

22 September 2000

Further information on UA 263/00 (ASA 16/17/00, 5 September 2000) and follow-up (ASA 16/18/00, 6 September 2000; ASA 16/19/00, 14 September 2000) - Fear of torture/prisoners of conscience

**MYANMAR** U Soe Myint, 78, - National League for Democracy (NLD) Central Executive Committee member, detained on 2 September;

Htun Zaw Zaw, Myo Nyunt, Htun Myint, Thein Lwin, Aung Htoo, Khin Oo, Moe Thaw (alias Pauk Pauk), Myint Kyaw, Shwe Gyo, Than Htut, Nyan Lin Aung, Aye Myein Lin, Than Htun, Thein Swe, Zaw Min Kyaw, Min Aung Nyo, NLD Youth members, detained on 2 September;

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (f) - NLD General Secretary;

U Tin U - NLD Vice Chairman, detained on 22 September;

**New cases:** At least eight unidentified NLD members, detained on 22 September;

U Saw Naing Naing, - NLD Member of Parliament-elect;

NLD Organizational Committee members: U Soe Han, U Tun Myint, U Aung Myint, U Htein Win, U Sein Htay, U Zaw Oo, U San Myaing, U Tin Nyunt, detained on 13-14 September.

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The Vice Chairman of the National League for Democracy (NLD), and eight other NLD members, were reportedly taken into custody as they tried to accompany NLD General Secretary, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, to Mandalay. Political prisoners are often tortured in Myanmar during interrogation and in prison. Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of all NLD members detained in the past weeks, many of whose whereabouts are unknown.

NLD Vice Chairman, U Tin U, and eight unidentified NLD members were taken by force from Yangon railway station by security forces at 1am on 22 September. They were accompanying Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in an attempt to travel to Mandalay by train for NLD party business. They are now reportedly detained at a "government guest house".

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was taken back to Yangon and, according to the authorities, she is in her residence there, which, with the NLD headquarters, is reportedly cordoned off by security forces. Foreign diplomats and journalists have not been allowed to visit her.

Unconfirmed reports state that security forces also detained some of the dozens of NLD Youth members who had gone to the station in the afternoon to meet the group, and who were also forcibly removed from the station.

According to the authorities, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Tin U and their party were told that there were no available tickets to travel to Mandalay when they arrived at the station. The group remained at the station until all the trains had departed. The authorities allege that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi "lashed out at a station cleaning crew" before being requested to leave, and have stated that the incident is being investigated.

In what is believed to be part of the current crack-down on the opposition, nine NLD Organizational Committee members in Yangon, including NLD member of parliament-elect U Saw Naing Naing, are also reported to have been arrested on 13 and 14 September, at around the same time as restrictions on other senior NLD members were lifted.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The military authorities have launched a series of crackdowns on the National League for Democracy since the party won over 80% of the parliamentary seats in the May 1990 elections. The NLD has not been allowed to form a government, hundreds of its members are imprisoned for their peaceful political activities, and thousands have been forced to resign from the party. In September 1998 hundreds of NLD members were detained in "government guest houses" without charge or trial to prevent the NLD from convening a parliament. While most of these have since been released, a small number remain in detention.

#### **FURTHER RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/telexes/faxes/express/airmail letters in English or in your own language:**

- expressing concern for the safety of U Soe Myint and the 16 named NLD Youth members arrested on 2 September whose whereabouts and status have not been made public;
- expressing concern at the detention of U Tin U, and eight other NLD members on 22 September, and of U Saw Naing Naing and eight other named NLD members on 13 and 14 September;
- urging the State Peace and Development Council to release immediately and unconditionally all those NLD members arrested solely for exercising their right to freedom of association and for their peaceful political activities;
- urging the authorities to ensure that all those arrested have immediate access to lawyers, their families and medical treatment;
- urging the SPDC to ensure that no prisoners are subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment;
- urging the SPDC to clarify the current situation of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and to ensure that she is not held in incommunicado detention.

#### **APPEALS TO:**

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

**Telegrams: General Khin Nyunt, Yangon, Myanmar**

**Telexes: 21316**

**Faxes: + 95 1 222 950**

**Salutation: Your Excellency**

Colonel Hla Min  
 Office of Strategic Studies  
 Department of International Affairs  
 c/o Ministry of Defense, Signal Pagoda Road  
 Dagon Post Office  
 Yangon

Union of Myanmar

**Telegrams:** Colonel Hla Min, Yangon, Myanmar

**Telexes:** 21316

**Faxes:** + 95 1 222 950

**Salutation:** Dear Colonel

**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 2 November 2000.