

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

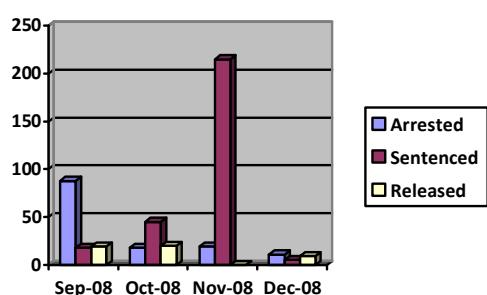
Summary of current situation

There are a total of 2162 political prisoners in Burma. These include:

CATEGORY	NUMBER
Monks	223
Members of Parliament	16
Students	272
Women	187
NLD members	482
Members of the Human Rights Defenders and Promoters network	39
Ethnic nationalities	204
Cyclone Nargis volunteers	20
Teachers	25
Media activists	44
Lawyers	14
In poor health	117

Since the protests in August 2007, leading to last September's Saffron Revolution, a total of 1071 activists have been arrested.

Monthly trend analysis



Following the sentencing of at least 224 activists in November, trials slowed in the month of December. 5 activists were sentenced, 9 were released and 11 were arrested. One of the activists sentenced, **Kay Thi Aung** (female), was given 26 years imprisonment for her role in helping cyclone victims.

9 of those arrested were National League for Democracy Youth members, who took part in a peaceful demonstration on Burma's Independence Day. They were brutally beaten when they were arrested, and taken into custody. Their whereabouts are currently unknown.¹ **Htay Lwin Oo** became the 138th political prisoner to die in Burma's prisons since 1988. He was suffering from tuberculosis.

The regime continued its strategic transfer of political prisoners to jails all over Burma. In December, at least 16 political prisoners were transferred. AAPP also received confirmation of additional transfers which took place in November. Since mid-November, when the transfers began, at least 163 political prisoners have been moved to prisons away from Rangoon. High-profile leaders have been moved to Burma's most remote prisons, placing an additional financial and emotional burden on their families. Comedian **Zarganar**, sentenced

¹ Please note that the figure of 224 for November replaces the figure in last month's chronology, as additional sentencing information for November came to light in December.

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

to a total of 59 years in prison, was transferred to Myitkyina Prison in Kachin State in Northern Burma, over 900 miles from Rangoon. **88 Generation Students Group** leaders, including **Min Ko Naing** and **Htay Kywe**, have been singled out for harsh treatment in the respective prisons where they are being held. **Htay Kywe** has reportedly been tortured in Buthidaung Prison in Arakan State, which is over 700 miles from Rangoon.

Treatment of prisoners and their families

88 Generation Student Group leaders have been particularly singled out for harsh treatment in prison. **Htay Kywe** has reportedly been tortured in Buthidaung Prison, and is suffering from scabies as he has not been allowed to bathe regularly. **Min Ko Naing, Thin Thin Aye aka Mie Mie** and **Htay Kywe** are all in poor health as a result of the harsh prison conditions. **Min Ko Naing** and **Htay Kywe** have both been denied the right to exercise.

The transfer of political prisoners to jails around Burma is an additional punishment for the prisoners and their families. High-profile leaders have been moved to Burma's most remote prisons. Over the medium-long term, the prison transfers will impact on political prisoners' health, as it will be more difficult for families to provide medicine and other provisions for their loved ones. Family members have spoken to the media in exile about the difficulties they face to visit their loved ones.

The authorities have not kept families properly informed of prison transfers. Aung Tun, brother of 88 Generation leader **Ko Ko Gyi** visited his brother in Monghsat Prison in Shan State. He said, "I went to Shan State to find out which prison my brother is being held in. He's been there since 9 December 2008. Finally I found out where he is being held. It's so tiring to visit to him. I spent 1,000,000 kyats (US \$1,000) and it's so cold there."

Local authorities have also made it more difficult for the families of activists detained in Myitkyina Prison in Kachin State in northern Burma (over 900 miles from Rangoon) to visit, by refusing to issue guest passes to allow them to stay with local friends.

The regime's courts have also handed down two sentences to relatives of political prisoners, in connection with correspondence in prisons. **Zaw Naing Htwe**, brother of 88 Generation Students Group member **Kyaw Kyaw Htwe aka Marky**, was given a nine-year prison sentence by a court in Rangoon's notorious Insein Prison for receiving a letter from his brother. Meanwhile **Thant Zin Oo**, brother of political prisoner **Thant Zin Myo**, was handed a 6 month sentence for reading a letter to his brother during a prison visit.

88 Generation Students Group

The leaders of the 88 Generation Students Group are being held in some of Burma's most remote prisons, making it very difficult, time-consuming and costly for their families to visit. **Min Ko Naing, Thin Thin Aye aka Mie Mie** and **Htay Kywe** are all in poor health as a result of the harsh prison conditions. **Htay Kywe** is reported to have been tortured.

