

URGENT ACTION

US CITIZEN TORTURED IN YANGON

Trusted sources have reported to Amnesty international that male activist Kyaw Zaw Lwin was tortured and suffered other ill-treatment whilst in detention in Insein Prison, Yangon, Myanmar's main city. He was arrested in Yangon on 3 September. He has been denied medical treatment for the injuries he sustained from the torture he endured during interrogation. There are grave concerns about his health.

The torture and ill-treatment that Kyaw Zaw Lwin suffered in detention included beating and kicking. He was deprived of food for seven days and moved between different interrogation centres. He was not allowed to sleep at night and was kept awake during interrogation by the authorities. Details of the charges against him are not known.

The state newspaper New Light of Myanmar reported on 24 September that Kyaw Zaw Lwin had entered Myanmar to "create unrests within the country". The newspaper reported details of the activities that Kyaw Zaw Lwin and other Burmese pro-democracy exiles allegedly undertook in collaboration with "internal anti-government elements" in Myanmar.

Kyaw Zaw Lwin, a US citizen, received consular access for the first time on 22 September.

PLEASE WRITE IMMEDIATELY in Burmese or your own language:

- √ express concern at reports that Kyaw Zaw Lin was tortured and suffered other ill-treatment whilst in detention;
- √ urging the authorities to immediately provide Kyaw Zaw Lin access to any medical treatment he may require, and that this continues until he is released;
- √ calling on the authorities to release Kyaw Zaw Lin immediately and unconditionally as soon as he has received the urgent medical treatment he needs;
- √ demand that the authorities guarantee that Kyaw Zaw Lwin is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated while he remains in custody and that he has access to his family and legal counsel.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS BEFORE 16 October TO:

Minister for Home Affairs
Maung Oo
Ministry of Home Affairs
Office No. 10
Naypyitaw, Union of Myanmar
Fax: +95 67 412 439
Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Information
Brigadier-General Kyaw Hsan
Ministry of Information
Bldg. (7), Naypyitaw,
Union of Myanmar
Salutation: Dear Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs
Nyan Win
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Naypyitaw, Union of Myanmar
Salutation: Dear Minister

COPIES TO: Diplomatic representatives of Myanmar accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date.

Also send copies to diplomatic representatives accredited to your country. Please check with your section office if sending appeals after the above date. This is the first update of UA 242/09 (ASA 16/005/2009) 11 September 2009.

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International has received additional information about Kyaw Zaw Lwin since issuing the initial Urgent Action. Kyaw Zaw Lwin has identified himself as an independent activist. While he has been involved with the work of pro-democracy groups and campaigns, he is not affiliated with any single group. Much of Kyaw Zaw Lwin's work with pro-democracy groups has been undertaken because several of his relatives are political prisoners. His mother San San Tin and cousin Nwe Hnin Yi (aka Noe Noe), as well as Thet Thet Aung, who has now been confirmed as his cousin, are all currently serving prison sentences for their part in the anti-government demonstrations in September 2007.

A government amnesty on 17 September announced the release of 7,114 prisoners on 'humanitarian grounds'. Only 127 of those released were political prisoners. Political dissidents and pro-democracy campaigners continue to be harassed and detained in Myanmar.

Further information on UA: 242/09 Index: ASA 16/006/2009 Issue Date: 24 September 2009

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