


Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE:				
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:		Naw Ohn Hla (Daw Naw Ohn Hla)		
GENDER:	Female	Ethnicity:	Karen	
DATE OF BIRTH:		Age:	52	
RELIGION:	Buddhist			
PARENTS NAME:	U Thein Aung			
EDUCATION:				
OCCUPATION:	Leading member of the women's wing of the National League for Democracy (NLD), organizer and participant of the "Tuesday Prayer Group"			
LAST ADDRESS:	Hmawbe Township			
ARREST DATE:	December 30, 2014 December 6, 2013 August 13, 2013 November 27, 2012 October 3, 2009 August 22, 2007		PHOTO DATE:	
SECTION OF LAW:	Article 353, Article 505 (b) (Arrested on December 30, 2014) Section 505(b) of the Penal Code (crime against state and public tranquility) and section 18 of The Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law Article 296 of the Penal Code			
SENTENCING HISTORY:	<p>April 2, 2015: sentenced to four months in Insein prison under Section 18 during a protest on September 29, 2014.</p> <p>December 30, 2014: Police in Rangoon arrested at least three protestors including Daw Naw Ohn Hla on December 30, 2014, (Tuesday). A court hearing for Daw Naw Ohn Hla, Nay Myo Zin, Sein Htay and Tin Htut Paing was held on January 13, 2015, (Tuesday), but postponed on the grounds that not all defendants were present. "The hearing was reappointed for 20 January, 2015, as only four of the seven defendants in this case had been detained to date,</p> <p>December 6, 2013: She was arrested for a protest on November 29, 2013 against the mining project protesting outside the Chinese Embassy in Yangon and under article 296 for organizing prayers back in 2007 praying for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi. As of October 14, 2013: awaiting trial for section 18 since August 13 arrest.</p> <p>August 29, 2013: sentenced to 2 years in prison with hard labor under section 505 (b).</p> <p>August 13, 2013: arrested under section 505(b) of the Penal Code (crime against state and public tranquility) and section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law. Staged an unauthorized protest against the Letpadaung copper mine project</p> <p>In November 27, 2012, she was arrested and indicted under section 18 and 505 (b) as she was involved in the protest that against the Letpadaung Copper</p>			

	<p>Mine Project. However, she was freed on bail on December 11, 2012. Leading the Tuesday Prayer Group</p> <p>February 11, 2010: sentenced to 2 years in prison</p> <p>October 3, 2009: arrested under section 505(b).(according to AAPP released list)</p>
COURT HEARING:	<p>First court hearing at Dagon Tsp court on January 13, 2015. arrests were Rangoon Eastern District Court inside Insein prison, MonywaTsp Court and six other courts in Yangon, namely: Botataung Township, Kyauktada Township, Pabedan Township, Sanchaung Township, Bahan Township, and Mingala Taungnyunt Township</p>
NAME OF PRISON:	<p>December 30, 2014: Insein prison</p> <p>August 13, 2013: Initially held in Monywa prison in Central Burma. Transferred to Mandalay prison on Sept 11th 2013.</p> <p>October 3, 2009: Taungoo Prison</p>
RELEASE DATE:	<p>December 6, 2013 Section 296: Released December 31, 2013 (AAPP)</p> <p>August 13, 2013 Section 505(b): Released November 15, 2013</p> <p>October 3, 2009 Section 505(b): May 17, 2011 (According to AAPP total released list.)</p> <p>November 27, 2012 Section 18 & 505(b): December 11, 2012</p> <p>October 3, 2009</p>
IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:	
<p>2013: Naw Ohn Hla went on hunger strike for 13 days following her arrest. According to Monywa prison report, she lost 5 lb during her hunger strike. According to a report from a medical checkup in Monywa prison before her transfer to Mandalay prison, the doctor says she“s in a good state of health. No follow up or information after the transfer.</p> <p>2009: At the time of her arrest, Naw Ohn Hla had a heart condition and an unstable blood pressure. Conditions were at its worst, crowded and hot, which led Naw Ohn Hla to voice concern about her cellmates“ health during her court hearing. She stated that the temperature was too hot there even in the winter and this is posing a threat to her inmates’ health. Since her transfer to Taungoo prison, details of her condition became unclear.</p>	
CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:	
<p>On April 2, she was sentenced to four months in Insein prison after the Bahan Township court found her guilty of violating the Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act during a protest on September 29, 2014. She is still facing upcoming trials in five different township courts across Rangoon.</p> <p>She has been in detention since December 30, 2014 and incarcerated in Insein prison, Rangoon under Article 353 of the Penal Code for committing assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from the discharge of his duties, and Article 505 (b) of the same code- a broadly defined charge punishing those who spread or make statements that can “alarm the public” or incite offenses against the state for the demonstration outside the Chinese Embassy in Dagon Tsp, on December 29, 2014, against the killing of 56-year-old Khin Win at the site of the controversial Letpadaung copper mine last week from December 30, 2014. A court hearing for Daw Naw Ohn Hla, Nay Myo Zin, Sein Htay and Tin Htut Paing was held on January 13, 2015, (Tuesday), but postponed on the grounds that not all defendants were present. “The hearing was reappointed for 20 January, 2015, as only four of the seven defendants in this case had been detained to date,” according to defense lawyer Robert San Aung. He added “Then, following</p>	

the judge's decision to postpone the hearing, a fifth defendant, San San Win, turned herself in." But, two other defendants, Thant Zin and Mya Nyunt, are still at large.

