

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



Summary of Current Situation

There are a total of 2,147 political prisoners in Burma. These include:

| Category | Number |
|---|--------|
| Monks | 217 |
| Members of Parliament | 17 |
| Students | 265 |
| Women | 180 |
| NLD members | 468 |
| Members of the Human Rights Defenders and Promoters network | 35 |
| Ethnic nationalities | 211 |
| Cyclone Nargis volunteers | 22 |
| Teachers | 22 |
| Media activists | 41 |
| Lawyers | 12 |
| In poor health | 107 |

Since the protests in August, leading to last September's Saffron Revolution, a total of 1,022 activists have been arrested.

Monthly Trend Analysis

In October, there were 18 arrests, 45 activists were sentenced and 20 were released. In comparison with September, there were fewer arrests (18 compared to 88 in September), but many more activists have been sentenced (45 compared to 18 in September). September marked the anniversary of last year's Saffron Revolution, and the regime cracked down on activists engaged in activities to mark the anniversary, which accounts for the high number of arrests last month. This month has seen a push by the regime to bring legal proceedings against political activists to a swift conclusion, in a series of grossly unfair trials.

Unfair Trials

Trials of political prisoners have been taking place in closed sessions, with family members denied permission to attend. Trials of high profile prisoners like 88 Generation Group leaders Min Ko Naing and monk leaders have been held in Insein Prison special court, presided over by judges from various Rangoon District courts.

Defence lawyers have been given insufficient time to prepare their cases. In some instances defence lawyers were prevented from presenting their case in court altogether. As a result of these developments, several political detainees currently on trial decided not to enter a defence in protest at the unfair proceedings, and dismissed their defence lawyers. They include high-profile activist Zarganar and monk leader U Gambira.

88 Generation Group members protested at their families being denied the right to attend court hearings. On 29 October nine 88 Generation Group leaders, including Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi and Htay Kywe were charged with being in contempt of court under section 228 of the Penal Code. They were sentenced

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



to six months imprisonment and were transferred to Maubin prison in Irrawaddy division, in the area struck by Cyclone Nargis. This will make it difficult for their families to visit them.

On 30 October defence lawyers Ko Nyi Nyi Htwe and Ko Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min, who were representing National League for Democracy members, were sentenced to six months imprisonment under section 228 of the Penal Code for “interrupting judicial proceedings”. Ko Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min did not appear in court and was sentenced in absentia.

Treatment of Prisoners and their Families

Throughout October, families of political prisoners have been denied the right to attend the court hearings of their loved ones. The days in the week on which families of political prisoners are permitted to visit their loved ones in prison were reduced from 3 to 2, making it more difficult for families to visit.

An additional twenty five prisoners were transferred from Insein prison to various prisons around the country. They included 88 Generation Students Group members Ma Khin Moe Aye and Kyaw Soe aka Talky. 6 NLD members were also transferred from Henzada prison to various prisons around the country. They are now being held far from their homes, which makes it very difficult for their families to visit them.

Key International Developments

1. **Tomás Ojea Quintana, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma**, outlined “core human rights elements” that should be put in place before the 2010 general election, in a statement released on Wednesday 8 October. They are:
 - a. Amend domestic laws that limit freedom of expression, opinion and peaceful assembly
 - b. Release of political prisoners
 - c. Repeal discriminatory laws
 - d. Stop the recruitment of child soldiers“Respect for international human rights standards is indispensable,” for the regime's proposed “roadmap to democracy” to gain international acceptance, Quintana said (081008 OHCHR)
2. **The U.S. Department of State** released a statement to mark the anniversary of the 13th year Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has spent under house arrest. The U.S. Department of State renewed its call for her immediate and unconditional release, along with the 2,000 plus other political prisoners the regime currently holds. The statement also marked the anniversary of the coming into force of the United Nations charter and joined the United Nations and the rest of the international community in calling upon the regime to engage credibly in an inclusive, time-bound dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi and other democratic and ethnic minority leaders to bring about a genuine democratic transition. (231008 U.S. Department of State)
3. **The European Parliament** adopted a resolution on Burma. The resolution noted the anniversary of the unjust incarceration of Aung San Suu Kyi and the continuing deterioration of the human rights situation in Burma, and made several calls, including:
 - a. to the UN Secretary-General, to press ahead with a visit in December 2008, irrespective of prevailing conditions, in order to make an urgent personal appeal for the release of all political prisoners;
 - b. for timelines and benchmarks to be set for reform, and for the UN Security Council to resolve to take further action on Burma if the timelines and benchmarks are not met;

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



c. to the European Council to use its meeting on 11-12 December to broaden targeted sanctions and to terminate access by selected generals and their families to business and other opportunities. (231008 European Parliament)

4. **The Seventh Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM 7)** was held in Beijing on 24 and 25 October 2008. The Summit was attended by the Heads of State and Government of sixteen Asian and twenty-seven European nations, the President of the European Commission and the Secretary-General of ASEAN Secretariat. The Premier of the People's Republic of China, H.E. Wen Jiabao chaired the meeting. In the closing statement, the Chair issued a statement on Myanmar, including:

- a. ASEM's unanimous support for the good offices of the UN Secretary-General
- b. Encouragement for the Myanmar Government to conduct closer co-operation with the UN
- c. Encouragement for the Myanmar government to engage all stakeholders in an inclusive political process in order to achieve national reconciliation and economic and social development. In particular, ASEM called for the lifting of restrictions placed on political parties and early further release of those under detention.

(241008 ASEM 7)

On 1 October 2008 (Wednesday)

1. **Hla Myo Naung** (male, son of U Sein Maung, from North Dagon Township, Rangoon who was arrested on 10 October 2007 and charged under sections 5/96(4), 505/b, 33/a, 17/20, 17/1, 32/b/36, 24/1, 130/b, 6,) is a leading member of the 88 Generation Students Group and former political prisoner. He is already blind in one eye and is now having problems with his other eye in Insein prison (011008 AAPP)
2. **Aung Thu** (male, son of U Pho Aung, from Kemmendine Township, Rangoon, who was arrested on 13 October 2007 and charged under sections 5/96(4), 505/b, 33/a, 17/20, 17/1, 32/b/36, 24/1, 130/b, 6) is a member of the 88 Generation Students Group and a former political prisoner. He is suffering from facial paralysis (011008 AAPP)
3. **Min Zayya** (male, son of U Ba Yin, from South Dagon Township, Rangoon, who was arrested on 22 August 2007 and charged under sections 5/96(4), 505/b, 33/a, 17/20, 17/1, 32/b/36, 24/1, 130/b, 6), is a leader of the 88 Generation Students Group and a former political prisoner. He is suffering from hypertension in Insein prison. (011008 AAPP)
4. **Daw Than Than Sint** (female, daughter of U Tin Maung Kyi, from Sanchaung Township, Rangoon, who was arrested on 18 September 2008 and charged under sections 5/96(4), 505/b, 6), is having kidney problems in Insein prison. (011008 AAPP)
5. **Ko Ko (aka) Ko Min** (male, from South Dagon Township, Rangoon) from the New Generation Movement for Justice has been in detention since 2 September 2008. (011008 AAPP)
6. An argument broke out in court yesterday at a hearing for members of the **88 Generation Students group** over the use of the term defendants when they have not yet been charged. A hearing was held yesterday (31 September 2008) at Insein prison special court for 35 members of the 88 Generation Students group on accusations of a breach of article 6 of the Unlawful Associations Act. (011008 DVB)
7. Prominent lawyer **U Aung Thein** has said he is to stop representing clients such as U Gambira and other activists in protest at the court's refusal to allow him enough time to prepare a defence. "I asked the court to give us enough time, and the court said, 'We can't do that, we have to finish this case'," he said. Aung Thein's clients include **U Gambira and his brother Ko Aung Kyaw Kyaw, U Eindreia from Maggin monastery, U Eindaka from Mandalay, U Thumana, Ko Kyaw Naing from**