24 December 2008

Htay Kywe, a leader of the 88 Generation Students Group who is currently being held in Buthidaung prison in Arakan state, has been mentally and physically tortured by the

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

authorities, according to a prison guard. General Maung Oo ordered prison authorities to hold **Htay Kywe** on the death row cell block, and to deny him proper food and the right to exercise. ([dvb. 241208](#))

19 December 2008

Thet Zaw, from the 88 Generation Students Group, who is currently being held in Mawlamye Prison in Mon State, has gone on hunger strike in protest at being put in iron shackles for a long time. ([RFA. 221208](#))

17 December 2008

Zaw Naing Htwe, brother of 88 Generation Students Group member **Kyaw Kyaw Htwe aka Marky**, was given a nine-year prison sentence by a court in Rangoon's notorious Insein Prison for receiving a letter from his brother, according to family members. Three prison guards who helped **Kyaw Kyaw Htwe** to send the letter were also jailed. He was sentenced in November to 65 years imprisonment, which he is currently serving at Mergui Prison in southern Burma's Tenasserim Division. The letter, which was sent from Insein Prison before **Kyaw Kyaw Htwe** was transferred to Mergui, contained information about healthcare conditions in the prison, according to a family member. ([Irrawaddy 191208](#))

Aung Tun, brother of 88 Generation leader **Ko Ko Gyi** visited his brother in Monghsat Prison in Shan State. He said, "I went to Shan State to find out which prison my brother is being held in. He's been there since 9 December 2008. Finally I found out where he is being held. It's so tiring to visit to him. I spent 1,000,000 kyats and it's so cold there." ([rfa.20122008](#))

16 December 2008

Hla Moe, husband of **Thin Thin Aye aka Mie Mie** from the 88 Generation Students Group, visited his wife in Bassein Prison in Irrawaddy Division. He said, "She's got gout. I'm worried about my wife because now it's really cold there." ([Khitpyaing 161208](#))

88 Generation leader **Htay Kywe**, currently held in Buthidaung prison in Arakan State, is being denied the right to exercise. He's suffering from scabies because the authorities haven't allowed him to wash regularly enough and he is confined to his cell. ([AAPP 161208](#))

11 December 2008

Aung Naing, a member of the 88 Generation Students Group, sentenced to 65 years and 6 months, was visited by his wife, Ma Nay Chi in Kale prison. She reported to the media that she is struggling to look after their three children and her father-in-law. ([rfa.12122008](#))

Prominent 88 Generation Students member **Nilar Thein**, who is currently serving a 65-year sentence in Thayet prison, has asked permission to be held in a jail with her husband and young daughter. The detained activist told her mother during a recent visit that she had asked to be held in the same prison as her husband **Kyaw Min Yu**, known as **Ko Jimmy**, and their baby daughter. **Ko Jimmy**, who has also been sentenced to 65 years' imprisonment, is currently being held in Taunggyi prison. **Nilar Thein** sent a letter to authorities in Naypyidaw asking them to grant her request on compassionate grounds. ([dvb.121208](#))

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

88 Generation student **Hla Myo Naung**, who is being held in Myitkyina Prison in Kachin State, is suffering from eye problems. ([dvb.121208](#))

10 December 2008

The health of 88 generation student leader **Min Ko Naing** has deteriorated since his transfer to Keng Tung prison, according to his older sister Kyi Kyi Nyunt. Kyi Kyi Nyunt recently visited her brother in Keng Tung prison in eastern Shan State near Thailand, and said he was deprived of daylight and not allowed to take exercise. "He is not allowed to walk around or go out in the sun, he is stuck in his cell," she said. "He was keeping his back to the sun when I saw him – he said it was the first time he had seen sunlight since his arrival there." Kyi Kyi Nyunt said the cold weather in Keng Tung was also taking its toll on her brother, who told her there was no doctor in the prison. "His eyes are aching again. His right hand is a bit numb as though he has had a mild stroke," she went on. **Min Ko Naing** told his sister that monk **U Eindriya** of Ngwekyaryan monastery, **Thein Zaw** from Monywa, **Nyi Nyi Zaw** from Rangoon and another activist were also being held in Keng Tung. ([dvb.111208](#))

9 December 2008

Min Ko Naing's family were asked to leave their guesthouse by the owner, because local authorities investigated the owner while **Min Ko Naing's** family were staying there, in Kengtong town, Shan State. ([RFA 091208](#))

Mya Aye was prevented from buying basic food supplies with his allowance, which is legal in Loikaw prison in Kayah State. ([RFA 091208](#))

8 December 2008

Ma Swe, wife of **Myo Thant** from the 88 Generation Students Group, reported that her husband is in a punishment cell because he argued with another criminal who bullied him and was abusive towards him. But the authorities haven't punished the criminal prisoner. ([dvb.121208](#))

1 December 2008

88 Generation leader **Pyone Cho** was moved to Kawthaung prison in Tenasserim Division. His wife Ma War was able to visit him and provide food and other essentials. ([rfa.021208](#))

National League for Democracy members

A total of 482 National League for Democracy members are currently detained. The regime's crackdown on NLD members has continued, with nine NLD Youth members arrested and brutally beaten by the Swan Arr Shin as they took part in a peaceful demonstration calling for the release of all political prisoners. NLD member **Aung Kyaw Oo** has reportedly been savagely beaten in prison, and denied medical treatment. Meanwhile **Thant Zin Oo**, brother of political prisoner **Thant Zin Myo**, was handed a 6 month sentence for reading a letter to his brother in prison.

