

Democratic Voice of Burma  
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**Special appeal lodged for jailed Shan leaders**

*February, 05, 2007*

A special appeal has been lodged with the high court in Rangoon for the release of seven Shan leaders jailed last year for criticising the military's National Convention.

A lawyer for the group of politicians and activists—Khun Htun Oo, Sai Nyunt Lwin, Sai Hla Aung, Sao Hso Ten, Htun Nyo, Sai Nay Mo and Sai Myo Win Htun—said the appeal would be heard on February 22.

U Aung Thein said the case had originally been scheduled for February 8 but had been postponed due to court delays.

The seven men, along with fellow Shan leader U Myint Thein, were arrested on February 9, 2005 after they condemned the military-run constitution drafting process at the National Convention.

U Myint Thein later died in prison. The remaining seven are known to be in poor health.

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**Mandalay political prisoners refused healthcare, exercise**

*February, 06, 2007*

Political detainees in Mandalay prison are being denied access to physical exercise, books and healthcare, according some of their family members.

“At Mandalay there is almost no healthcare or medical treatment. Only people who are dying are allowed to go to the hospital,” a political prisoner’s relative who visited the prison recently told DVB.

“And when it comes to reading, in the past, prisoners were allowed to read books passed by the censorship board. Now they reject all books they don’t like the look of,” the relative said on condition of anonymity.

Sources close to inmates also said that the amount of time prisoners had to exercise had decreased considerably and that political detainees were no longer allowed to watch television with the rest of the prisoners.

“. . . prisoners are not allowed to wear slippers when they cross the main gate to see their relatives. At noon, the pavement is hot like hell and they have to walk barefoot to the entrance of the prison,” the political prisoner’s relative said.

But staff at the prison denied the allegations saying they were unsubstantiated.

“It is not true. It is false news,” one prison official said.



## **Burmese junta extends NLD deputy’s detention**

*February, 14, 2007*

The Burmese military government has extended the house arrest of deputy National League for Democracy leader U Tin Oo by one year, according to press reports from Rangoon.

The Associated Press said yesterday officials from Burma’s Home Ministry visited U Tin Oo’s home on Tuesday and read out the orders for the extension of his house arrest.

U Tin Oo and NLD leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi have been in detention since May 2003, when their motorcade was attacked by a pro-military mob in northern Burma. Both NLD leaders are denied visitors but have been allowed irregular medical checkups.

U Tin Oo’s detention was also extended by a year in February 2005 and February 2006, despite widespread calls for his release.



## **NLD member’s prison term extended**

*February 22, 2007*

Jailed National League for Democracy member of parliament Daw May Win Myint has had her 10-year prison sentence extended by 12 months, her husband U Win Myint said yesterday.

Daw May Win Myint, 57, was initially sentenced to seven years in prison in 1997 for arranging a meeting between detained NLD leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and a group of young people from Mayangone township.

While her sentence expired in 2004, she continues to be detained and is suffering from high blood pressure, according to her husband.

“Previously, she could go out for medical check-ups. Now, treatment is given inside by Insein doctors . . . I have expected her to be released so many times,” U Win Myint said.

The authorities failed to notify U Win Myint of the extension of his wife’s detention, leaving him to find out when he visited her in prison last week.

News of her sentence extension comes just days after reports confirmed NLD deputy leader U Tin Oo, who has been detained since 2003, will also spend a further year under house arrest.

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### **Jailed farmer’s appeal postponed**

*February 22, 2007*

The hearing of an appeal lodged with the Kaw Hmu court in Rangoon on behalf on jailed farmer Daw Khin Win has been postponed until February 27, according to her lawyer U Aung Thein.

Daw Khin Win, 51, was sentenced to a year in prison by the court in December for lodging what officials described as a false law suite against her village peace and development council.

In November 2004, Daw Khin Win filed an official complaint alleging newly elected officials in her village were corrupt.

U Aung Thein said her appeal hearing was postponed yesterday when local officials failed to show up. If they fail to appear on February 27, the appeal can be heard without them.

“If they are not interested in it and didn’t turn up despite the official summon letter, we will not have to listen to them . . .,” U Aung Thein said.

Two days before she was sentenced last year Daw Khin Win said she would rather go to prison than admit defeat.

“If they fine me on a charge where I believe myself innocent, and if I agree to pay for it, that’ll make me somehow agreeing that they were right. I rather go into prison hoping that the truth will be revealed one day,” Daw Khin Win said.

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### **Burmese military threatens action against protestors**

*February, 23, 2007*

The Burmese government today threatened to take action against a group of protestors who staged a rare political demonstration in Rangoon yesterday afternoon.

About 30 people carrying banners and waving placards marched along Mahabandoola road toward the historic Sule pagoda at about 3:30pm yesterday, demanding decreases in inflation and 24 hour electricity.

The demonstration was broken up about half an hour later by armed riot police. Two protestors, Ko Htin Kyaw and Ko Myint Shwe, were handcuffed and led away and three reporters covering the event were detained for several hours.