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



Myitche, Ko Than Naing from taungdwingyi, Ko Wunna Maung from Mandalay, Ko Shwe Maung, and Ko Zaw Win. (021008 DVB)

8. **Aung Moe Lwin**, a 36-year-old youth member of the National League for Democracy in Natmauk Township, Magwe division, is **said to have died in detention**, according to a source who spoke on condition of anonymity. His family has been informed of his death. (011008 DVB)
9. **General Hso Ten (aka) Sai Kyaw**, Chairman of Northern Shan State SSA, is still detained in Khamti prison, Sagaing division. He has asked the authorities repeatedly to receive treatment **for his eye problem** but has not yet been allowed it. (011008 RFA)
10. Political prisoner **Aung Zaw Oo** was forced to stand trial at Kyauktada township court despite his pleas to be tried at a later date, according to a friend of the detainee. Aung Zaw Oo was locked up in a dog kennel on 13 September as a punishment for staging a hunger strike calling for the immediate release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and genuine dialogue. He stopped the hunger strike when he began vomiting blood and was admitted to hospital on 18 September. Tate Naing of the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners denounced the incident and accused the authorities of human rights abuses and illegal treatment of political prisoners. (031008 DVB)
11. Burmese Buddhist monk **Ashin Pannasiri** (from Yangon monastery, Pyikyitangon Township, Mandalay), who played a leading role in the Saffron Revolution and was subsequently sentenced and sent to a forced labour camp has escaped from the camp. He **escaped from Lintan forced labor camp**, in Tetain Township, Chin State on 15 September 2008. (011008 RFA)

On 2 October 2008 (Thursday)

1. **Daw Aung San Su Kyi met with family doctor** Tin Myo Win and eye specialist U Kan Nyunt because she is suffering from an eye problem. (031008 DVB)
2. The new **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay** called for all political prisoners in Myanmar to be freed. (031008 RFA)
3. **U Myint Aye** has been forced into a confession by police, after 7 days of constant interrogation during which he was forced to watch his comrades Ko Yan Shwe, Ko Myo Min, Ko Than Zaw Myint being tortured. (021008 Khitpyaing)
4. **U Ohn Kyaing**, a National League for Democracy member was **arrested last night** at about midnight, according to an NLD spokesperson. The 64-year-old elected Member of Parliament from South East Mandalay township is a writer with the pen name Aung Wint. He was a key organiser of the NLD's cyclone relief efforts. (021008 DVB)
5. **Mya Than Htike (aka) Tayzar** (male, son of U Mya Than, from Thingangyun Township, Rangoon who was arrested on 27 September 2007, and charged under sections 145, 505/b,) an NLD youth member was **sentenced to 4 years with hard labor** by Kyauktada Township Judge Daw Nyunt Nyunt Win in Kyauktada Township Court. (021008 DVB)
6. A National League for Democracy youth member who went missing in August and was **reported dead was found alive by his father** at a police station in Rangoon. **Aung Moe Lwin**, who was staying at Maggin monastery during the monk-led demonstrations last year and gave an interview about the arrests and beating of monks in the regime's crackdown, disappeared in early August. (031008 DVB)
7. Elected members of parliament **U Nyi Pu** and **Dr Tin Min Htut** have been **transferred to Insein prison from a detention centre**, according to a National League for Democracy spokesperson. U Nyi Pu is the elected representative for Gwa township and an Arakan NLD organising committee member, while Dr Tin Min Htut is an elected MP from Panatanaw township in Irrawaddy division. NLD spokesperson U Nyan Win said U Nyi Pu's health had suffered since his arrest in August. "U Nyi Pu **can't move the lower part of his body** and we have heard that his health is not good," Nyan Win said. Their families have not yet been allowed to visit them. (021008 DVB)

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



8. Shan New Generation member **Sai Myo Win Tun** has been in hospital for more than a month due to deteriorating health conditions, according to the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy. Sai Myo Win Tun, 47, is currently serving a 79-year prison sentence at Myingyan prison in Mandalay division. SNLD spokesperson Sai Leik said a family member who went to visit Sai Myo Win Tun on 10 September reported that he was **suffering from heart disease, hemorrhoids and a mental disorder.** (031008 DVB)
9. Former student **Myo Lwin Oo**, who was arrested last September for allegedly helping distribute a statement, was **sentenced to nine years in prison on Tuesday** (30 September 2008), his lawyer Than Zaw Aung said. 29-year old Myo Lwin Oo (also known as Thar Gyi) was sentenced to seven years under the Printing Act and two years under Act 505(b) for damaging public order. The sentence was passed by judge Daw Mya Mya Swe of North Dagon township court in Rangoon. (031008 DVB)
10. 88 Generation Students member **Ko Myo Yan Naung Thein** appeared in Sanchaung Township court and described how he was tortured after his arrest, his defense lawyer Ko Than Zaw Aung said. (021008 DVB)
11. Saffron Revolution leader **Ashin Gambira** reportedly **appeared in Kytmyindien Township court** (021008 DVB)

On 3 October 2008 (Friday)