30 December 2008

The National League for Democracy (NLD) party held a ceremony to mark the 61st anniversary of Burma Independence Day at their headquarters. After the event, nine NLD

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

Youth members marched from NLD headquarters to Sanchaung Township, Rangoon, holding photographs and placards with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's image. They called for the release of all political prisoners, and demanded national reconciliation. When they arrived at the public square in Sanchaung Township, they were arrested by members of the Swan Arr Shin (People's Power Force) the regime's hired thugs, and brutally beaten. Their whereabouts are now unknown. The nine are Tun Tun Win (from Sanchaung Township), Htet Htet Oo Way (from Shwepyithar Township), Ye Ni Oo, Pyae Pyae, Aung Phyo Wai, Min Thein, Win Myint Maung (aka Pe Pyoat, Kaung Htet Naing, and Thet Maung Tun. ([AAPP 301208](#))

28 December 2008

The 138th political prisoner has died in Burma's prisons. **Htay Lwin Oo** passed away in Mandalay prison yesterday. He was suffering from tuberculosis. **Htay Lwin Oo**, a teacher and member of the National League for Democracy from Amarapura Township in Mandalay, was arrested on 21 December 2003 and sentenced to 7 years imprisonment under section 5 (J) of the Emergency Provisions Act. He was due for release in December 2009. ([AAPP 291208](#))

21 December 2008

Former long-term political prisoner **Win Tin** visited the families of several political prisoners in Rangoon to offer words of comfort and support. **Win Tin**, a senior National League for Democracy member and veteran journalist, had served more than 19 years in prison when he was released in September. "I went to see them in North Okkalapa with about ten other people, and we gave them what we could," **Win Tin** said."No one looked dejected; they thanked us for the visit and told us that they would do what they had to do." **Win Tin** said the group was followed by government agents as they visited the families."I told them to do what they had to do but not to harass the households. I said they should ask me if they wanted to know something," **Win Tin** said. ([dvb.22122008](#))

19 December 2008

Thein Nyunt, a member of parliament from Thingangyun Township in Rangoon, said the National League for Democracy in Thingangyun Township are helping political prisoners. They visited five families of political prisoners from Thingangyun township who were sentenced to 4 months imprisonment for contempt of court, and are now being held in Bassein prison in Irrawaddy Division. ([dvb 191208](#))

18 December 2008

The Burmese authorities are planning to file further charges against Arakan state National League for Democracy member **Min Aung**, who is currently imprisoned in Sagaing division's Kale Prison, a family member said. **Min Aung**, the Arakan State NLD treasurer and a member of Taunggok township NLD organising committee, was arrested on 13 October 2007 and sentenced to nine years' imprisonment. His sentence was reduced to two and a half years on appeal. As his release date draws nearer, the authorities in Taunggok have been preparing to press further charges against him to keep him detained, a family member said. ([dvb.18122008](#))

67 year-old **U Kan Tun**, a National League for Democracy organizer from Mandalay Division who was arrested on 26 October 2002 and sentenced to 12 years imprisonment, is in

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

poor health. “Now he’s paralyzed and can’t move one side of his body, he can’t talk anymore and was just nodding at whatever I said,” said his son Kyaw Kyaw Myint after he visited him in Mandalay Prison in Mandalay Division. ([rfa.18122008](#))

16 December 2008

One Rangoon source said a youth member of the opposition National League for Democracy, **Aung Kyaw Oo**, serving a 19-year sentence in Pegu Prison, had been savagely beaten and denied medical treatment. When **Aung Kyaw Oo**’s wife visited the prison on December 3 she was denied permission to see him and had to wait until December 13. A prison source said **Aung Kyaw Oo** had told his wife about the beatings. ([Irrawaddy.171208](#))

15 December 2008

Thant Zin Oo, the brother of detained National League for Democracy (NLD) member **Thant Zin Myo**, received a six-month sentence for reading a letter addressed to the head of the Burmese junta, Snr-Gen Than Shwe, written on behalf of the detainee. In the letter, relatives of **Thant Zin Myo** appealed to the junta leader to allow the detained NLD member to receive proper medical treatment. **Thant Zin Myo** is currently serving a 19-year sentence at Insein Prison. Although **Thant Zin Oo** initially received permission to read the letter to his brother, prison authorities reversed their decision and took him into custody. He has been in detention since the incident took place. ([Irrawaddy 191208](#))

12 December 2008

U Hla Shwe, Vice Chairman of NLD in Intakaw Township, Rangoon Division, was released after completing his 5-year sentence. He was arrested on 15 December 2003 and sentenced to 5 years imprisonment for founding the Free Funeral Service Society. ([rfa.141208](#))

Tun Myint, NLD Secretary in Bahan Township Rangoon was arrested on 19 June 2003, the 63rd birthday of Aung San Suu Kyi. He was sentenced to 2 years and 6 months and is currently being held in Yemathin Prison in Mandalay Division. Following a recent visit prison visit, his wife San San Wai said, “It cost 50,000 kyats for transport. I won’t come every month because I have three children. And we will face some difficulties because he is the breadwinner and provided for us through his business.” ([rfa.131208](#))

11 December 2008

Ohn Kyaing was released from Rangoon’s Insein prison after being held without charge for more than two months. Before **Ohn Kyaing** was arrested in early October, he had played an active role in the party’s relief efforts following the devastating Cyclone Nargis which hit the country in May. **Ohn Kyaing** said he was not told in advance that he would be freed or given a reason for his release. During his interrogation, **Ohn Kyaing** said he was asked about his political activities with the NLD and his duties as chair of the party’s cyclone rescue committee. “I told them I had been carrying out Nargis rescue efforts because my superiors had given me that responsibility and I am a native of Mawlamyinekyun in the delta myself,” **Ohn Kyaing** explained. “When I saw the suffering there, I felt great and genuine sympathy and I did my best physically and mentally, I told them,” he said. “As for politics, I said I really cared about national reconciliation and the emergence of democracy in accordance with the NLD’s aims and I was acting in good faith and the task is not yet finished, and I will to continue to do what I have to do.” He was arrested on 1 October at his home in Sanchaung,

