

EXTERNAL

AI Index: ASA 16/54/96

9 December 1996

Further information (2) on EXTRA 185/96 (ASA 16/52/96, 3 December 1996 ) and follow-up (ASA 16/53/96, 5 December 1996) - Prisoners of conscience / Fear of ill-treatment

MYANMARZaw Min (m)  
Tin Hla (m)  
Kyaw Soe (m)  
Thi Thi Aung (f) - released

New names:

Nyi Nyi Naing (m)  
Tin Aye (m)  
Aung Aung Htay (m)  
Kyi Kyi Win (f)  
Ma Cho (f)  
Khin Mar Yee (f)  
Ma Thida Myint (f)

- members of NLD Youth

Amnesty International has received information that Thi Thi Aung, arrested on 3 December, has been released, and that seven more members of the Youth wing of the National League for Democracy (NLD) have been arrested. Nyi Nyi Naing from Okkalappa township and Tin Aye from Thingangyun township in Yangon were arrested at their homes at about 1 am on 7 December after returning from a cafe. Both were daily visitors to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's compound before barricades were erected to prevent access. Aung Aung Htay, Kyi Kyi Win from Kyimindine township, Ma Cho from Sanchaung township, Khin Mar Yee, and Ma Thida Myint from Sanchaung township were also arrested on the same day. It is not known where they are being held. Zaw Min, Tin Hla and Kyaw Soe are still being questioned at Military Intelligence 12 Headquarters.

Amnesty International fears that they may be ill-treated in detention, common practice in the treatment of political detainees, and, in particular, young people in Myanmar.

#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Further demonstrations by students took place in Yangon on 6 December and were broken up forcibly by the authorities in the early hours of 7 December with the use of water-cannon and riot police wielding shields and batons. Security officials reportedly also threw stones to disperse onlookers. Between 500 and 1,000 students from Yangon Institute of Technology (YIT) and Yangon University (YU) gathered on Friday afternoon at a busy road intersection in Yangon. The students displayed banners and made speeches, while calling for the right to form their own union and the release from prison of 80 student leaders. Some students left the demonstration during the day, fearing intervention by riot police and troops, but by late evening some 500 remained, ignoring appeals from teachers to disperse.

According to reports, at approximately 3am on 7 December, police sprayed water-cannons for 20 minutes on some 150 students before detaining them, and

riot police with batons and shields charged another group of 100 students gathered nearby. Some students were reportedly beaten while being detained and taken away, as well as a Japanese journalist covering the events. Accounts of events also describe police throwing stones at onlookers and students to disperse them, as well as some students throwing stones at troops following their intervention.

According to official sources, 264 students were detained and taken away to the Kyatkasen sports stadium to "check their identities"; "most" of them were expected to have been released by late in the evening on 7 December. Amnesty International is unable to confirm if all those detained have been released. On 9 December some classes at YIT and YU were suspended by administrators and it was reported that students were leaving the campuses for their homes.

Blockades remain at Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's compound and on the roads around the YIT and YU campuses.

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

- calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Zaw Win, Tin Hla, Kyaw Soe, Nyi Nyi Naing, Tin Aye, Aung Aung Htay, Kyi Kyi Win, Ma Cho, Khin Mar Yee and Ma Thida Myint, prisoners of conscience detained for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of association;
- calling on the authorities to ensure that the 10 NLD Youth members are treated in accordance with international standards, as well as any others still detained following the mass arrests on 3 and 7 December;
- urging the authorities to release any of those still in detention after the mass arrests or charge them with recognizable criminal offences;
- urging the authorities to ensure that security forces exercise maximum restraint in any future demonstrations.

**APPEALS TO:**

1. 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 Post Office  
 Yangon, Union of Myanmar

**Telegrams: General Than Shwe, Yangon, Myanmar**

**Telexes: 21316**

**Salutation: Dear General**

2. 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 Post Office  
 Yangon, Union of Myanmar

**Telegrams: General Than Shwe, Yangon, Myanmar**

**Telexes: 21316**

**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 6 January 1997.