

URGENT ACTION

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE RELEASED IN MYANMAR

Prisoners of conscience Zaw Pe and Win Myint Hlaing have been released from prison in Myanmar after their jail sentences were reduced on appeal.

Zaw Pe (aka Thu Ya Thet Tin), a reporter for the media organization Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB), and **Win Myint Hlaing** were released from Thayet prison in Myanmar's Magwe region on 4 July 2014. The release came after a court in Magwe region reduced their prison sentences from one year to three months on 3 July 2014.

While Amnesty International welcomes the release of Zaw Pe and Win Myint Hlaing, they should not have been arrested and imprisoned in the first place. Both men were jailed on the pretext that they had committed a crime but in reality they were convicted and imprisoned solely because of their attempted criticism of the authorities. They were arrested in August 2012 after they tried to film an interview with an education department official in Magwe city, Magwe region about allegations of corruption. Despite their early release, Zaw Pe and Win Myint Hlaing have not been acquitted.

Many other prisoners of conscience – including journalists – remain jailed in Myanmar, and Amnesty International is demanding that they are all immediately and unconditionally released. The Myanmar authorities must stop using oppressive legislation to punish peaceful dissent, or more people will continue to be imprisoned simply for peacefully exercising their human rights.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals. No more action is required from the UA network.

This is the first update of UA 108/14. Further information: <http://amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA16/006/2014/en>

Name: Zaw Pe and Win Myint Hlaing

Gender m/f: m

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