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

Rangoon and taken to Bago prison. He was transferred to Insein prison at the end of November. He had previously served a total of 15 years in prison before his latest arrest. ([dvb.121208](#))

U Aung Sein, father of **Myo Kyaw Zin** from Hlaing Thayar Township NLD in Rangoon, visited his son in Insein Prison. He said, “Now it’s really cold. The authorities don’t allow political prisoners to take exercise. But other criminals can walk in the yard for a long time. All political prisoners are being denied many of their rights.” ([dvb. 121208](#))

8 December 2008

Than Htay from Dawbon Township in Rangoon, sentenced to 4 years imprisonment, was transferred to Katha Prison in Sagaing Division. ([dvb 081208](#))

5 December 2008

Nyein Maung and **Thein Aung** from Salin Township in Magwe Division were released under a restriction order. They have to report to the local authorities every 15 days. 7 people including **Nyein Maung** and **Thein Aung** were arrested on 6 September 2008. The five others are still in custody awaiting trial. ([RFA 091208](#))

4 December 2008

Than Naing, a member of NLD youth in Taungdwingyi Township in Magwe Division, sentenced to 14 years imprisonment, has HIV and his health is deteriorating. His wife reported that prison authorities haven’t given him proper treatment. She plans to submit a complaint to the Ministry of Home Affairs, USAID and the International Committee of the Red Cross about her husband’s situation. ([rfa.04122008](#))

2 December 2008

NLD member **Tun Tun Naing aka Pho Nyan aka Win Oo** (NLD) was transferred to Bamaw Prison in Kachin State. ([Irrawaddy.031208](#))

Mandalay Divisional Court yesterday summarily rejected the appeal of six Mandalay National League for Democracy members including organising committee member **Win Mya Mya**, said their lawyer Myint Thwin. **Win Mya Mya** and her colleagues – organising committee member **Kan Htun**, Mandalay NLD deputy chairman **Than Lwin**, **Win Shwe** from Kyaupadaung, **Tin Ko Ko** from Meikhtila and **Min Thu** from Moegok – were given jail terms of between two and 13 years at the end of October for their participation in the Saffron Revolution last year. Their previous appeal at Mandalay Provincial Court was rejected on 5 November. Myint Thwin said the group will continue to take its appeal to the higher level courts. ([DVB.031208](#))

1 December 2008

Aung Kyaw Kyaw, brother of **Ashin Gambira**, was sent to Shan State's Taunggyi jail. Mandalay native **Wunna Aung** was sent to Bago jail, and **Thein Zaw** from Bogalay was sent to Myitkyina in Kachin State and Keng Tung in eastern Shan State respectively, and **Tun Tun Oo** (also known as **Ngar Kalar**) was transferred to Taungoo prison in Bago Division. ([dvb.031208](#))

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

Tun Lin Aung and **U Chit Khin** from Rangoon NLD were transferred to Kawthaung prison in Tenasserim Division. ([rfa.02122008](#))

Monks

A total of 223 monks are currently detained. Monks have also been transferred to prisons far from Rangoon. In some cases, lawyers have experienced difficulties in lodging appeals on behalf of their clients.

19 December 2008

"There are difficulties in organising an appeal for the monks who are from Ngwe Kyaryan monastery," said lawyer Pho Phy. "We haven't been able to obtain the power of attorney for them." The monks **U Eindaka**, **U Nanda**, **U Zar Nay Ya** were sentenced to 9 years imprisonment and transferred to Sittwe prison in Arakan state. ([dvb 261208](#))

12 December 2008

U San Dimar from Tharthana Thatepan monastery, already sentenced to 8 years imprisonment, faces additional charges of illegally forming an organization at Rangoon Western District Court. ([dvb. 121208](#))

11 December 2008

There are difficulties for political prisoners to exercise their right to appeal, and to receive medicine. Daw Yay, mother of **Ashin Gambira**, and Po Phy, defense lawyer, went to lodge an appeal for **Ashin Gambira**. But the court refused to grant it. ([dvb 121208](#))

10 December 2008

Ashin Gambira, sentenced to a lengthy prison term for galvanizing the monk community into staging protests in Burma last September, was awarded 'honorary citizenship' by 'Morbegno' city, Italy. The award came on December 10, International Human Rights day, for his selfless sacrifice made during the saffron revolution for the sake of the people and the country. "The people of Morbegno city stand by Ashin Gambira, who led the peaceful protest during the saffron revolution," said the website of this city in northern Italy. The website also said that the city will welcome Ashin Gambira if he wishes to visit after being released from prison. The award was received by U Uttara, Chairman of Sasana Moli and abbot of London Sasanayanthi Vihara monastery on behalf of Ashin Gambira. ([Mizzima 121208](#))

2 December 2008

U Panda Vantha aka U Pyi Kyaw was transferred from Sittwe Prison in Arakan State to Buthidaung Prison, also in Arakan State. ([VOA 031208](#))

1 December 2008

Monk leader **U Gambira** was transferred to Sagaing Division's Hkamti prison, far away from his family. ([dvb.031208](#))

Cyclone Nargis volunteers

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

A total of 20 Cyclone Nargis volunteers are currently detained. **Zarganar** was transferred to Myitkyina Prison in Kachin State, over 900 miles from Rangoon. Cyclone Nargis volunteer **Kay Thi Aung** (female) received a 26 year sentence for her role in helping cyclone victims. She was 3 months pregnant at the time of her arrest.