The state-run New Light of Myanmar today described the protest, which was organised by a group calling themselves the Myanmar Development Committee, as a riot and warned that the military was planning to take action against the group.

“. . . members of the group, which incited a gathering crowd through a protest violated the existing law, illegally formed a group with the intention of rising against the government, got involved in an act of lawlessness and walked in procession shouting along a busy road,” the New Light of Myanmar said.

“. . . the attempt of the protesters, whose motive was only to win popularity among the people and seek self-interest, caused public annoyance and panic . . . such a deliberate attempt was totally against the law and action might be taken against the protesters.”

But eyewitnesses said yesterday the protest was peaceful and that initially traffic police and officials did little to stop it.

The three journalists—May Thingyan Hein from Myanmar Dana, Myat Thura from Kyodo News and Sint Sint Aung from Nippon Television Networks—who were escorted to Rangoon City Hall and later held for several hours at the Special Police Aung Thabye interrogation centre, were released at about 11pm last night. Sources close to the families of Ko Htin Kyaw and Ko Myint Shwe said last night the two men were still being held by the authorities.

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## **Lawyers to lodge final appeal for Shan leaders**

*February, 26, 2007*

A final special appeal against the detention of eight Shan leaders will be submitted to the Rangoon Central Court on March 1, according to lawyer U Aung Thein.

The eight men, including Shan Nationalities League for Democracy chairman Khun Htun Oo, SNLD secretary Sai Nyunt Lwin and former Shan rebel leader general Hso Ten, were given sentences ranging up to 106 years in 2005.

Arrested just days before the military's National Convention was due to convene in February 2005, the men were tried for a variety of politically motivated charges by a secret tribunal in Rangoon's notorious Insein prison.

U Aung Thein said last week that appeals against 28 of the charges laid against the men would be lodged in two groups.

"Sai Nyunt Lwin was accused of defaming the state. We need to give evidence on act 124/A. For Khun Htun Oo . . . I have to give details with the remaining nine charges," U Aung Thein said.

"Khun Htun Oo has more cases—about five. And U Kyi Win has three charges against him," U Aung Thein said.

The Rangoon Central Court is unlikely to decide whether or not to accept the appeal until the end of next month. If accepted, the appeal will provide lawyers with one final chance to argue for the Shan leaders' release.



## **Arrests continue after Rangoon protest**

*February, 26, 2007*

The Burmese military has arrested two more men and one woman in connection with a rare demonstration staged in Rangoon last Thursday.

Sources in Rangoon confirmed on the weekend that veteran protestor Ko Tun Tun from Nyaungdon township and Ko Tin Win from North Okkalapa township were arrested on Friday night. It is unclear where they are being held.

Daw May Win, a 50-year-old housewife from North Okkalapa who also took part in the protest, was arrested at a friend's home at 7:40pm on Saturday night.

"The North Okkalapa police and Sanchaung quarter peace and development authorities came just a few minutes ago and took her," Daw May Win's friend U Nyunt Hlaing told DVB on Saturday night.

"I asked them not to make the scene very ugly as we are all Burmese people. But they dragged her . . . Her son is in the process of his ninth grade exams. I told them it is important to at least let her contact the boy during his exams," U Nyunt Hlaing said.

Immediately after a group of protestors marched along Mahabandoola road holding placards calling for improved living conditions in Burma on Thursday afternoon, Burmese authorities arrested two men and three journalists who had covered the event.

Ko Htin Kyaw and Ko Myint Shwe remain in custody. May Thingyan Hein from Myanmar Dana, Myat Thura from Kyodo News and Sint Sint Aung from Nippon Television Network were released late on Thursday evening. Four others involved in the protest— Ko Hla Myint Aye, Ko Hla Thein, and Ko Myo Oo from

North Okkalapa and Ma Kyu Kyu San from Kandawgalay—were also arrested by special police on Thursday evening.

According to Rangoon residents, the Burmese military has stepped up security in Burma's former capital, posting extra police and security personnel on streets corners and outside Rangoon City Hall.

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## **Burmese authorities release protesters**

*February, 27, 2007*

Nine people who were arrested by the Burmese authorities in connection with a rare protest in Rangoon last Thursday have been released.

Ma Kyu Kyu San, Daw May Win, Ko Htin Kyaw, Ko Hla Myint Aye, Ko Myo Oo, Ko Hla Thein, U Tin Win, U Ohn Than and Ko Tun Tun were released this afternoon after spending time at the Aungthabye interrogation centre in Rangoon.

A group of about 30 protesters, led by an organisation calling themselves the Myanmar Development Committee, marched along Mahabandoola road last Thursday, calling on the government to improve living standards in Burma. Several onlookers later joined the demonstration.

Ko Tun Tun told DVB today everyone released by the authorities was in good health.

“There was no physical torture . . . They tried their best and treated us nicely,” Ko Tun Tun said.

“They told us if we were to form an organisation, we should officially register with the government first,” he said.

Several Burmese opposition groups including the National League for Democracy and the 88 Generation Students group had called for the release of the nine prisoners.

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