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## **Myanmar: Three-year-old prisoner of conscience released**

Amnesty International today welcomed the release of the world's youngest prisoner of conscience, three-year-old Thaint Wunna Khin, but regrets that her mother, Ma Khin Khin Leh, and 17 other prisoners of conscience remain in detention.

"It is encouraging that the Burmese authorities have realised that detaining a three-year-old is as meaningless as it is cruel," Amnesty International said.

"We hope that the authorities will reach the same conclusion regarding the child's mother and the 17 others still behind bars, and release them all immediately and unconditionally."

Seven of the 18 remaining detainees are relatives of Thaint Wunna Khin.

The human rights organization firmly denied the Myanmar government's claim that Amnesty International based its research on information from "an armed terrorist group", namely the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF, an armed opposition group).

As a matter of policy Amnesty International does not use information from such groups. The organization remains committed to protecting its sources by never naming them, but can confirm that all its information about this case was provided by sources with close links inside Myanmar.

Amnesty International notes that in response to its press release issued yesterday calling for the release of Thaint Wunna Khin and 18 others, Myanmar's government on the one hand denied their detention, but at the same time admitted that "some people were called in for questioning in Bago [Pegu]...".

The government also denied that pamphlets had been distributed in Pegu calling for a peaceful demonstration to commemorate the assassination of the independence hero General Aung San. Amnesty International has obtained the names of 32 places in Pegu town where such leaflets had been distributed. The leaflets called for a peaceful demonstration and tripartite dialogue between the SPDC (the State Peace and Development Council, Myanmar's military government), ethnic minority groups, and the National League for Democracy, led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

### **Background**

Thaint Wunna Khin is one of 19 people arrested between 19 and 24 July in Pegu, central Myanmar. All are thought to be detained in relation to the planning of a 19 July march to commemorate the 52nd anniversary of General Aung San's assassination. General Aung San fought for independence from the British and was the father of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD) opposition party.

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