22 December 2008

Yin Yin Wyne (female), arrested for helping Cyclone Nargis victims and currently in detention in Insein prison, has gastritis and has been vomiting blood. She hasn't received proper medical treatment and has been having rice soup for 2 months. ([Irrawaddy 221208](#))

11 December 2008

Ma Nyein, sister-in-law of comedian and activist **Zarganar** who is serving a 59-year jail term in Myitkyina Prison in Kachin State, said the family's last visit to the prison went well. "We got to see him for about an hour and we could give him parcels," Ma Nyein said. "He is well. He told us to send things to people in Putao jail. We were able to give him blankets, mosquito nets and medicine," she said. "The weather is fine for him as he likes the cold." ([dvb.121208](#))

10 December 2008

The courts have reportedly handed down long terms of imprisonment to **Myo Myint Aung, Nyi Nyi, Wai Myo Htoo, Bo Min Yu, Aung Ko Lwin, Nhin Nhin Aye** (female) and **Kathi Aung** (female), for their work to help victims of Cyclone Nargis. They are being held in Mandalay Prison. The sentences are unknown, apart from **Kay Thi Aung** aka **Ma Ei**'s. She has been sentenced to 26 years imprisonment and was 3 months pregnant at the time of her arrest. ([rfa.11122008](#))

4 December 2008

Zarganar, sentenced to 59 years imprisonment for helping Cyclone Nargis victims, was transferred to Myitkyina prison in Kachin State. **Zaw Thet Htwe**, sentenced to 19 years imprisonment for helping Cyclone Nargis victims, was transferred to Taunggyi prison in Shan State. ([VOA 041208](#))

Women

A total of 187 women are currently detained. Cyclone Nargis volunteer **Kay Thi Aung** was sentenced to 26 years in prison for her role in helping cyclone victims. She was 3 months pregnant at the time of her arrest. Prominent **88 Generation Students Group** member **Nilar Thein**, who is currently serving a 65-year sentence in Thayet prison, has asked permission to be held in a jail with her husband and one-year old daughter. She sent a letter to authorities in Naypyidaw asking them to grant her request on compassionate grounds.

Lawyers

14 lawyers are currently detained. Lawyer **Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min**, sentenced in absentia to six months imprisonment at the end of October on charges of contempt of court, fled Burma for Thailand. He has spoken out in the media about his experiences as a defense lawyer for

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

political activists, saying, “There are no fair trials in Burma. Defense lawyers are denied the right to defend their clients. The Burmese authority is using the courts to pressure political activists by pronouncing long terms of imprisonment.”

15 December 2008

A young Burmese lawyer sentenced to six months imprisonment for questioning court proceedings against his dissident clients has fled to Thailand after a hazardous journey from Rangoon. **Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min**, 29, was one of four defense lawyers convicted of contempt of court after complaining of unfair treatment by the Rangoon court. The other three—**Aung Thein, Khin Maung Shein** and **Nyi Nyi Htwe**—are being detained by Burmese authorities. **Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min**, who escaped to Thailand some two weeks ago, gave a press conference in the Thai-Burmese border town of Mae Sot, accusing the Burmese courts of allowing themselves to become tools of the Burmese regime. He had been engaged to represent more than 20 political activists. **Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min** said: “There are no fair trials in Burma. Defense lawyers are denied the right to defend their clients. The Burmese authority is using the courts to pressure political activists by pronouncing long terms of imprisonment.” ([Irrawaddy.151208](#))

6 December 2008

Lawyers **Pho Phyu, Thu Rein** and **Kyaw Oo**, were forced to leave the court by authorities while their clients, **Kyaw Ko Ko** and **Nyan Lin Aung**, were under examination at Mingalar Township Court, Rangoon. Their clients are both members of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions. ([rfa.07122008](#))

Human Rights Defenders & Promoters network

A total of 39 Human Rights Defenders & Promoters network members are currently detained. HRDP leader **Myint Aye** was transferred to Loikaw Prison in Kayah State, Eastern Burma.

16 December 2008

Myint Aye, leader of the Human Rights Defenders and Promoters network who was sentenced to 28 years imprisonment, was transferred to Loikaw prison in Kayah State. ([Irrawaddy 171208](#))

10 December 2008

Daw Lae Lae Win, wife of U **Myint Aye**, was not allowed visit to her husband. “That is a human rights violation against my husband, a human rights defender himself,” said Daw Lae Lae Win. ([RFA 101208](#))

Other organisations

Four members of Generation Wave were transferred to different prisons around Burma, including hip-hop star **Zayar Thaw**, who was transferred to Kawthaung Prison in the far south of the country.