1. Labor activist **Ma Su Su Nway** is in poor health in Insein prison. She is suffering from heart disease and tonsillitis, her defense lawyer U Myint Thaug said. She has been held in solitary confinement for about two weeks as punishment for going on hunger strike. (031008 Irrawaddy)
2. Activists inside Burma called for the release of political prisoners and monks detained after the Saffron Revolution by writing their demands on kyat currency notes and distributing them in Rangoon, Mandalay, Pegu and other divisions in Burma. (031008 RFA)
3. The families of political prisoners have been banned from attending the court hearings of their loved ones. In addition, the designated number of days per week for family visits to political prisoners has been cut from 3 to 2, so now there are only 2 days in the week when families can visit their loved ones. (031008 RFA)
4. Five National League for Democracy members from Maddaya Township in Mandalay division have been **released from prison** after completing their one-year prison terms. **Nyo Lay, Kyaw Swe, Thaug Naing, Nyi Nyi and Zaw Min Lwin** were freed from Kalay, Myingyan and Khamtee prisons on Friday. They had originally been sentenced to five years' imprisonment but this was reduced to one on appeal. (061008 DVB)
5. Six NLD members including **Daw Win Mya Mya, U Kan Tun, Ko Min Thu, and Ko Win Shwe** appeared in court to face 8 charges on 3 October 2008. They were arrested due to their involvement with September 2007's Saffron Revolution. (041008 RFA)

On 4 October 2008 (Saturday)

1. U Thein Hlaing, NLD Gwa Township joint secretary, has been **banned from visiting** NLD Gwa Township MP **U Nyi Pu** who has been hospitalized within Insein prison compound. Prison authorities have also prevented him from bringing medicine to the prison for U Nyi Pu. (041008 DVB)
2. Rangoon South Dagon Township NLD social committee member **U Aye Nyunt** was arrested by the Home Affairs Department on 4 October 2008, a family member said. He is an activist who provides support for the education of children of political prisoners. (071008 Khitpyaing)
3. Saffron Monk leader U Gambira's brother and brother-in-law, **Aung Ko Ko Lwin** and **Moe Htet Hlyan** have suffered **brutal torture** at the hands of 20 members of Special Branch Police in an

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



Interrogation Center. They appeared in North Dagon Township Court on 29 September 2008. (041008 Yoma3)

4. Monk leader **U Gambira's defence lawyer U Khin Maung Shein** was banned from presenting his case for the defence by the prosecution lawyer and clerks at a court hearing on Monday in Insein prison special court. (041008 Yoma3)

On 5 October 2008 (Sunday)

1. A report entitled "**The Future in the Dark: the Massive Increase in Burma's Political Prisoners**", was released. It was jointly produced by the Thailand-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) (AAPP) and the United States Campaign for Burma (USCB), based in Washington, DC. The report states that since June 2007, there has been a 78% increase in the number of political prisoners in Burma, with around 800-900 being arrested following the peaceful demonstrations in August and September last year. The two organizations published an open letter to the UN Secretary-General and main UN bodies, stressing that strong and decisive action by the United Nations for the release of all political prisoners and realization of a meaningful and time-bound dialogue between the military junta, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her party the NLD, and ethnic representatives, is needed more than ever.
2. Venerable monk **U Utama** from Maha Gandaryone monastery in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division, has reportedly been **conditionally confined to his monastery by authorities**. The venerable monk was involved in relief efforts to help victims of Nargis Cyclone. (051008 RFA)
3. Two monks from Mahagandaryone monastery have been forcibly removed to a remote area by authorities, reportedly because they helped victims of Cyclone Nargis in Irrawaddy division. (051008 RFA)

On 6 October 2008 (Monday)

1. Families of about 50 political prisoners today collectively **demanded permission to be present at court proceedings** and be allowed regular prison visits with prisoners. Earlier, the families were allowed to meet political prisoners three times a week on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays but now it has been reduced to twice a week on Saturdays and Sundays. Family members are not allowed to be present during court proceedings. (061008 Mizzima)
2. **Khin Maung Shein**, the central court lawyer who represents Min Ko Naing and other 88 Generation Student leaders, said his clients have **called for their families to be allowed to attend their court hearings**. (071008 DVB)
3. **Daw Khin Aye (Female), Daw Myint Thein (Female), and U Soe Kywe (Male)**, from South Dagon Township, Rangoon, detained since August 2007, have been charged under sections 505/b, 143, and **sentenced to 2 and a half years** by Insein prison special court. (061008 RFA)
4. **U Soe Myint Htein (Male)**, detained since 25 September 2007 and charged under sections 124/a, 505/b, 143, 145 in December 2007, has been **sentenced to 4 and a half years** by Insein prison special court (Judge U Sein Hla – Kohtike blog). His family was not allowed to attend the court hearing on 6 October 2008. (061008 RFA)
5. Prominent 88 Generation Student member **Nilar Thein** and other group members **attended a hearing in Insein prison's special court** yesterday (6 October 2008), according to a source from the legal society. "One of the group members, Ko Aung Thu, who has been in the prison hospital, collapsed after he was forced to sit in the room for a long time." (071008 DVB)

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



6. Detained members of the 88 Generation Students Group **will refuse to cooperate with the court** at their trial unless family members are allowed to attend, their lawyers have announced. (061008 Irrawaddy)
7. **Ma Sandar** (NLD member from Twante Township, Rangoon, arrested on 23 December 2007 and charged under sections 353 and 294, and sentenced to 13 months on 26 August 2008), was **transferred to Myingyan prison from Mandalay prison** (she had previously been transferred to Mandalay from Insein prison). She has been held in solitary confinement in a foul-smelling cell and has been denied her right to exercise. She is suffering from gout and heart disease. (061008 RFA)
8. **Ashin Gambira**, the detained leader of the All Burmese Monk's Alliance (ABMA), **did not appear for trial** on Monday because of illness, his lawyer said on Tuesday. The lawyer, Khin Maung Shein, told *The Irrawaddy* that Ashin Gambira is reportedly sick and receiving medical treatment in Rangoon's notorious Insein Prison hospital. (071008 Irrawaddy)
9. Magwe Division NLD members **U Hlaing Aye** and **U San Pwint** were **transferred to Kale prison** from Myingyan Prison on 24 September 2008 without their families being informed, U Hlaing Aye's son Ko Maung Maung Aye said. (061008 DVB)
10. Two human rights groups say **the number of political prisoners in Burma has nearly doubled to over 2,000** in the past year and have urged the United Nations to pressure the ruling junta for their release. In a new report entitled 'The Future in the Dark', the Thailand-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) and the Washington-based United States Campaign for Burma (USCB) say prisons in Burma now hold 2,123 political prisoners, compared with 1,192 in June 2007. (061008 Mizzima)
11. **U Khaing Soe**, ACP (Arakan Communist Party), from Minbya Township, Arakan State, who was arrested on 16 May 1986 and sentenced to 25 years, was **released from Insein prison** on 6 October 2008. (101008 AAPP)

On 7 October 2008 (Tuesday)

1. Nine political prisoners have **decided not to enter a defence during their trials** in protest at the unfairness of the legal proceedings, their lawyer Khin Maung Shein said yesterday on 7 October 2008. **Pyi Phyo Hlaing, Nay Hlin Aung, Phyo Maung Maung Soe, Myat Hlin Htut, Thiha Aung, Thein Zaw, Aung Myo Paing, Thiha Thet Tin and Pyi Phoe Aung** are students from Bassein and Ma-Upin universities. (081008 DVB)
2. **Dr. Tin Min Htut**, NLD Member of Parliament in Pantanaw Township, Irrawaddy division, has been **detained in Insein prison**, and denied family visits and parcels, his son said. (071008 DVB)

