

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 16/08/96

28 February 1996

Further information (1) on UA 23/96 (ASA 16/06/96, 1 February 1996) - Fear of Ill-treatment / Legal concern

MYANMARU Win Naing, 32
U Khin Maung
U Thein Tun, 56
U Maung Maung Lay, 50
Aung Myint, formerly U Maung Ung Myient
U Htay, Kywe, 40

Amnesty International has recently learned that U Maung Maung Lay, a 50-year-old lawyer, and Aung Myint, a National League for Democracy (NLD) youth member, were released on 1 February 1996. It is not known why they were released. The other four men are still detained and awaiting trial, which has been postponed from its original date of 5 February, but the new trial date is not known. The six men were originally arrested for writing a poem to commemorate the fifth anniversary of the death in custody of their NLD colleague U Tin Maung Win.

While Amnesty International welcomes the release of U Maung Maung Lay and Aung Myint, it is concerned at reports that Aung Myint was subjected to ill-treatment while in detention. He was reportedly slapped, punched, and beaten with bamboo sticks. His current state of health is not known.

Note: Aung Myint's name was originally reported as U Maung Ung Myient, which may have been an alias, or could be a difference in the transliteration of Burmese script.

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

- welcoming the releases of U Maung Maung Lay and Aung Myint, as they were probably prisoners of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of expression;
- repeating fears that the remaining four may also be prisoners of conscience and appealing for their immediate and unconditional release;
- expressing concern at reports that Aung Myint was ill-treated, and calling on the Myanmar authorities to ensure that no one is ill-treated while in detention;
- expressing concern at the continuing detention, apparently without charge or trial, of dozens of NLD members.

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, PO 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, PO Yangon
UNION of MYANMAR
Telegrams: Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, Yangon, Myanmar
Faxes: + 95 1 229 50
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 10 April 1996.