19 December 2008

Generation Wave member Moe Thway reported that his colleague **Thi Ha Wintin**, currently detained in Nyaung-U prison in Mandalay Division said, “I took part in political activities because I want my country to be great, and it’s a historical duty.” Moe Thway also reported

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

that **Zayar Thaw**, founder of Generation Wave (GW) told him that is proud of his imprisonment and he will keep fighting for human rights. ([rfa.19122008](#))

3 December 2008

Popular Hip-Hop star **Zayar Thaw**, 27, who received a six-year prison sentence on November 20 for his participation in last year's anti-government uprising, was reportedly transferred from Insein Prison to Kawthaung Prison in Burma's most southerly province. **Zayar Thaw**, a founder member of popular Rangoon hip-hop band Acid in 2000, became involved in political activities in 2007 and established a dissident group known as "Generation Wave" during the nationwide uprising in September 2007. Three of his colleagues from Generation Wave—**Thiha Win Tin, Aung Zay Pho** and **Arkar Bo**—were also transferred from Insein the same day. Sources said **Thiha Win Tin** was moved to Nyaung-U Prison in Mandalay Division, **Aung Zay Pho** was sent to Taungoo Prison in Pegu Division and **Arkar Bo** was transferred to Kyaukpyu Prison in Arakan State. ([Irrawaddy.031208](#))

Journalists, bloggers and writers

Reporters Without Borders awarded one of its annual prizes to Burmese comedian and activist **Zarganar** and blogger **Nay Phone Latt**, both of whom are currently serving lengthy prison sentences. **Zarganar** and **Nay Phone Latt** shared the prize in the Cyber-dissident category.

10 December 2008

In response to her son winning the Reporters Without Borders prize, Nay Phone Latt's mother Daw Aye Aye Than said, "I'm happy my son won that prize, because it highlights the fact that the Burmese authorities do arrest young people, even though they claim they don't." She reported that Nay Phone Latt said that he has more responsibility now, because he won the prize. ([DVB 101208](#))

7 December 2008

Thet Zin aka Maung Zin, sentenced to 7 years imprisonment, was moved to Kale Prison in Sagaing Division without his family being informed, reported his wife Khin Swe Myint. ([rfa.111208](#))

Reporters Without Borders has awarded one of its annual prizes to Burmese comedian and activist **Zarganar** and blogger **Nay Phone Latt**, both of whom are currently serving lengthy prison sentences. **Zarganar** and **Nay Phone Latt** shared the prize in the Cyber-dissident category. **Zarganar** was arrested in September 2007 for supporting monk-led demonstrations in Burma and was detained again in June this year after providing assistance to victims of Cyclone Nargis. In a statement by RSF announcing the prizewinners, **Zarganar** was described as having become before his arrest "a reliable source of information in a country strangled by censorship and repression". He was sentenced to 59 years' imprisonment in November. **Nay Phone Latt**, a blogger and owner of two internet cafes in Rangoon, was arrested in January 2008. His blog came to prominence during the Saffron Revolution in September 2007 as an important source of information on the protests. In November this year, he was jailed for 20 years and six months for violating the Electronics Act. ([dvb.041208](#))

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

6 December 2008

According to the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, Burma ranks as the 3rd worst country in the world in terms of freedom of the press. ([CPJ 061208](#))

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

20 December 2008

The Council of Women World Leaders announced the nomination of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as an Honorary Council Member. The Council's distinguished membership has voted to include Ms. Suu Kyi as an Honorary Council Member due to her extraordinary leadership in promoting freedom, respect for human rights, and the re-emergence of democracy in her home country of Burma, where she has lived under house arrest since 1995. Ms. Suu Kyi is the Council's first Honorary Member and joins 37 current and former women Heads of State and Heads of Government dedicated to empowering women leaders who lead at the highest level in their countries. ([Council of Women World Leaders 201208](#))

12 December 2008

Nobel peace laureates urged Europe and the United Nations on Friday to push harder to bring about national reconciliation in Myanmar and the release of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi. "We are here today to remind the world of her courage and of the strength of this woman who has been unceasingly fighting for the freedom of her people," said a text read by Northern Ireland peace campaigner Mairead Corrigan Maguire. Maguire was meeting in Paris with fellow Nobel peace prize winners Betty Williams and John Hume of Northern Ireland, F.W. de Klerk of South Africa and Lech Walesa of Poland. Together, they called on European leaders and institutions and the United Nations to "do their utmost to achieve the immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi and all other political prisoners." They also urged world leaders to "force the Burma regime to start a peaceful reconciliation process in order to restore democracy and respect for fundamental human rights in this country." ([AFP 121208](#))

9 December 2008

Ministers in Naypyidaw on 9 December refused to grant permission to two lawyers for detained National League for Democracy leader **Aung San Suu Kyi** to hold a meeting with their client. The lawyers, **Kyi Win** and his assistant **Hla Myo Myint**, gave a letter to Special Branch police on 3 December requesting permission to meet with **Aung San Suu Kyi** on either 8 or 10 December to discuss her appeal against her detention. On 9 December, Special Branch agents summoned **Kyi Win** and told him the request had been denied because the appeal was currently under consideration. "They said the cabinet is taking action on our appeal," **Kyi Win** said. "Therefore, they said we did not need to meet with **Daw Aung San Suu Kyi** and were not allowed to do so." **Kyi Win** said he did not believe the ongoing consideration of the appeal should preclude him from meeting his client. The special appeal was lodged with ministers in Naypyidaw on 19 October. ([dvb.111208](#))