On 8 October 2008 (Wednesday)

1. **The Asian Human Rights Commission** (AHRC) has been closely following and documenting the detentions and trials in Burma following last September's mass protests. The AHCHR today issues an appeal on the case of **Zaw Min**, who was accused of having sent news abroad, although no independent witnesses or evidence have been brought to the trial against him. The non-legality and abuse in his case follows the same pattern as others of its type on which appeals have already been issued. (081008 AHCHR)
2. The regime has increased its oppression of National League for Democracy members as preparations get under way for the 2010 elections, opposition party NLD said. Around 30 NLD members have already been sentenced to between 2 and 2 and a half years between September and October 2008, spokesman U Nyan Win said. (081008 RFA)
3. **United Nations rights envoy Tomas Ojea Quintana** has **set out four basic requirements** that need to be met by the Burmese government if the 2010 elections are to be credible. "The right to freedom of

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



peaceful assembly and association, as well as the right to freedom of opinion and expression, are fundamental rights to be respected in the process towards the establishment of a solid and reliable democracy," he said, as quoted in the UN statement. (101080 DVB)

4. Jailed Burmese labor rights activist **Su Su Nway** is **refusing to accept medical treatment in protest** at not being allowed to be treated outside prison, according to her sister. Htay Htay Kyi said her sister, who was imprisoned in November 2007, also refused to attend a scheduled court session in Rangoon's Insein prison on Wednesday. Her lawyer, Khin Htay Kywe, said her non-appearance was also a gesture of protest. (081008 Irrawaddy)
5. A first-year student from Sittwe University was **detained by police** on 8 October, due to accusations he was connected with a student group in exile, said a close associate of the student from Sittwe. The student was identified as **Ko Ni Min Aung**, son of Htoo Kyaw, from Danyawaddy Ward in Sittwe, the capital of Arakan State. He was arrested while working at his father's battery shop in Danyawaddy Ward on 8 October 2008. (081008 Narinjara)

On 9 October 2008 (Thursday)

1. A legal representative of Burma's detained opposition leader **Aung San Suu Kyi** handed in a **formal appeal against the latest extension** of her house arrest to the military government in Naypyidaw on Wednesday. The government had given no indication when the appeal would be heard in court, Kyi Win said. "But we are hoping for a positive outcome." (091008 Irrawaddy)
2. Saffron Revolution monks' leader **U Gambira** and **appeared at a court hearing in Insein prison special court** along with other political detainees on 9 October 2008. (091008 RFA)
3. Ko Moe Htet Hlyan, husband of Ma Khin Thu Htay who is the sister of monks' leader U Gambira, and 3 others **appeared in North Dagon Township Court**, defence lawyer Ko Pho Phyu said. (091008 DVB)
4. The Burma Lawyers' Council **called for a lawful trial to be held in public for** 21 activists, including student leader Min Ko Naing, in accordance with article 10 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 9 October 2008. (101008 RFA)
5. Eleven activists including Hlaing Tharyar Township NLD youth organizer **Ko Thant Zin Myo**, his wife **Ma Hla Hla Maw**, and **U Tin Yu appeared in Hlaing Tharyar Township court** on 9 October, amidst strict security and harassment from Swan Arr Shin members, Thant Zin Myo's brother Ko Thant Zin Oo reported to RFA. (101008 RFA)
6. **Prosecutor police major Ye Nyunt tried to commit suicide** on 9 October 2008. As a prosecutor he pursued many cases including 88 Generation Students Group members, comedian and actor Zarganar, and editor Zaw Thet Htway. (151008 RFA)
7. Four members of **Generation Wave (GW)** and 4 young people were **arrested** at their homes in South Okkalapa Township, Rangoon on 9 October 2008. They are **Ko Khaing Ko Mon (aka) Ko Nyein Chan, Ye` Thu Ko (aka) Nyi Nyi, Zin Min Aung, Aung Paing**. (111008 GW)

On 10 October 2008 (Friday)

1. Detained activists **will not co-operate with the court**, and have dismissed their defence lawyer in protest at their unfair trial in Insein prison special court. They are **Ko Win Maw, Ko Myat San, Ko Tint San, Ko Aung Thwin, Ko Aung Myint, Ko Aung Zaw Oo, Ko Kyaw Soe, and Ko Maung Kan**. They are demanding justice and a free and fair trial to be held in public. (131008 Irrawaddy)

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



2. Authorities have freed the perpetrators of a violent attack on Human Rights Defender and Promoter **Ko Myit Naing** (from Oakpone village, Hintada Township), which left him seriously injured. Ko Myit Naing **will sue his attackers** to bring them to justice. (131008 Irrawaddy)

On 11 October 2008 (Saturday)

1. **Khaing Khant (aka) Khin Maung Win and Ko Thuya** from the **New Generation Movement for Justice** were **arrested** at 2 am on 11 October 2008. (111008 AAPP)
2. The families of political prisoners are angry that **that they had been banned** from attending court hearings since Monday, when drug dealer Maung Wate's family has been allowed to attend his court hearing. (111008 DVB)
3. Prison authorities allowed the families of political prisoners to visit Insein prison on Saturday, after they were banned from attending court hearings last week. (111008 RFA)

On 13 October 2008 (Monday)

1. A total of 37 detainees including monk **U Gambira** and members of the 88 Generation Students Group including recent detainees **Ma Nilar Thein and Ma Mar Mar Oo**, **appeared in Insein prison special court**. 2 judges came from Yangon Eastern District court to preside over the cases in Insein prison special court, which were previously being heard by judges in Insein Township court and Hlaing Thaya Township court on 13 October 2008, defense lawyer U Khin Maung Shein said. (131008 RFA)
2. **Ko Tun Tun Oo, Ko Maung Maung Latt, and Ma Htar Htar Thet**, who have been detained since the demonstrations in September 2007, have **refused to accept the trial conditions** in Insein prison and have dismissed their defence lawyer in protest, lawyer U Khin Maung Shein said. (131008 RFA)
3. **Kyaw Thu Moe Myint (aka) Arkar** (Male), a member of **GW (Generation Wave)**, was **arrested** at his Hledan home in Kamaryut Township, Rangoon on 13 October 2008, GW spokesman Moe Thway said. (161008 RFA)

On 14 October 2008 (Tuesday)

