

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Public Statement

AI Index: ASA 16/004/2007 (Public)
News Service No: 095
25 May 2007

Myanmar: Aung San Suu Kyi's detention extended

The extension of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's detention highlights the need for urgent action on Myanmar's deteriorating human rights situation, said Amnesty International.

The detention order for the leader of the National League for Democracy (NLD) had been due to expire on Sunday 27 May, but the Myanmar authorities today renewed it for a further year.

The already grave human rights situation in Myanmar has got even worse over the last year. Amnesty International is calling on the international community and the Myanmar authorities to address this crisis. The Myanmar authorities must take immediate measures to stop abuses against civilians during their military operations in Kayin state. They must release unconditionally all those wrongfully imprisoned, improve prison conditions and end political harassment.

Aung San Suu Kyi will have spent more than eleven and a half of the last eighteen years arbitrarily detained under house arrest. For much of the remaining time her movement has been heavily restricted by the authorities. She has never been charged or tried with any offence.

Aung San Suu Kyi's repeated detentions exemplify the ongoing travesty of justice of political imprisonment in Myanmar. There are currently more than 1,160 political prisoners, many of whom have been penalised solely on account of their peaceful dissent towards the Myanmar authorities. Among those in prison are many sick and elderly individuals whose health continues to be jeopardized by poor and worsening prison conditions, including lack of adequate diet and medical care.

The security legislation used to wrongfully imprison Aung San Suu Kyi and others must be repealed or amended to stop it being used to silence peaceful dissent. At a time when the authorities are proposing political reconciliation, they should be guaranteeing peaceful exercise of basic rights, with no fear of retribution.

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