4 December 2008

A doctor visited Myanmar's detained democracy leader **Aung San Suu Kyi**, three months after her refusal of food supplies sparked concerns. Her regular doctor Tin Myo Win and his assistant went into the lakeside compound where **Aung San Suu Kyi** is detained in the early

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

afternoon and stayed about four hours. NLD spokesman Nyan Win previously said that **Aung San Suu Kyi** was given a clean bill of health after the doctor's visit in October. Tin Myo Win gave **Aung San Suu Kyi** an intravenous drip on September 14, prompting her lawyer Kyi Win to describe her as "malnourished". The Nobel peace prize winner had been detained for most of the past two decades. She is kept mostly isolated from the outside world, only receiving occasional visits from her doctor and lawyer. Nyan Win said Aung San Suu Kyi's lawyer had requested a meeting with her to discuss an appeal against her detention."Lawyer U Kyi Win asked the authorities this week to meet with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for her legal appeal. We are hoping to meet her. But we haven't got any reply yet." ([yahoonews.041208](#))

Labour activists

22 December 2008

Labour activist **Khin Maung Cho (aka) Pho Tote** was given an additional 5 year sentence under the Immigration Act for crossing the border illegally. The sentence was handed down by Yankin Township Court in Rangoon. He had already been sentenced to 19 years, so his total term of imprisonment is now 24 years. ([Irrawaddy 241208](#))

22 Dec 2008

Khin Maung Cho aka Pho Tote, an industrial worker in Hlaing Thayar industrial zone, Rangoon, was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment by Yankin Township Court for complaining to the International Labour Organisation about forced land confiscation by the military. He had previously been sentenced to 19 years, so will now serve a total of 24 years. Labour activist **Kan Myint** was given 10 years, and **Nyo Win** 5 years by Kyinmyintaing Township Court in Rangoon. ([DVB 231208](#))

15 December 2008

The families of labour activists **Zaw Htay** from Aunglan town in Pegu Division and **Hla Soe** from Natmauk town in Magwe Division were not allowed to visit to them. **Zaw Htay** is detained in No.1 Police Station and **Hla Soe** is detained in No.2 Police Station. ([RFA 251208](#))

12 December 2008

Labour rights activist **Su Su Nway**, who was sentenced to 12 years and 6 months imprisonment, is suffering from tonsillitis, reported her sister Htay Htay Kyi, who visited her recently. She has also been given permission to read. ([rfa.13122008](#))

10 December 2008

Labour activist **Kyaw Thu Htike** was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code and 13/1 the Immigration Act, at Mayangoe Township Court in Rangoon. He is currently being held in Loikaw Prison, Kayah State. ([dvy 101208](#))

3 December 2008

Thu Rein Aung, sentenced to a total of 28 years imprisonment, was transferred to Kyaukpyu Prison in Arakan State. ([DVB 031208](#))

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

Students

There are a total of 272 students currently detained. Prison transfers continued for student activists.

6 December 2008

Lawyers **Pho Phy**, **Thu Rein** and **Kyaw Oo**, were forced to leave the court by authorities while their clients, All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) members **Kyaw Ko Ko** and **Nyan Lin Aung**, were under cross examination at Mingalar Township Court, Rangoon. ([rfa.07122008](#))

4 December 2008

Pyae Phyo Hlaing, a student at Bassein University who was sentenced to 24 years imprisonment, has been given solidarity confinement and isn't allowed to leave his cell, reported his mother Daw Mhwe Mhwe. "It's a long and difficult journey by car and boat. It takes 6 days to reach my son," she said. He is being held in Buthidaung Prison in Arakan State. ([rfa.14122008](#))

2 December 2008

Sithu Maung and **Nyi Nyi Min** were transferred from Sittwe prison in Arakan State to Buthidaung prison in Arakan State. ([VOA 031208](#))

1 December 2008

Aung Myo Paing was transferred to Kaw Thaung Prison in Tenasserim Division. ([rfa.021208](#))

All Burma Federation of Student Unions leader **De Nyein Lin** is still under trial at Dagon Township Court, Rangoon. He was already sentenced to 4 years imprisonment at Htanta Pin Township Court in Rangoon on 19 November 2008, and received an additional sentence of 6 years and 6 months at San Guaung Township Court on 26 November 2008. ([rfa.01122008](#))

Individual activists

29 December 2008

Htar Htar Thet was transferred from Pegu Prison to Hkamti Prison in Sagaing Division ([AAP 291208](#))

8 December 2008

According to the author Nhin Pan Ein, **U Ohn Than**, a solo protestor who demonstrated in front of the US Embassy and was sentenced to life imprisonment, went on hunger strike and refused medical treatment. He has also refused to meet with his daughter when she went to visit him. Prison guards were sympathetic towards his daughter, and tried to trick him into meeting her, by telling him they had something to give him. But when he saw his daughter he scolded her and told her to go home and not to come back again. He is being held in Hkamti Prison in Sagaing Division, far from Rangoon. ([rfa.141208](#))

2 December 2008

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

Zayar Lin was transferred to Sittwe Prison in Arakan State ([Irrawaddy.031208](#))

1 December 2008

Thiha Thetzin was transferred to Myitkyina prison in Kachin State. ([Irrawaddy 011208](#))

Ethnic nationalities

There are a total of 204 ethnic nationality political prisoners currently detained.

