

URGENT ACTION

ACTIVIST IMPRISONED FOR FACEBOOK POST

Kachin peace activist Patrick Kum Jaa Lee has been sentenced to six months imprisonment in Myanmar for a Facebook post mocking the Army. There is also concern that he may not be receiving the specialist treatment he needs for a number of medical conditions. He is a prisoner of conscience who must be released immediately and unconditionally.

On 14 October 2015, **Patrick Kum Jaa Lee** was arrested after he shared an image on Facebook showing an unidentified person stepping on a photograph of Army Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, along with the warning "Don't share this post – if you do you will be arrested". On 22 January 2016 he was sentenced to six months imprisonment by the Hlaing Township court in Yangon – Myanmar's largest city - under Section 66(d) of the 2013 Telecommunications Law for "extorting, coercing, restraining wrongfully, defaming, disturbing, causing undue influence or threatening to any person by using any Telecommunications Network".

Patrick Kum Jaa Lee remains in Insein prison's hospital intensive care unit where he was admitted on 27 October because of his poor health condition. He had a mild stroke in June 2014, and is also suffering from high blood pressure, gastroenteritis and chronic asthma. His family, who is able to visit him in prison, has concerns that the prison hospital may not be providing him with adequate medical treatment.

Please write immediately in English, Burmese or your own language:

- Calling on the Myanmar authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Patrick Kum Jaa Lee;
- Urging them to ensure that, pending his release, he is given access to an independent medical assessment and any treatment he needs;
- Calling on them to repeal or amend all laws which impose arbitrary or sweeping restrictions on the human right to freedom of expression, in line with international human rights law and standards.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 9 MARCH 2016 TO:

President

Thein Sein
President's Office
Office No.18
Nay Pyi Taw
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Fax: +95 1 652 624
Salutation: Your Excellency

Minister of Home Affairs

Lt Gen. Ko Ko
Ministry of Home Affairs
Office No. 10
Nay Pyi Taw
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Fax: +95 67 412 439
Email: mohamyanmar@gmail.com
Salutation: Your Excellency

And copies to:

Superintendent of Insein prison
Insein prison
Insein Township
Yangon
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please insert local diplomatic addresses below:

Name Address 1 Address 2 Address 3 Fax Fax number Email Email address Salutation Salutation

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the second update of UA 227/15. Further information:

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa16/3105/2015/en/>

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INTERNATIONAL**



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International issued a press release following Patrick Kum Jaa Lee's sentence (See: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/01/myanmar-prisoner-amnesty-marred-by-outrageous-jailing-of-activist-for-facebook-post/>)

While Internet penetration is still very low in Myanmar, Facebook is widely used by most Internet users, including human rights defenders, government officials and news agencies.

On 28 December 2015, Chaw Sandi Tun, also known as Chit Tha Mee, was also sentenced to six months imprisonment under Section 66(d) of the Telecommunications Law for a post she made on Facebook mocking the Myanmar Army. She is currently detained in Maubin prison, in Ayeyarwady Region. She is a prisoner of conscience who must be immediately and unconditionally released. (See UA 228/15: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa16/3134/2016/en/>). Amnesty International is also aware of at least two other people being detained under similar charges for posts they made on Facebook.

Amnesty International is deeply concerned by these cases which could pave the way to a broader crackdown on freedom of expression online.

The Myanmar authorities continue to arrest and imprison activists and human rights defenders simply for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression which are enshrined in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Amnesty International is concerned about a number of laws in Myanmar which restrict the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Name: Patrick Kum Jaa Lee
Gender m/f: male

Further information on UA: 227/15 Index: ASA 16/3331/2016 Issue Date: 27 January 2016