

Democratic Voice of Burma Political Prisoners News

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SPDC using gulag prisoners in construction projects

6 May 04

Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) has been using prisoners from police-controlled prison camps for construction projects in Chin State Northwest Burma.

The junta authorities at Reef have been using more than 30 prisoners in the construction of the local people' hospital and more than 50 prisoners from Nintalan police controlled-prison camp have been forced to build a road connecting Tiddim and Reef.

Prisoners are mainly from Kale Prison and they are not allowed to have contact with the local population and they are tightly controlled by the police and soldiers. The authorities are also doubling the number of police-controlled prison camps in the area.

There are more than 1000 political prisoners remaining in prisons throughout Burma including Kale and many of them are being kept in inhumane conditions.

A political prisoner tries to commit suicide

7 May 04

Ko Ne (Nay) Soe Lin who has been unfairly detained at Kale Prison in northwest Burma tried to commit suicide by slashing his wrists on 16 January and he was hospitalised at the local hospital, according to a family friend of his.

The suicide attempt occurred after the severe tortures he suffered in the hand of the military intelligence agents of the country's junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC). He also bashed his head against the wall and suffered internal head injuries.

Ko Ne Soe Lin is still unable to speak and nearly blind. He attempted to kill himself and severely injured himself before, but the prison authorities made no attempt to treat him properly. He still refuses to eat and he is only able to take liquid.

There are more than 1000 political prisoners still languishing in prisons throughout Burma while the junta is attempting to reconvene a constitution drafting National Convention.

The junta tends torture prisoners slowly by depriving them of basic needs and dignity, and release them only when they are about to die or have gone mad if they do not promise not to take in part in political activities.

Meanwhile, the SPDC criticised US government for human right abuses committed by the US soldiers on Iraqi prisoners – without an iota of irony.

Political prisoner beaten to death

8 May 04

A political prisoner who was held at Moulmein Prison in southern Burma was murdered in cold blood by prison authorities of Burma's junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) in 2000, it has emerged.

The victim is said to be Ko Win Bo, an ex-army captain who was known to be very religious and a friend of renowned and revered Buddhist monks throughout Burma including the abbot of Gandayon Monastery in Amarapura near Mandalay in central Burma.

He was a believer of reconciliation and persuaded Buddhist abbots to write to Burmese generals and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urging them to have dialogues for the sakes of peace and the end of sufferings in Burma.

His proposal was accepted by the monks and they wrote to the parties concerned in October 1999 and in November, Ko Win Bo was arrested by military intelligence agents and sentenced to 21 years in January 2000.

He was transferred from Insein Prison in Rangoon to Moulmein Prison in July 2000 and he was highly respected by fellow prisoners for his selfless behaviour, righteousness and unyielding courage.

On the night of 26 August 2000, Ko Win Bo was beaten to death by the assistant prison governor U Chit Maung and more 30 warders.

More people arrested

11 May 2004

Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) has sentenced five more people to long-term imprisonments only ten days before the 'National Convention' is to be reconvened.

According to Ko Teit Naing of exiled Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), Ko Maung Maung Latt, Ko Paw Lwin, U Ne Min, Ko Ye Thiha and Ko Yan Naing were given long-term imprisonments, up to 22 years by the Special Court inside the notorious Insein Prison in Rangoon. All of them were arrested three months ago.

U Ne Min was imprisoned in 1989 and handed down a 20 year sentence for passing information to a foreign news agency.

Ko Ye Thiha was given a ten year sentence in 1989 for being an ex- All Burma Students Democratic Front (ABSDF) member.

Ko Paw Lwin was sentenced to five years in prison and Ko Maung Maung Latt was given 5 years for his activities with the ABSDF.

There are more than 1000 political prisoners still languishing in prisons throughout Burma while the junta is preparing for a constitution drafting National Convention.

On 9 April, 11 political prisoners were given long-term imprisonment and there are more prisoners in Insein Prison waiting to be sentenced.

Political prisoners tortured

13 May 2004

While SPDC is preparing to convene the so-called 'National Convention' in accord with its seven-point roadmap plan for democracy, the junta's prison authorities are continuing to torture political prisoners who have been detained unfairly.

On 5 April, a National League for Democracy (NLD) youth member Ko Toe Aung was ruthlessly beaten up by prison staff led by the chief warden Myint Oo at Mandalay Prison for staring and not obeying the command given to him.

The victim has been suffering from damages of the nerves and psychological problems due to inhumane treatments he has been receiving in the hand of military intelligence agents.

The attackers put a hood on Ko Toe Aung's head and three men restrained him from behind by locking his hands while they were beating him up.

Ko Toe Aung was a member of Tavoy Township National League for Democracy (NLD) in southern Burma and he has been imprisoned since 1996 and he only has a 70 year old mother who has been unable to see him due to the distance and cost.

Students demand medical treatments for activists

14 May 2004

Exiled All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) has called for SPDC to urgently provide medical cares for Ko Ne Soe Lin, a political prisoner who has been detained unfairly by the junta in a statement issued on 14 May.

Ko Ne Soe Lin was arrested by military intelligence agents in 1989 and sentenced to 14 years in prison.

In 2002, he was transferred from Insein Prison in Rangoon to Kale Prison in northwest Burma. Prison authorities bear grudges on him for his leading role in staging protests inside prisons.

Earlier last year, Ko Ne So Lin suffered mental problems but the authority didn't give him proper medical treatments and he attempted to commit suicide.

On 9 May, Ko Ne Soe Lin was again transferred to Mandalay Prison. His father, U San Win who was political prisoner himself recently visited him at the prison said that his son was unable to speak and walk when he saw him.

The family of Ne Soe Lin informed Rangoon-based International Committee for Red Cross to urgently provide medical care for him.