1. NLD member **Ko Aung Than** - who was arrested and sentenced to a long imprisonment because he distributed "Daung Man" political poems – has **reportedly been infected with HIV** after his family were refused permission to bring him a clean needle and syringe, and he was instead treated with a prison syringe and needle in Insein prison. (141008 RFA)
2. Mandalay Division Madaya Township NLD vice chairperson **U Nyo Kyi** (more than 70 years old, who was sentenced to 7 years in Khamti prison in Sagaing Division) is in poor health, reported Ko Zaw Min Lwin, who was recently released. U Nyo Kyi is **suffering from hypertension, bronchitis and a heart problem**. (141008 DVB)

On 15 October 2008 (Wednesday)

1. The **Asian Human Rights Commission (AHRC)** has **called for the release of film director Ko Zargana and editor Zaw Thet Htway** who are being arbitrarily detained. (151008 RFA)
2. Members of the 88 Generation Students Group appeared in Insein prison special court and **demand their full legal rights**. (151008 RFA)

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



On 16 October 2008 (Thursday)

1. AAPP learned of further **arrests which took place in September**. The details for the other arrests are as follows:
 - a. **Ko Nyi** (male), a 28 year old jewellery trader from 160 Street, Tamwe Township, Rangoon, was arrested on 8 September 2008.
 - b. **Kay Thi Aung (aka) Ma Ei** (female), 23 years old, who lives at No.A-18, Shwetun Street, Ngetawkyikone Ward, Kywe`sikan, Pyikyí Tankhun Township in Mandalay division, was arrested on 14 September 2008.
 - c. **Monk Thawbana (aka) U Thar Gara**, 33 years old, who lives in Ratanar Aungmyay monastery, Dammiekaryarma compound, Chanmya Tharsi Township, Mandalay; **Myo Myint Aung** (male), 24 years old, who lives in Area 491, Ratanarpon ward, Tampawate, Chanmya Tharsi Township, Mandalay; **Bo Min Yu Ko** (male), 21 years old; and **May Zin Thein Win** (female), from Thidaraye ward, Chanmya Tharsi Township, Mandalay, were all arrested on 16 September 2008.
 - d. **Way Myo Htoo** (male), 24 years old, who lives at No.809, Kone Boun 12 Street, Ward no. 6, South Okkalapa Township, Rangoon, was arrested on 20 September 2008.
 - e. **Myitta Naing** (male), 32 years old, who lives at Damma Youngchi monastery, Arthawkayama compound, Chanmya Tharsi Township, Mandalay; monk **U Thumin Gala (aka) U Yarzar**, 24 years old, who lives in Arthawkayama compound, Chanmya Tharsi Township, Mandalay; **Zin Hnin Aye (aka) Zin Mar** (female), a 23 year-old second year Chemistry major student at Yatapon University, who lives at Amateeim restaurant, Khunhninainten Ward, south Phayagyi, Chanmya Tharsi Township, Mandalay, were all arrested in September 2008. (161008 AAPP)
2. Accused of illegally handling foreign currency, **Khin Moe Aye**, 40, a prominent social and political activist, was **sentenced to three years imprisonment**, along with former student leader **Kyaw Soe**, at Rangoon's Insein prison court on Thursday according to her lawyer, Khin Maung Shein. Former political prisoners Khin Moe Aye and Kyaw Soe were arrested by military intelligence officers in Kyaikto Township in Rangoon's northeastern suburbs on December 12 2007. (171008 Irrawaddy)
3. **U Thaug Win** (from South Dagon Township, Rangoon) a senior reporter in the army who was arrested in July 2008 due to information leaking out to foreign media, has been temporarily **charged under section 5/j** in Insein prison. (161008 AAPP)
4. Six people who were arrested during last year's Saffron Revolution demonstrations in Arakan State are currently being **detained in Sittwe prison alongside criminals**. The six political prisoners have been placed together in cells with criminals and have not been given any opportunity for safer accommodations. The six activists are **Ko Aung Naing, Ko Nyi Nyi Lwin, Ko Kyaw Aye Sein, U Kyaw Sein Hla, and Ko Than Soe**. (161008 Narinjara)
5. The head of NLD Tharkayta Township **U Soe Myint** was **arrested** and reportedly **sentenced to 3 months** under section 216 (concerned with harbouring an offender who has escaped from custody or whose apprehension has been ordered) by Tharkayta Township court on 16 October 2008. (201008 Narinjara)

On 17 October 2008 (Friday)

1. Comedian **Zarganar** appeared in Insein Special Prison Court, under the jurisdiction of a judge from Rangoon Western district court. He asked family members to bring him some medicine for **liver and stomach complaints**, through the prison security guards on 15 October 2008. His family are worried about his health. (171008 Mizzima)

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



On 18 October 2008 (Saturday)

1. Burmese young people living in Kuala Lumpur held a birthday ceremony for 46 year-old Min Ko Naing at 9:30 pm today, together with Malaysians who are interested in Burma. (191008 Hittaing)
2. When the family of 88 Generation Students Group member **Myo Yan Naung Thein** went to visit him, he was carried in on a stretcher as he is unable to stand unaided. (181008 RFA)

On 19 October 2008 (Sunday)

1. Defence lawyers for leaders of the Mandalay Division National League for Democracy have contested **the date of their arrest as put forward in court by the prosecution**. The prosecution testified in court and said that the six leaders of the Mandalay Division NLD were arrested in 2008, but they were actually arrested more than a year ago. The defence lawyers today argued in favour of their clients' rights. (201008 Mizzima)

On 20 October 2008 (Monday)

1. The Chief Correspondent of the 'Flower' journal, detained for over a month for covering a double murder in Thigangyun, Rangoon, was **released from custody** Monday evening after signing a personal bond. **Saw Myint Than** of the weekly journal was released after the prosecutor Police Major Khin Maung Aye withdrew the case against him under section 34(d) of the Electronic Law. (211008 Mizzima)
2. Detained NLD members **Ko Aung Tun, Ko Yan Naing Tun, and Ko Tin Maung Cho** were **sent to the dog cell block of Burma's notorious Insein prison** on 20 October 2008, due to a quarrel with criminal prisoner and drug dealer Maung Wate which took place when they took a shower. (211008 RFA)
3. Three activists accused of involvement in a bomb attack in Shwe Pyithar Township, in July, **appeared before northern Rangoon provincial court** last week, according to their lawyer. **Myint Aye** of the Human Rights Defenders and Promoters network and National League for Democracy members **Yan Shwe and Zaw Zaw Aung** are being prosecuted by the Shwe Pyithar township police chief on explosives charges. (211008 DVB)
4. The lawyer for prominent detainees **Zarganar** and **U Gambira** has said that his clients are to dismiss him in protest at the way the authorities have handled their trial. Lawyer Aung Thein had previously said he would **withdraw his representation from 11 of his clients**, including comedian and activist Zarganar and high-profile monk U Gambira, in protest at the court's refusal to allow him sufficient time to prepare a defence. (211008 DVB)
5. Poet **Saw Wai**, who wrote a poem poking fun at senior General Than Shwe, **appeared in Insein prison special court** charged under section 505/b on Monday, his defense lawyer U Soe Maung said. Author Khin Pan Hnin took the stand as a witness for the defence. A verdict is due in the case in November. (231008 RFA)

