

URGENT ACTION

ROHINGYA ACTIVIST CONDITIONALLY RELEASED

Human rights defender U Kyaw Hla Aung has been released from prison in Myanmar as part of a Presidential amnesty. Before being released he was required to sign a statement agreeing not to take part in any other “unlawful activities” or else he would be imprisoned again.

On 7 October, Rohingya Muslim human rights defender **U Kyaw Hla Aung** was released from Sittwe prison, Rakhine State in Western Myanmar. He was released as part of a prisoner amnesty announced by the Myanmar authorities earlier that day. Amnesty International understands that he was released because he had less than six months of his sentence left to serve. He is understood to be in poor health, and suffering from high blood pressure and arthritis.

U Kyaw Hla Aung was released under Article 401 of Myanmar’s Code of Criminal Procedure, which gives the President authority to release prisoners. Article 401 also provides that released prisoners can be taken back to prison to serve the remainder of their sentence if “any condition on which a sentence has been suspended or remitted is, in the opinion of the President of Union, not fulfilled”. On his release U Kyaw Hla Aung was required to sign a statement agreeing that he would not get involved in any other crime or “unlawful activities” or he would have to serve the remainder of his sentence.

U Kyaw Hla Aung had been in detention since his arrest on 15 July 2013. On 26 September 2014 a court in Sittwe found him guilty of “rioting” and sentenced him to 18 months in prison. Amnesty International considers the charges against him to have been politically motivated.

While Amnesty International welcomes the release of U Kyaw Hla Aung, the fact remains that he should never have been imprisoned in the first place.

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

Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the fourth update of UA 213/14. Further information: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/ASA16/022/2014/en>

Name: U Kyaw Hla Aung
Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 213/13 Index: ASA 16/024/2014 Issue Date: 8 October 2014

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