

Further information on UA 183/99 (ASA 16/19/99, 27 July 1999) - Possible prisoners of conscience/fear of torture 29 July 1999

MYANMAR Thaint Wunna Khin (f), aged 3
 Ma Khin Khin Leh, 33, her mother
 U Aye Swe, aged 55
 Daw Tin Tin, 50, his wife
 Kyaw Kyaw, 33, their son
 U Zaw Myint, aged 49
 Daw Tint Tint, his wife, 47
 Ko Zaw Zaw Latt, their son, 20
 U Ba Chit, 48
 U Ye Tint, teacher, 45
 U Win Myint, 45, shopkeeper
 Dr. Shwe Bo (f), 45, medical doctor
 Ma Thida Htway (f), 27, teacher
 Ko Lwin Moe Myint, 27, student activist

 Ko Myint , 30, market vendor
 Ko Ah Thay Lay, 21, student
 Ko Hla Win, 23, student
 Two unnamed female physicians in their mid 40s

Three-year-old Thaint Wunna Khin has been released after five days' detention. Amnesty International welcomes her release, but remains concerned that the 18 people listed above, including Thaint Wunna Khin's mother Ma Khin Khin Leh, remain in detention and may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment.

Amnesty International has obtained new information on the circumstances of their arrest, and considers all 18 to be prisoners of conscience.

On 29 July, in response to a press release from Amnesty International the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), Myanmar's military government, issued a statement denying that the 19 people had been detained. However they did say that "*some people were called in for questioning in Bago [Pegu]...*".

The government also denied that pamphlets calling for a peaceful demonstration to commemorate the assassination of the independence hero General Aung San had been distributed in Pegu. Amnesty International has obtained the names of 32 places in Pegu town where such leaflets were distributed. The leaflets called for a peaceful demonstration and three-way dialogue between the SPDC, ethnic minority groups and the National League for Democracy, led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Amnesty International has also received reliable information about the content of the leaflets, which called for non-violent action only. Those involved in planning the demonstration are therefore prisoners of conscience, detained solely for attempting to express their right to freedom of expression.

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

- welcoming the release of three-year-old Thaint Wunna Khin;

- urging the SPDC to immediately and unconditionally release the other 18 prisoners of conscience;
- urging the SPDC to ensure that those detained are not tortured or ill-treated, and that they all have immediate access to their families, lawyers, and proper medical care.

APPEALS TO:

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

Telegrams: General Khin Nyunt, Yangon, Myanmar

Telexes: 21316

Faxes: +95 1 229 50

Salutation: Dear General

Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman
State Peace and Development Council
c/o Director of Defence Services Intelligence (DDSI)
Ministry of Defence, Signal Pagoda Road
Dagon Post Office
Yangon
Union of Myanmar

Telegrams: General Than Shwe, Yangon, Myanmar

Telexes: 21316

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 8 September 1999.