

# URGENT ACTION

## MAN SENTENCED AFTER CALLING FOR JUSTICE

**Shayam Brang Shawng (known as Brang Shawng), an ethnic Kachin man from Myanmar, has been found guilty of making false allegations against the Myanmar Army after he called on the authorities to investigate their role in the death of his daughter. Local organizations believe that international pressure may have helped him avoid a harsher sentence.**

On 13 February 2015, **Brang Shawng** was sentenced by Hpakant Township Court in Kachin State, northern Myanmar, to either six months in detention or a 50,000 kyat fine (around 50 USD) under Article 211 of the Penal Code for making “false charges” against the Myanmar Army. Brang Shawng chose to pay the fine and has been released from detention, but plans to appeal the conviction.

Amnesty International believes that the charges against Brang Shawng are politically motivated and solely in retaliation for his complaint against the Myanmar Army. As such, his sentence should be overturned. However, Brang Shawng could have faced up to seven years’ imprisonment, and local organizations believe that international pressure might have helped him avoid a more severe sentence.

Brang Shawng’s daughter, **Ja Seng Ing**, died on 13 September 2012 in Sut Ngai Yang village, Hpakant Township. She was 14 years old. According to eyewitnesses, Myanmar Army soldiers shot her dead. However, the Myanmar Army claims she was killed by a Kachin Independence Army (KIA) landmine, which exploded around the same time as she was shot.

On 25 September 2012, Brang Shawng sent a letter to the Myanmar president, calling on him to take action on the case. This was followed on 1 October 2012 by a letter to the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC). He did not receive a response to either letter. Instead, on 25 February 2013, he was charged under Article 211 of Myanmar’s Penal Code with making false allegations against the Myanmar Army in his letter to the MNHRC. The charges followed a complaint lodged by a Myanmar Army major to the Hpakant Township police station. It is unclear how the Myanmar Army accessed Brang Shawng’s letter to the MNHRC.

**Amnesty International will continue to monitor Brang Shawng’s situation and take further action if necessary. Thank you to all those who sent appeals. No more action is required from the UA network.**

This is the first update of UA 317/14. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA16/031/2014/en>

Name: Brang Shawng (m), Ja Seng Ing (f)

Gender m/f: Both

Further information: UA: 317/14 Index: ASA 16/008/2015 Myanmar Date: 17 February 2015

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