

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 16/021/2003

25 July 2003

Further Information on UA 159/03 (ASA 16/009/2003, 02 June 2003) and follow-ups (ASA 16/010/2003, 6 June 2003; ASA 16/011/2003, 4 July 2003) - Fear for safety/possible "disappearance"

MYANMAR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (f) aged 58, General Secretary of the National League for Democracy (NLD),
U Tin Oo, aged 75, deputy Chairman of the NLD,
Members of Parliament, monks, doctors, lawyers, photographers, students

released: 91 people

A total of 91 people detained since the violent attack on the National League for Democracy (NLD) on 30 May, are reported by authorities to have been released to date. Their names and release dates are, however, not known. Concern remains for the safety of scores of people who are still detained or missing, including those who are being held incommunicado.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the General Secretary of the NLD, is among those being held incommunicado.

In a response by the State Peace and Development Council to concerns raised by Amnesty International in late June, authorities confirmed that they were holding a number of persons detained on 30 May, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and U Tin Oo "*in temporary custody*." They also stated that a number detained after 30 May were being held "*in temporary custody for their security while still under interrogation*" and that eight senior politicians believed to be under house arrest have been requested to "*stay at home peacefully*". The authorities did not clarify the legal basis for these detentions or the whereabouts of those detained. The State Peace and Development Council also stated that at least fifteen persons who appeared on Amnesty International's list were not detained.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Opposition sources have reported that persons released from detention in recent weeks have been required to sign undertakings not to engage in activities detrimental to the state, or to face future prosecution. Those engaging in peaceful political activities or dissent have frequently been prosecuted in the country on the basis that authorities have alleged that these are activities detrimental to the state.

An updated list of 188 persons reported detained or "disappeared" on or since 30 May 2003, may be viewed on <http://web.amnesty.org/pages/mmr-040603-action-eng>. This list includes information provided by the State Peace and Development Council in response to Amnesty International's concerns.

For information on human rights defenders who have been detained for raising concerns about events of 30 May 2003, please see UA 207/03 (ASA 16/17/2003, 11 July 2003) and follow-ups.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible, in English or your own language:

- expressing concern for the safety of scores of political activists, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, whose whereabouts are unknown following the attack on NLD members of 30 May 2003;
- urging authorities to make public information on the names, whereabouts and legal basis for detention of all those reportedly detained or missing;

urging authorities to immediately and unconditionally release those detained on account of their peaceful exercise of the right to freedom of expression, association and assembly; and calling for an end to the arrests of others on this basis;

- calling for guarantees that no detainees will be tortured or ill-treated, and that detainees, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, are granted immediate access to lawyers, doctors and relatives;

- expressing concern at the reported killings of NLD members and others on 30 and 31 May 2003, and urging authorities to permit a thorough and independent investigation into these incidents, to make the results public and to bring those responsible to justice, in accordance with international standards.

APPEALS TO:

Senior General Than Shwe
State Peace and Development Council
Ministry of Defence, Signal Pagoda Road
Dagon Post Office
Yangon
Union of Myanmar

Telegram: General Than Shwe, Yangon, Myanmar

Telex: 21316

Fax: + 95 1 652 624

Salutation: Dear General

General Khin Nyunt, Secretary 1
State Peace and Development Council
C/o Director of Defense Services Intelligence (DDSI)
Ministry of Defence, Signal Pagoda Road
Dagon Post Office
Yangon
Union of Myanmar

Telegram: General Khin Nyunt, Yangon, Myanmar

Telex: 21316

Fax: + 95 1 652 624

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 5 September 2003.