On 21 October 2008 (Tuesday)

1. Family members of elected representative **Ohn Kyaing**, who was arrested on 1 October, have said they have **still not been informed where he is being held**. Ohn Kyaing, a National League for Democracy member and MP-elect from South East Mandalay, was actively involved in cyclone relief efforts prior to his arrest. (221008 DVB)
2. Comedian **Zaganar** has been **awarded a human right prize by Canadian PEN**. (221008 BBC)
3. Lack of faith in the judiciary has forced four people detained for participating in the Saffron Revolution to **withdraw general power from lawyers** representing them. **Tun Tun Oo, Htar Htar Thet, Aung Kyaw Moe and Maung Maung Latt** from Hlaing Township, arrested following last

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



year's protests withdrew general power from their lawyers in the Hlaing township court of law. (211008 Mizzima)

On 22 October 2008 (Wednesday)

1. The American Federation of Teachers, the largest organization representing teachers and educational workers in the United States (with more than 1.4 million members) has awarded its "**2008 President's International Democracy Award**" to a leading Burmese pro-democracy group, the "**88 Generation Students**". The 88 Generation Students group is led by prominent Burmese democracy leader Min Ko Naing, who is locked up as a political prisoner in Burma. (221008 US campaign for Burma)
2. **Ko Nyi Nyi Min** (male, a 29 year-old private teacher and son of detainee U Soe Kywe, from South Dagon Township, Rangoon, who was arrested on 24 April 2008) has been **charged under statute 501** by South Dagon Township Court and is currently detained in Insein prison. (221008 AAPP)
3. Nine Muslim leaders, including **Dr. Tun Aung** and **Than Tun** were arrested in a raid conducted by the Burmese military intelligence in Maungdaw on the western border in March 2008, on accusations that they were preparing to form a political organization. The authority has **charged them under statutes 17 (1) and 17 (2)**, which cover the illegal formation of an organization. Initially, 12 Muslim leaders were arrested, but three - **Dr. Hla Mying, Dr. Anna War**, and former UNHCR driver **Naw Kobi** - were **released in August 2008**. (221008 Narinjara)
4. **Each detained 88 Generation Students Group member demanded their right** to have their families attend their court hearing, otherwise they will not co-operate with the court. (221008 RFA)
5. Eleven persons including **U Gambira** asked to **withdraw power** from their defence lawyer in protest at their unfair trials, defence lawyer U Aung Thein said. (221008 DVB)
6. All Burma Federation of Students Union leader **Sithu Maung** appeared in **Tamwe Township court** for a hearing to face charges brought by police lieutenant Than Htay Aung on 22 October 2008, his defence lawyer Ko Pho Phyu said. (231008 DVB)
7. **Daw Aung San Su Kyi's lawyer** U Kyi Win has been **denied permission to meet** with Daw Aung San Su Kyi on 23 October 2008, U Kyi Win said. (221008 RFA)

On 23 October 2008 (Thursday)

1. The European Bar Human Rights Institute held a ceremony to confer the Ludovic-Trarieux **Human Rights Award 2008** on Burmese lawyer **U Aye Myint** who is a former political prisoner, in Rome, Italy. (231008 VOA)
2. Burmese human rights organizations called for the release of Daw Aung San Su Kyi and all political prisoners, in advance of the 13th anniversary of Daw Aung San Su Kyi's house arrest tomorrow. (231008 VOA)
3. An **appeal** on behalf of Twante Township National League for Democracy member **Ma Sandar** was **rejected** by the district court yesterday (23 October 2008), according to Ma Sandar's husband Zaw Min. (241008 DVB)
4. **Seven monks and seven nuns**, including 60 year-old **U Yayvata** from Hantharwaty monastery, 60 year-old **U Arnanda** from Thisatharaphu monastery, and Daw Htay Ye, were **sentenced** to 4 years imprisonment charged under statutes 295 and 295/a for 'insulting religious beliefs', on 23 October 2008. They had not appeared in court since 3 March 2008, but had been repeatedly held on remand in Insein prison until October when they made a few brief appearances in court until the verdict was delivered, defense lawyer U Nyi Nyi Hlaing said. (241008 RFA)

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



On 24 October 2008 (Friday)

1. Six leaders of the National League for Democracy party who were arrested in September and October 2007 were given **long term imprisonment** by Mandalay Divisional Court this afternoon. Many of them were charged under statutes 505/b and 153/a, and one was charged with 505/b only. Those who were given imprisonment are:
 - a. **Win Mya Mya** (female), who is an organizing committee member of NLD Mandalay Division, was given 12 years imprisonment.
 - b. **Kan Tun** (male), who is a secretary of the NLD Mandalay Division, was given 12 years imprisonment.
 - c. **Than Lwin** (male), who is a vice-chair person of the NLD Mandalay Division, was given 8 years imprisonment.
 - d. **Min Thu** (male), who is a leader of the Mogok township NLD in Mandalay Division, was given 13 years imprisonment.
 - e. **Tin Ko Ko** (male), who is an organizing committee member of Meiktila Township NLD in Mandalay division was given two years imprisonment.
 - f. **Win Shwe** (male), who is a member of Salin Township NLD in Magwe Division was given 11 years imprisonment. (241008 AAPP)
2. The United States urges the Burmese Generals to immediately release Daw Aung San Su Kyi who has been house arrest for 13 years as at 24 October 2008. (241008 RFA)
3. The Brussels-based International Crisis Group (ICG) called this week on the international community to build on relations with Burma's military regime in the wake of coordinated efforts made following the Cyclone Nargis disaster. Aid sent directly to the Burmese junta must be subject to transparency and accountability. If this is not assured it would be a big insult to those Burmese who have sacrificed their entire lives for the betterment of their homeland. (241008 Irrawaddy)
4. The National League for Democracy have been making **efforts to secure Daw Su's release in accordance with the law**, but there has been no response to the special appeal submitted under law, spokesperson U Nyan Win said. (241008 DVB)
5. Myanmar's opposition leader **Aung San Suu Kyi** marks **13 years under house arrest** today, as a United Nations human rights official said it will take decades for democracy to take hold in the country. Speaking to the UN General Assembly on 23 October, special rapporteur **Tomas Ojea Quintana** said, "Restoration of full democracy cannot happen overnight; it will take generations." (241008 Bloomberg)
6. **The Seventh Asia-Europe Meeting** (ASEM 7) was held in Beijing on 24 and 25 October 2008. In a closing statement, ASEM encouraged the Myanmar government to engage all stakeholders in an inclusive political process in order to achieve national reconciliation and economic and social development. In this regard, they **called for the lifting of restrictions placed on political parties and early further release of those under detention**. (241008 ASEM7 Beijing 2008)
7. **The European Parliament** today urged UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to go ahead with a visit to Burma to press for the release of political prisoners. (241008 Glenys Kinnock MEP)
8. Twenty five prisoners were **transferred** to various prisons from Insein prison on 24 October 2008. They include 88 Generation member and former political prisoner **Ma Khin Moe Aye**, sentenced to 3 years imprisonment, who was transferred to Myingyan prison; 88 Generation member and former political prisoner **Kyaw Soe (aka) Talky**, sentenced to 3 years imprisonment, who was transferred to Thayet prison; and Myint **Lwin Oo (aka) Thar Gyi**, sentenced to 9 years imprisonment, who was transferred to Prome prison. They are now far away from their homes. (241008 AAPP)
9. Members of the 88 Generation Student group renewed their call for the right of their families to attend court hearings to be respected. 88 Generation families haven't been allowed to attend court while their