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/rights-activist-back-to-insein-on-peaceful-assembly-rap.html>

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/three-activists-arrested-anti-mine-protest-rangoon.html>

<http://www.dvb.no/news/latpadaung-activists-court-hearing-postponed-burma-myanmar/47304>

CAREER BACKGROUND:

Daw Naw Ohn Hla was given award from the N-Peace Network alongside other Asian peace activists at a ceremony in Bangkok on October 24, 2014, Friday evening. N-Peace, a network of peace advocates active in six nations, is honoring 11 advocates from seven Asian countries with the N-Peace Awards 2014, for their work in advancing women, peace and security.

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/burma/burmese-women-honored-activism.html>

Naw Ohn Hla was an active member of the National League for Democracy up until 2004 and a former head of the women's wing of the NLD. In 2004 she was formally expelled from the party due to SPDC pressure. She has remained politically active often participating in NLD activities. In July 2004, Naw Ohn Hla started the first Tuesday Prayer Group. The group met weekly at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Rangoon and prayed for the release and health of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners in Burma. Throughout the years, she has suffered on-going harassment from the Burmese authorities for her commitment.

During the Saffron Revolution of September 2007, Naw Ohn Hla led demonstrations amidst threats, intimidation, and arbitrary arrest and detention by the SPDC. Following the Revolution, security forces asked her to sign a statement admitting that she and other activists had been inciting public unrest. She refused to sign the statement. Naw Ohn Hla was among the first to protest and be taken into custody "for questioning." Like everyone else, she was taken without regard to any provision of law or criminal procedure. And like most others, nobody knew where she was held, for how long she would be held or the conditions of her confinement. On October 12, 2007 she resurfaced to be superficially treated "in accordance with the law." At a court hearing in HmawbeTsp, just north of Rangoon. She was charged under the 1961 Restriction and Bond Act and placed under a movement restriction order that confined her to HmawbeTownship for one year. The grounds for the charge were that she had "no fixed address" and "no fixed occupation." During the trial she was denied a lawyer and the only witnesses were government officials. The restriction required her to report to the local police station every seven days and rendered her unable to reside in another part of the country or leave the township without seeking a permit. During the 2008 Referendum NawOhnHla helped voters find their name on election roles. When personally hassled to vote „yes“, she stood her ground asserting her right to place her vote according to her will.

On July 17, 2009, Martyrs' Day, while returning home from offering alms to monks, NawOhnHla and 20 other NLD members were detained and interrogated. Some of the members were beaten. Officials also interrogated the monks and instructed them to report any future donations from the group.

In August 2009, NawOhnHla and nine other activists launched a month-long Yellow Campaign to pay tribute to the monks who took part in the Saffron Revolution.

ARREST DETAILS:

2014 December: Police in Rangoon arrested at least three protestors including Daw Naw Ohn Hla on December 30, 2014, (Tuesday) who led a demonstration outside the Chinese Embassy in Dagon Tsp, the previous day against the killing of 56-year-old Khin Win at the site of the controversial Letpadaung copper mine last week. Firstly, Daw Naw Ohn Hla's colleagues were denied to meet her in detention. Then, three activists including Daw Naw Ohn Hla were sent to Insein prison and they were charged under Article 353 of the Penal Code for committing assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from the discharge of his duties, and Article 505 (b) of the same code- a broadly defined charge punishing those who spread or make statements that can "alarm the public" or incite offenses against the state. A court hearing for Daw Naw Ohn Hla, Nay Myo Zin, Sein Htay and Tin Htut Paing was held on January 13, 2014, (Tuesday), but postponed on the grounds that not all defendants were present. "The hearing was reappointed for 20 January as only four of the seven defendants in this case had been detained to date," according to defense lawyer Robert San Aung. He added "Then, following the judge's decision to postpone the hearing, a fifth defendant, San San Win, turned herself in." But, two other defendants, Thant Zin and Mya Nyunt, are still at large.