1 December 2008

Zomi National Congress party chairman Pu Cing Sian Thang's son **Gatlamkhop** (also known as **Ko**) and nephew **Gatlankhwa** (also known as **Anthony**) were transferred to Myaungmya jail and Bassein jail respectively, while Arakan youth **Tin Htoo Aung** was sent to Sagaing Division's Khamti jail. ([dvb.031208](#))

Key international developments

28 December 2008

UN offers junta incentive for release of political prisoners

The United Nations has offered the Burmese military government a financial incentive to release the more than 2,000 political prisoners who languish in Burmese jails and initiate democratic change in the country. Regarded by many as the leading political broadsheet in the US, the *Washington Post* said that the UN is “trying to entice” the Burmese generals who rule the country “with fresh promises of development money.”([Irrawaddy.29122008](#))

24 December 2008

UNGA adopts resolution on Burma

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling on the Burmese military leadership to free all political prisoners, including detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi. The UN's chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ then went on to criticise the human rights record of the regime, singling out incidents of torture and sexual abuse and the crackdown on peaceful protesters in September 2007. The resolution also decries the failure of the regime to include other political parties, in particular the National League for Democracy of Suu Kyi, and representatives of ethnic political groups in the planned general election. ([Bangkok Post.281208](#))

16 December 2008

AAPSO call for political prisoners' release

Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) called for the release of Daw Aung San Su Kyi and all of Burma's political prisoners. 30 non-profit organizations and NGOs from China, Japan, Vietnam, India, Africa and Arab countries made the decision to make that call. ([Mizzima 161208](#))

16 December 2008

Gambari has no definite plans to visit Burma

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

The United Nations said on Tuesday that there is no immediate plan for its special envoy to Burma, Ibrahim Gambari, to visit the country. Gambari has a standing invitation from Burma's ruling junta to visit the country, but he has shown reluctance to return in view of the regime's recent crackdown on the pro-democracy leadership, ignoring appeals from the international community. "He has no plans immediately to go to Myanmar [Burma]," Michele Montas, spokesperson for UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, told reporters at the UN headquarters in New York. "We don't know when he is going. At this point, what he is doing is keeping in touch with a number of actors in the region," Montas said in response to a question. ([Irrawaddy 171208](#))

8 December 2008

Campaigners call on Ban Ki-Moon to reverse Burma visit decision

Campaigners have called on UN leader Ban Ki-Moon to reverse his decision not to visit Burma, saying that a top level visit is essential if the country's military regime is to consider the release of political prisoners and halt the crackdown on dissidents. Mr Ban, who visited Burma in the aftermath of the devastating cyclone earlier this year, had been expected to visit the country again to discuss various issues including the release of prisoners of conscience. Yet despite receiving a petition from more than 100 former presidents and prime minister urging him to make good his vow to return, Mr Ban announced at the weekend that he had decided not to go. He said he was frustrated by the lack of progress made in Burma and believed that in such circumstances a visit would not be appropriate. Yesterday campaigners called on the UN Secretary General to rethink his decision, saying that his personal involvement was essential to win any progress. "It's something of a Catch 22 situation," said Anna Roberts of the Burma Campaign UK. "Ban Ki-Moon says he will not go because of a lack of progress but there will not be any progress unless there is a high level visit." ([The Independent.091208](#))

Asian lawmakers call on Ban Ki-moon to press for the release of Burma's political prisoners

More than 240 Asian lawmakers have called for the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to press Burma's junta for the release of all political prisoners in the country. The Asean Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus (AIPMC), said in a press release that a total of 241 parliamentarians from Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand have sent a public letter to Ban urging him to ensure the release of all Burma's political prisoners by December 31. It is believed to be the first time in history that a large group of Asian lawmakers have sent a public letter to the UN. Roshan Jason, the executive director of the AIPMC, told *The Irrawaddy* on Monday that the group of Asian representatives has chosen Burma's political prisoner issue because it is an essential step in the process of national reconciliation in the country. ([Irrawaddy.081208](#))

6 December 2008

UN Secretary-General expresses frustration with Burma's military government

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has expressed growing frustration with the military government in Burma, calling once again on its leadership to release all political prisoners and start a genuine dialogue with the opposition. The secretary-general convened a meeting late Friday with representatives from numerous countries that make up his friends on Myanmar group. Myanmar is the other name by which Burma is known. He said since the

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for December 2008

group last met in September, there is a growing frustration among himself and members that their efforts have yet to yield results. "The government of Myanmar has officially declared that cooperation with the United Nations is a cornerstone of their foreign policy. We welcome it and we look forward to continue and expect concrete action by them to implement their commitment." The group's meeting comes days after 112 former presidents and prime ministers from around the world sent a letter to the U.N. chief urging him to travel to Burma to secure the release of all political prisoners before the end of this year. "At this time it is not the right atmosphere for me to undertake my own visit there. But I am committed and ready to visit any time whenever I can have reasonable expectations of my visit to be productive and meaningful," he said. ([voa.061208](#))

3 December 2008

Former leaders call for UN action to free Burma's political prisoners

More than 100 former presidents and prime ministers urge action by U.N. to free all political prisoners in Burma by year end. In October 2007 the UN Security Council issued a presidential statement calling on the Burmese military junta to release all political prisoners in Burma, including Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi. The UN subsequently declared that a key benchmark for measuring progress is whether this release is carried out by the end of 2008. ([the epochtimes.031208](#))