

EXTERNAL (for general distribution)

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Further information on UA 272/94 (ASA 16/08/94, 18 July 1994) and follow-up (ASA 16/12/94, 16 August) - Fear of Torture

MYANMAR **Khin Zaw Win, aged 44, dentist and graduate student**

On 23 August 1994, the arrest of Khin Zaw Win was reported in the state-controlled newspaper *The New Light of Myanmar*. The report stated that Khin Zaw Win was arrested on 4 July at Yangon International Airport in the possession of anti-government "material and facts" and "confidential reports containing data on the Ministry of Energy". It claimed that under investigation he confessed that - together with three other people who have since been arrested (see UA 293/94, ASA 16/11/94, 10 August 1994) - he had made contact with foreign journalists and diplomats and gave them "news comments against or critical of the government in order to make foreign governments misunderstand the government". He is also alleged to have exchanged information with a member of an armed opposition group. The report also alleges that he and the others "made arrangements for sending fabricated news on Myanmar" to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Myanmar during his visit in December 1993. The report states that legal action will be taken against him and the others under existing laws.

A separate report broadcast on the same date on Myanmar's official radio stated that separate legal action will be taken against Khin Zaw Win for "illegally carrying Singapore dollars and...taking out precious stones".

Amnesty International believes these allegations to be politically motivated and believes that Khin Zaw Win may in fact be detained for exercising his fundamental human right to peaceful expression of his political beliefs. It is not known if he has yet been officially charged with any offences. Amnesty International remains concerned about his treatment in detention in view of reports of the torture and ill-treatment of opposition activists in prison.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes and airmail letters

- seeking assurances that Khin Zaw Win's treatment in detention conforms to international standards, and that he be given access to a lawyer and medical personnel, as well as to his family;
- expressing concern that he appears to have been arrested for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression, and that Amnesty International therefore believes he may be a prisoner of conscience.

APPEALS TO:

General Than Shwe
Chairman
State Law and Order Restoration Council
c/o Ministry of Defence
Signal Pagoda Road
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 Ministry of Defence
Signal Pagoda Road
Yangon, Union of Myanmar
Telegrams: Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, Yangon, Myanmar
Salutation: Dear Lieutenant General

General Maung Aye
Vice Chairman
State Law and Order Restoration Council
c/o Ministry of Defence
Signal Pagoda Road
Yangon, Union of Myanmar
Telegrams: General Maung Aye, Yangon, Myanmar
Salutation: Dear General

U Ohn Gyaw
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Prome Court, Prome Road
Yangon, Union of Myanmar
Faxes: +95 1 229 50
Telexes: 21313 MOFARN BM
Telegrams: Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yangon, Myanmar
Salutation: Your Excellency

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 7 October 1994.