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2013: Despite applying for permission to peaceful protest DawNawOhnHla and her colleagues were refused permission. She had applied for permission to protest nine times, but was repeatedly turned down by the local authorities. On August 13, they undertook their protest against the Letpadaung copper mine project, marching with 50 other protesters. They were forcibly arrested by police who pulled them into the back of police vehicles, tearing Daw Naw Ohn Hla's clothing as they did so. Her fellow nine arrestees were released on bail following a promise not to re-offend. Daw Naw Ohn Hla however chose not to attend the court hearing, as she has no faith in the justice system. In November 15 2013, she was one of 69 political prisoners released by presidential amnesty. However, she was rearrested for a protest on November 29, 2013 against the controversial mining project, at which a Chinese flag was burned outside the Chinese Embassy in Yangon. She faced two years in jail for the case.

What's more, on December 10, 2013, she faces another lawsuit for organizing prayers in 2007 for Aung San Suu Kyi under Article 296 of the Penal Code which carries a maximum sentence of one year. The accuse was disturbing a religious assembly at Shwedagon Pagoda in 2007. The case is filed by the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees member U Mang Maung Tint. She was standing trial alongside a leader of the Generation Youth advocacy group, Tin Htut Paing and both of them were under the charge of article 505(b). She has been freed from detention on bail.

Daw Naw Ohn Hla was incarcerated in Mandalay prison in Central Burma under section 505 (b) of the Penal Code. She was serving a two-year sentence while awaiting trial for section 18. Whether she is awaiting trial or not under sections 505 (b) and 18 related with previous indictment on November 27, 2012, is unclear. After the presidential amnesty release on December 31st, 2013, her trial facings are unclear.

(AAPP source)

[Irrawaddy – December 11, 2013](#)

2009: On October 3, 2009, Special Branch Police (SB) second lieutenant Than Soe arrested Naw Ohn Hla, Myint Myint San and Ma Cho shortly after they left Magwe Monastery located at Anawyahtar

Street, Quarter (1), East Dagon Tsp, Rangoon. Arrestees had been offering donations of meals, robes, and the 42 page Buddhist Scripture „Kammavasa“ to the Abbot Monk, U Pamokkha, and had recently dropped off their friend Cho Cho Lwin at her shop in Thingankyun Township. The SB interrogated the three women in an unknown interrogation facility. Later that evening the SB arrested Cho Cho Lwin at her shop and took her to the local Peace and Development Council office. A family member who was present at the time of Cho ChoLwin“s arrest went to the office but was refused entry.

DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:

2014: Police in Rangoon arrested at least three protestors including Daw Naw Ohn Hla on December 30, 2014, (Tuesday) who led a demonstration outside the Chinese Embassy in Dagon Tsp, the previous day against the killing of 56-year-old Khin Win at the site of the controversial Letpadaung copper mine last week. Then Daw Naw Ohn Hla was sent to Insein prison on the same day. She is currently awaiting trial in the prison.

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2013: She was initially imprisoned for 2 years under section 505 (b) in Monywa prison. We have received information she was moved to Mandalay prison on September 11, 2013. Her lawyer U Robert San Aung has stated they intend to appeal around September 25, 2013. On December 10, 2013, She was arrested for a protest on November 29, 2013 against the mining project and under article 296 for organizing prayers back in 2007 praying for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi. She was moved to Insein Prison from Dagon Township police custody .She was treated badly in police custody. Her health condition is not good. Her water supply was cut off while she“s in Dagon Township police station.

2009: NawOhnHla“s trial began more than a month after her arrest on October 3, 2009 and concluded on February 11, 2010. NawOhnHla was tried along with MyintMyint San, Cho ChoLwin and Ma Cho. According to standard protocol NawOhnHla“s trial should have been heard at the township court. However, the High Court in Naypyitaw wanted that the trial be held at Rangoon Eastern District Court inside Insein Prison. She was charged with disturbing public tranquility under section 505(b) of the Penal Code for donating a 42 page Buddhist Scripture called „Kammavasa“ to the Abbot Monk, U Permaukha. Buddhist monks traditionally recite from the Kammawasa in order to aid the general populations“ peace, health and well-being. In this instance, authorities claimed the Kammawasa donation was intended to trigger a monastic boycott „Pattamnukujjana“ against the military regime.

Throughout the trial, the prosecutor produced no credible witnesses or evidence. At no point did the prosecutor call on U Permaukha as a witness or enter the Kammavasa as evidence. The initial case submission itself is notable as it cited no evidence. During the trial, the women“s lawyer, Kyaw Hoe, was made to defend legal points raised by the defense. Conversely, the defense was not obliged to give counter arguments to any points raised by Kyaw Hoe. As a result of the trial, all four women received the maximum sentence of two years imprisonment with hard labor. Kyaw Hoe has since concluded that from a legal standpoint the punishment was objectionable. He will file an appeal against the verdict. Two weeks after sentencing the authorities transferred NawOhnHla far from her family and lawyer to Taugoo Prison, 175 miles from Rangoon.

***Profile prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) on April 10, 2015*.**