Burma junta commutes death sentences

14 May 2004

The Supreme Court of Burma on 14 May commuted the death sentences imposed on the editor of sports journal 'First Eleven' Ko Zaw Thet Htway and three other people accused of informing the International Labour Organisation (ILO) to 3 years prison terms.

Zaw Myo Htet (aka) Zaw Zaw, Naing Min Kyi, Zaw Thet Htway and U Aye Myint were each given three year prison sentence in accord with penal code Act 123.

Their lawyer, Naing Ngwe Ya told DVB that he requested the judge at the court to let the defendants go scotch-free on 6 April but the authorities passed the sentences because they are regarded as people who knowingly supported an insurrection against the state.

The death sentences for five other people who were tried with Zaw Thet Htway were commuted to life imprisonments.

According to Naing Ngwe Ya, the military authorities allegedly found weapons and explosives with Naing Yet Kha, Shwe Mahn, Yan Naing Tun, Myo Htway and Aung Loon, and the least they could expect was life imprisonment in accord with Act 122 (1) relating to insurrection.

Although the nine accused were given such sentences, the main player U Myo Chit from Kyauk Myaung, Rangoon was not even allowed to be tried, and, U Naing Ngwe Ya is planning to lodge the appeal for the four given life imprisonment at a special court.

Ko Ne Lin Soe's health condition

20 May 2004

The health condition of Ko Ne Lin Soe, the political prisoner who has been unfairly detained in Mandalay Prison in central Burma is said to be deteriorating further.

He is unable to walk properly anymore and he needs the help of two people to walk, and he could lose the sight in both eyes if they are not treated soon, according to those who are close to his family.

Moreover, he is suffering from internal injuries on his wrists and head due to his early suicide attempts.

At the moment, he is unable to take solid food and he is being nourished with coffee and juice, and he has lost the ability to speak and answer questions.

Dr Than Nyein and some political prisoners' health conditions

20 May 2004

The health condition of Dr. Than Nyein, elected representative of Kyaunttan Township who has been receiving medical treatments in Insein Prison clinic is not improving.

He is suffering from liver complaints, heart condition and high blood pressures and he is unable to walk properly due to the cramps he is enduring on his left foot.

At the same time, 70+year old U Ohn Maung, the elected representative of Nyaunglebin Township, the chief organiser of Mayanggone Township National League for Democracy (NLD) U Nyan Thaung, Dr. Maung Maung Kyaw, U Thu Wei and U Htway Myint are receiving medical treatments in the prison.

Burma junta frees more Dipeyin victims

28 May 2004

Burma's military junta, State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) on 28 May has released five of the 18 Monywa residents who were detained after the notorious 30 May Dipeyin massacre.

They are U Saw Tun, a lawyer and member of Monywa Township National League for Democracy (NLD) legal affairs support team, Daw Khin Htar Kyin, proprietor of a publishing enterprise who was arrested for allegedly distributing leaflets concerning the incident, U Singh alias V Singh, Ko Aung and Ko Than Shwe, who were all detained for their alleged involvement in a riot in Monywa on the night of 30 May 2003.

They were all freed from the local Monywa jail and some still remain incarcerated in the same jail.

The elated wife U Saw Tun told DVB that her husband was arrested for participating in hoisting the township's NLD signboard and booked for creating panic among the people and was sentenced to two years imprisonment.

According to unconfirmed reports, Ko Nyunt Lwin and Ko Myint Naing, son and nephew respectively of Daw Khin Htar Kyin were also released today from Kale jail in northwest Burma.

But Ko Bo Lwin, Ko Thein Tun, Ko Nyan Win Tun, Ko Htet Aung, Ko Ye Htut, Ko Kaday Soe, Ko San Myint Aung, Ko Chan Nyein Aung, Ko Myo Thant, Ko Pauk Tu and Ko Htay Saung still remain incarcerated.

Most of them were arrested for their part in the riot at Monywa which occurred simultaneously with the Dipeyin incident and were all sentenced to 10 years or more imprisonment.

Youth arrested for distributing leaflets on human rights

30 May 2004

Some Burmese youths have been arrested by the military intelligent agents of SPDC in Rangoon on 30 May for distributing leaflets on the declaration of human rights.

The youths were distributing the leaflets to mark the first anniversary of 30 May Dipeyin massacre in which NLD supporters and leaders including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were attacked in an ambush by thugs affiliated to the junta in upper Burma.

Scores were killed and many were wounded, arrested and imprisoned.

According to reports from Rangoon, the people arrested are mainly NLD youth members from townships in Rangoon and they are currently being detained at unknown locations.

Up to 9 youth arrested by Burma junta

31 May 2004

The spokesman of National League for Democracy (NLD) U Lwin told DVB that at least 9 youth, not four as initially reported, were arrested by SPDC for distributing leaflets on human rights declaration in Rangoon.

They were arrested at several locations in Rangoon near Hledan, Yuzana Plaza and 36th Street. They are NLD members

Ko Myo Min (Mayanggone)
Ko Aung Myo Min Wei (Shwepyitha)
Ko Myint Kyaw Oo (Shwepyitha)
Ko Myo Min Soe (Kamayut)
Ko Myo Than Htaik (Tamwe)
Ko Kyaw Kyaw (New Dagon Town)
Ko Than Win Aung (New Dagon Town)
Ko Nay Soe (Shwepyithar)
Ko Myint Aung (Kwoonchankone)

Another female student was also arrested for staging a solo protest in front of the City Hall demanding the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her deputy U Tin Oo.

U Lwin added that it is not known whether they were arrested for distributing leaflets on human rights declaration or other documents, and it is not known where they are being detained and what kind of charges they are to be tried with.

The NLD central committee issued a statement demanding the immediate release of those arrested and they are continued to be helped legally by the party. [TOP](#)

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