

Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE:	Unity Case			
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:	Tin San, Yazar Oo, Paing Thet Kyaw, Si Thu Soe, Lu Maw Naing			
GENDER:	All Males	Ethnicity:		
DATE OF BIRTH:		Age:		
RELIGION:				
PARENTS NAME:				
EDUCATION:				
OCCUPATION:	<i>Tin San:</i> Chief Executive Officer and Editor-in-Chief of Unity Journal. <i>Yazar Oo, Paing That Kyaw, Si Thu Soe, Lu Maw Naing:</i> Unity Journalists			
LAST ADDRESS:	Tin San, Yazar Oo, Paing Thet Kyaw and Si Thu Soe are from Rangoon and Lu Maw Naing is from Pauk Tsp, Magwe Division.			
ARREST DATE:	2014: <i>Lu Maw Naing:</i> January 31 <i>Tin San, Yazar Oo, Paing Thet Kyaw, Si Thu Soe:</i> February 1		PHOTO DATE:	
SECTION OF LAW:	Section 3/1 (a) of the 1923 Burma State Secrets Act			
SENTENCING HISTORY:	2014: June 9: Sentenced to ten years imprisonment; reduced to seven years on appeal			
COURT HEARING:	2014: <i>February 14:</i> Pakokku Township Court (first court hearing) March 3; March 17; April 28 (8 th court hearing); <i>June 9</i> (10 th court hearing): Sentencing June 17; June 30 (closing statements) October 2: Sentence reduced October 15: Supreme Court decided to hear appeal case			
NAME OF PRISON:	Pokkoku Prison			
RELEASE DATE:				
IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:	The detained journalists have been suffering from depression and heat exhaustion. They are also facing difficulties accessing clean water. Since June 2014, Yazar Oo has been reported to suffer Hepatitis-B in prison.			
CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:	On July 10, 2014, all five individuals received sentences of 10 years hard labour for violating the 1923 Burma State Secrets Act. The individuals are currently still in Pakokku Prison. On June 12, 2014, all five individuals were granted honorary citizenship by Sala Baganza, Italy. On October 2, there sentence was reduced to seven years on appeal. They are now waiting to appear before the Supreme Court, which has agreed to hear their appeal case.			
CAREER BACKGROUND:	Tin San is the Chief Executive Officer and Editor-in-Chief of Unity Journal. The other four are reporters for the journal.			
ARREST DETAILS:				

Lu Maw Naing, the Unity journalist from Pauk, was arrested on January 31, 2014, after an article was published about a secret weapons factory in Pauk Township, Magwe Region, on January 25, 2014. The following morning, Lu Maw Naing's family was informed that no bail would be granted as he was facing charges for exposing state secrets. He was placed in the custody of the Special Branch near Pakokku on January 31, for allegedly breaching section 3/1 (a) of the 1923 Burma State Secrets Act. The following day, February 1, the CEO of Unity Journal, Tin San, was arrested by the Special Police at Unity's Rangoon office. That same day, three reporters from Rangoon, Yazar Oo, Paing Thet Kyaw, and Si Thu Soe, were also detained by authorities. CEO Tin San and the three other journalists were initially detained in Insein prison and later sent to Pakokku prison. Their initial court hearing was on February 14, 2014. On June 9, 2014, they appeared for the 10th court hearing of their case. On July 10, 2014, the men were sentenced to 10 years hard labour. On October 2 the four journalists successfully appealed their 10 year sentence and had it reduced to 7 years in prison. On October 15 the Supreme Court decided to hear the appeal against the 7 year sentence, but according to their lawyer they will have to wait 45 days before that appeal is heard.

DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:

The 5 prisoners have been sentenced to hard labor.

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