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



loved ones are in court-hearings. **Ko Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Kyi, Ko Hla Myo Naung, Ko Pyone Cho, Ko Jimmy, Ko Htay Kywe, Ko Myo Aung Naing** and **Ma Mie Mie** demanded that an earlier court ruling by a judge in Rangoon northern district court that family members should be allowed to attend court hearings should not be overruled by Insein Special Prison Court. In response the activists were reportedly accused of being in contempt of court and **charged under statute 228**. (241008 RFA)

10. **Ko Hla Myo Naung** has been moved to No. (5) Cell block from Insein prison hospital even though he is **suffering from an eye problem, a hernia and an enlarged liver**. (241008 RFA)

On 25 October 2008 (Saturday)

1. Monk leader **U Gambira** is **suffering from a serious headache**. He has been hospitalized for 3 weeks with this headache after being heavily interrogated, his sister Ma Lwin Lwin Myint told to RFA. (251008 RFA)
2. When the families of 88 Generation Students visited prison, they were not allowed to bring their parcels into the prison with them as they would normally; they had to leave them outside. When their family visits were over, they were required to exit the prison via a back door, Ko Aung Aung Tun said. (251008 DVB)
3. Northern Rangoon district court summoned defense lawyers **Ko Nyi Nyi Htway and Ko Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min** who are defending political activists, and **charged them under section 228** of the penal code, relating to an intentional insult or interruption to a public servant sitting in judicial proceeding. (251008 DVB)
4. **U Aung Khin Bo**, NLD Bogale Township chairperson, was **transferred** to Thayet prison; **U Khin Maung Chit**, NLD Bogale Township secretary, was transferred to Meittila prison; **Daw Mi Mi Sein**, NLD Bogale Township joint secretary, was transferred to Tharawady prison; **Daw Khin Lay**, NLD Bogale Township treasurer, was transferred to Pegu prison; **U Thet Tun**, NLD Bogale Township organizing member, was transferred to Pyi prison; **U Thein Tun**, NLD Bassein Township organizing member, was transferred to Myingyan prison. They had all been previously detained in Henzada prison. They were arrested between 5 and 28 September 2007, charged under sections 143 and 505(b) of the penal code, and sentenced to 2 years and 6 months by Pyapon Township court on 28 August 2008. They are now far from their home towns so that it will be difficult for their families to visit them in prison. (281008 AAPP)
5. Over the past few days, **Tun Myint Aung (aka) Inmayan**, a student from Pabedan Township, Rangoon, who was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment, was **released** from Kyaikmayaw New Life (6) hard labour camp. **Thaung Htut**, an activist from Tharkayta Township, Rangoon, was released from Kyaikmayaw New life (7) hard camp. **Tun Tun Naing**, a student from Dala Township, in Rangoon, who was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment, was released from Kyaikmayaw New life (6) hard labor camp. **Naing Lin** was released from Kyaikmayaw New Life 6 hard labour Camp, and **Ma Hnin Pann**, from Karen state, who was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment, was released from Moulmein prison. (251008 AAPP)

On 26 October 2008 (Sunday)

1. Agrate city mayor in Italy announced an **honorable citizenship** for Human Rights activist detainee **Su Su Nway**. Student leader **Ko Ko Kyi** and monk leader **U Gambira** will be granted an **honorable citizenship** from Rome. (261008 RFA)
2. The regime secretly ordered division and state courts to conclude the cases of activist detainees before the end of October 2008. Courts which are trying activist cases in Mandalay and Rangoon have to conclude their cases within one week by instruction from the Home Affairs department, reported an anonymous source from the administration department. (261008 RFA)

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



3. Checkpoints and **barricades were removed** on Sunday from outside the Rangoon lakeside home of detained pro-democracy leader **Aung San Suu Kyi**. Two leading members of her National League for Democracy (NLD), Spokesman Nyan Win and Central Executive Committee member Khin Maung Swe, both confirmed that the road in front of Suu Kyi's house had been cleared of security checkpoints and barricades and was now open to normal traffic. (271008 Irrawaddy)

On 27 October 2008 (Monday)

1. 88 Generation Students member **Ma Mar Mar Oo** was arrested on 8 August 2008 along with 8 other activists who are: teacher **Aung Aung Kyaw**, teacher **Ko Tin Aung**, teacher **Than Tun Zin, Zay Ya Oo, Thant Zin, Ko Tin Tun, and Aung Soe Moe (aka) Aung Zay Myo**. They were arrested while staying in the Hantaryeitmon housing block, Kamaryut Township, Rangoon. (271008 AAPP)
2. A man contacted the office of the Pabedan Township Peace and Development Council at 6.20 p.m on 24 October and made a phone threat using abusive words that he would blow up the offices of the Township PDC, Union Solidarity and Development Association and Police Station. Immediately after the news was received members of Yangon West District Police Station and the Pabedan Police Station launched an investigation into the incident. With the help of information provided by the people they managed to **arrest Yar Sin (a) Tin Myint**, 41, son of U Dhawut, of No. 124, 30th Street, Ward 7, Pabedan Township at 9.10 p.m. Upon interrogation, Yar Sin (a) Tin Myint confessed to making the phone threat. Action is being taken against him under Section 294/505 (B)/506 by the Pabedan Police Station. (271008 New Light of Myanmar)

On 28 October 2008 (Tuesday)

1. **Khin Zaw** was **released from Tharawaddy prison** last week. A member of the NLD and ABSDF, he was arrested in January 1991 and charged under sections 122/1, 17/1, and 19/a of the penal code. He had been sentenced to death although this was later changed to life imprisonment. (281008 AAPP)
2. NLD Member of Parliament **U Ohn Kyaing** has reportedly been **investigated** in Pegu prison by the authorities, who accused him of using money collected for Nargis victims for bomb explosions instead. He is an executive member of NLD and co-ordinator of Cylone Nargis relief efforts. (281008 RFA)
3. NLD party leader **Daw Aung San Su Kyi** was **allowed to see her family doctor** Tin Myo Win at the end of month, NLD spokesperson U Nyan Win said. (281008 Mizzima)
4. Ba Thet Aung was arrested at a tea shop nearby his home in Thingangyun Township, Rangoon on 28 October 2008. He is a former political prisoner and was student activist during the democratic uprising in 1988. (311008 AAPP)

