for up to two years' imprisonment and a fine for any person who makes, publishes or circulates information which may cause public fear or alarm, and which may incite persons to commit offences "against the State or against the public tranquillity".

Ko Tin Maung Kyi and Ko Zaw Win were arrested when they went to the Kyauktada Township Court in Yangon to support MDCF leader **Ko Htin Kyaw** during a court hearing. Ko Htin Kyaw is also facing multiple charges under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code. He was arrested on 5 May in South Okkalapa Township in Yangon while delivering a speech and distributing leaflets criticizing the Myanmar government and calling on members of parliament to resign.

### Please write immediately in English or your own language:

- Calling on the Myanmar authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Ko Tin Maung Kyi and Ko Zaw Win and drop all charges against them;
- Urging them to ensure that, pending their unconditional release, Ko Tin Maung Kyi and Ko Zaw Win are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated, and that they have access to lawyers of their choosing and to visits from family members;
- Calling on them to repeal or else amend all laws which restrict the right to freedom of expression, to comply with international human rights law and standards;
- Demanding that they immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience in Myanmar, and drop charges against all those who have been arrested solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression.

### PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 24 JUNE 2014 TO:

President

Thein Sein

President's Office

Nay Pyi Taw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Minister of Home Affairs

Lt Gen. Ko Ko

Ministry of Home Affairs

Office No. 10

Nay Pyi Taw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

Chairman, Myanmar National Human

Rights Commission

U Win Mra

27 Pyay Road, Hline Township

Yangon

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

**And copies to:**

**Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:**

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 117/14. Further information:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA16/008/2014/en>

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



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### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Movement for Democracy Current Force (MDCF) is a community-based organization which campaigns against human rights violations and promotes development in Myanmar.

Amnesty International is concerned about a continuing pattern of arrest and detention of human rights defenders and activists in Myanmar merely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression, a right enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). The organization is particularly concerned about the continued use of Section 505(b) of Myanmar's Penal Code to criminalize peaceful expression. The restrictions on the right to freedom of expression imposed by Section 505(b) are phrased in an excessively broad and vague manner, potentially resulting in both an overreach of the law and a discriminatory application of the law. The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Tomás Ojea Quintana, has identified Section 505(b) of the Penal Code as one of a number of legal provisions in the country used to detain prisoners of conscience. He has repeatedly called on the Myanmar authorities to amend these provisions to bring them in to line with international human rights law and standards.

Amnesty International continues to receive reports about poor prison conditions in Myanmar, which fall below international standards. These concerns include lack of access to adequate medical treatment, clean drinking water, nutritious food, and water for bathing. The organization calls on the Myanmar authorities to ensure that conditions of detention comply with those set out in the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Name: Ko Tin Maung Kyi, Ko Zaw Win and Ko Htin Kyaw  
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 117/14 Index: ASA 16/009/2014 Issue Date: 13 May 2014