On 29 October 2008 (Wednesday)

1. On October 29th 2008, nine leaders of the 88 Generation Students Group were **sentenced** to 6 months imprisonment in Insein Prison special court. The court was under the jurisdiction of two judges from Northern Rangoon District Court. During the court hearing, Min Ko Naing and other defendants stood up and complained about the lack of a free and independent judiciary. The presiding judge accused them of interrupting court procedures and charged them under Section 228 of the Penal Code for contempt of court. He handed down a six-month sentence for nine student leaders - **Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi, Mya Aye, Pyone Cho (aka) Htay Win Aung, Aung Thu, Htay Kywe, Nyan Lin, Myo Aung Naing, and Hla Myo Naung**. The remaining defendants in court stood up and demanded that the judge sentence them too. The judge ordered security forces to remove the defendants from the court and adjourned the trial. Prosecutor lawyer is U Myint Kyaing in this case. (291008 AAPP)

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



2. Burmese lawyer **Nyi Nyi Htwe**, who is defending 11 NLD youth members from Hlaing Thar Yar Township, Rangoon, was **arrested** by police today (29 October 2008). He is now detained at the Hlaing Thar Yar Township Police Station. (291008 U.S. campaign for Burma)
3. Rangoon division court **rejected the appeal** of 63 year old **U Ohn Than**. U Ohn Than is a solo protestor who was sentenced to life imprisonment and fined 1000 kyat. (291008 DVB)

On 30 October 2008 (Thursday)

1. Three activists were **sentenced** to 6 months by the regime, charged with section 228 of the Penal Code for contempt of court. They are **Aung Min Naing aka Me Thwe** (son of U Ba Nyunt, an NLD member from Kemmendine Township, Rangoon, who was arrested on 23 August 2007); **Yan Naing Tu** (a member of the 88 Generation Students Group from Monywa Township in Sagaing division, who was arrested on 28 September 2007); and **Wai Lin Myo**. (301008 AAPP)
2. **Aung Thein Lwin (aka) Aung Aung (aka) Shell** was **sentenced** to 11 years in total. He was given 2 years under section 145, 2 years under section 147, 3 years under section 152, 2 years under section 505/b, and 2 years under section 195/a in Insein prison special court. He is a student and former political prisoner from Pabedan Townhsip, Rangoon, who was arrested on 27 November 2007 and is currently detained in Insein prison. (301008 AAPP)
3. Burmese lawyers **Nyi Nyi Htwe** and **Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min** were **sentenced** today by Rangoon Northern District Court to six months each under Section 228 of the Penal Code for contempt of court. Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min did not appear in court and is currently in hiding. (301008 AAPP)
4. The local authorities and a Natmauk Township police officer **arrested** 43 year old **Ko Zaw Htay**. He was apparently arrested because he made a complaint to the International Labour Organisation in Rangoon about confiscated farmland in Aung Lan and Natmauk Townships in Magwe division, his friend said. Also **Ko Hla Soe, Ko Sein Stin, and Ko Lay Lin** were arrested by Natmauk Township police in connection with reporting the confiscation of farmland on 20 October 2008. Other farmers have apparently gone into hiding to escape arrest over reporting their concerns to the ILO. (311008 RFA)
5. Today, special hearings held inside Insein Prison Compound delivered sentences to two Burmese democracy activists. **Zaw Zaw Min (aka) Bound Bound**, who is a member of the 88 Generation Students, was **sentenced** two-year imprisonment with hard labor under the Section 505 (B) of the Penal Code. Another activist **Aung Thein Lwin (aka) Shell** was sentenced 11-year imprisonment. (301008 US Campaign for Burma)
6. Five Students, **Aung Myo Oo, Soe Thinha Maung, Aung Ko Ko, Tin Myo Latt, and Kyaw Zin Win** were **released**. Their release date is unknown. (301008 AAPP)

On 31 October 2008 (Friday)

1. November 2nd is the bi-annual anniversary of cyclone Nargis which struck Burma on 2 May and left more than 140,000 people dead or missing. The military government arrested at least 20 volunteers after they helped cyclone victims. On 1st October, **U Ohn Kyaing** was **arrested**. He is the chairperson of the Cyclone Relief Committee, National League for Democracy. He is now reportedly under investigation whilst in prison, accused of using funds collected to help victims of Cyclone Nargis to plan acts of terrorism. Cyclone volunteers and activists also face difficult and dangerous conditions in prison.

“Recently, some political prisoners have been forced to confess that they are responsible for planting bombs. In the past, the authorities blamed bomb attacks on armed groups. Now, they are pointing the finger at politicians like U Ohn Kyaing,” said Ko Tate Naing, secretary of the Assistance Association

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for October 2008



for Political Prisoners (Burma). “The authorities are doing whatever they can to ensure long imprisonments for human rights activists and volunteers who worked to help cyclone victims,” continued Ko Tate Naing. “We want to urge the authorities to stop this persecution and release these activists immediately and unconditionally. We also call on the United Nations and the international community to take concrete action to secure their freedom.” (311008 AAPP)

2. Rangoon NLD Dawbon Township youth organizer **Ko Ohn Kyaw** is being held in **solidarity confinement** and is in poor health in Insein prison. (311008 RFA)
3. **Kyaw Khin** was **released** from Taunggyi prison on 3 October 2008. He is the son of U Nyunt, NLD Member of Parliament. He is from Taunggyi Township in Shan state. He was arrested on 25 February 2005 and charged under sections 5/j and 17/20 of the Penal Code, and sentenced to 14 years.
4. Twenty three members of the **88 Generation Students Group** appeared in Insein prison special court presided over by a Northern Rangoon District Court judge. Student leader **Jimmy** complained that the trial is not being conducted in accordance with the law. (311008 RFA)
5. Leaders of the 88 Generation Students Group including **Min Ko Naing** were **transferred** to Maubin prison in Irrawaddy division, approximately 60 miles from Insein prison in the area hit by Cyclone Nargis, after being sentenced to 6 months imprisonment. They were sentenced under Section 228 of the Penal Code for contempt of court, after they demanded that their loved ones be allowed to attend their court hearings. The nine leaders are **Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi, Mya Aye (Thu Ya), Pyone Cho (Htay Win Aung), Aung Thu, Htay Kywe, Nyan Lin, Myo Aung Naing, and Hla Myo Naung.** (311008 AAPP)