

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

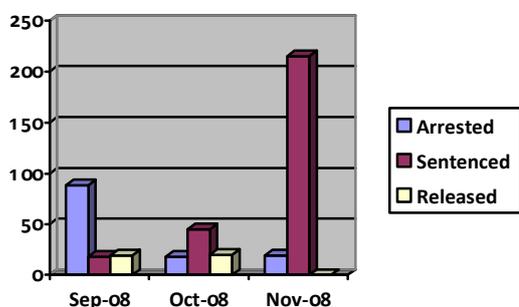
Summary of current situation

There are a total of 2164 political prisoners in Burma. These include:

CATEGORY	NUMBER
Monks	220
Members of Parliament	17
Students	271
Women	184
NLD members	472
Members of the Human Rights Defenders and Promoters network	37
Ethnic nationalities	211
Cyclone Nargis volunteers	22
Teachers	25
Media activists	42
Lawyers	13
In poor health	106

Since the protests in August 2007, leading to last September's Saffron Revolution, a total of 1057 activists have been arrested.

Monthly trend analysis



In the month of November, at least 215 political activists have been sentenced, the majority of whom were arrested in connection with last year's popular uprising in August and September. They include 33 88 Generation Students Group members, 65 National League for Democracy members and 27 monks.

The regime began trials of political prisoners arrested in connection with last year's Saffron Revolution on 8 October last year. Since then, at least 384 activists have been sentenced, most of them in November this year. This month at least 215 activists were sentenced and 19 were arrested. This follows the monthly trend for October, when there were 45 sentenced and 18 arrested. The statistics confirm reports, which first emerged in October, that the regime has instructed its judiciary to expedite the trials of detained political activists.

This month Burma's flawed justice system has handed out severe sentences to leading political activists. Burma's well-known comedian **U Thura aka Zarganar**, who was instrumental in coordinating volunteer relief efforts following May's Cyclone Nargis, received sentences totaling 59 years. 29 year-old **U Gambira**, a leader of the **All Burma Monk's Alliance** established during last year's Saffron Revolution, was given sentences totaling 68 years. **U Myint Aye**, a founding member of the **Human Rights Defenders and Promoters Network**, was sentenced to life imprisonment plus 8 years. And 23 members of

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

the **88 Generation Students Group** were each sentenced to at least 65 years in prison, and may still face additional sentences. They include the group's leaders **Min Ko Naing, Htay Kywe, Ko Ko Gyi, Min Zeya** and **Htay Win Aung aka Pyone Cho**.

On 15 November, the authorities began to systematically transfer political prisoners to prisons all around the country, far from their families. The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) (AAPP) can confirm that the authorities have transferred at least 136 political prisoners. For the full list of transferred political prisoners, please see the appendix.

The **88 Generation Student Group's** leaders have been moved to different prisons around the country. **Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi and Min Zeya** have been transferred to Kengtung, Mai Sat and Lashio prisons respectively, all in Shan State. Meanwhile **Htay Kywe** has been moved to Buthidaung prison in Arakan State in the west of the country, and **Htay Win Aung aka Pyone Cho** has been moved to Kawthaung Prison in Tenasserim division in the far south.

The regime has also split up **Kyaw Min Yu aka Jimmy** and his wife **Nilar Thein**, transferring **Kyaw Min Yu aka Jimmy** to Taunggyi Prison in Shan State, and his **Nilar Thein** to Thayet Prison in Magwe division.

Unfair trials

This month's sentences have been handed down in a series of grossly unfair trials, which have taken place behind closed doors in court hearings within prison compounds. Hearings have also been taking place on Saturdays, further evidence that the regime has called on its judiciary to expedite the trials of political activists. Family members have not been allowed to attend the hearings, and in many cases were not informed that the hearings were taking place. Lawyers have been denied access to the court hearings, amid reports that they face increasing harassment. In addition to the two National League for Democracy (NLD) lawyers who were sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment on 30 October for 'contempt of court' (**Nyi Nyi Htwe** and **Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min**), on 7 November two more NLD lawyers were sentenced. **U Khin Maung Shein** and **U Aung Thein** were both sentenced to 4 months' imprisonment, again on charges of 'contempt of court'.

Treatment of prisoners and their families

During the court proceedings, in many cases detainees are being denied food and water and are forced to stand for long periods of time. When they have tried to protest at the unfair proceedings by turning their backs to the court, they have been grabbed by the neck and forced to face the court. Families are not being properly informed about the court hearings or sentences.

The regime has transferred at least 136 political prisoners to prisons all around the country, far from their families. Prison transfers are a form of psychological torture and additional punishment for political prisoners and their families. They make it more costly and time-consuming for families to visit their loved ones. It has a big economic impact on families, at a time of growing economic crisis in the country. In addition, reports are emerging of families being told by authorities that their loved ones have been transferred to a particular prison, but on arrival to that prison they find out their loved ones are not being held there.

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

88 Generation Students Group

In a sign that the regime considers **88 Generation Students Group** leaders and members a serious threat to their grip on power, courts have handed out harsh sentences of at least 65 years to 23 members of the group. At least 33 members of the group have already been sentenced and may still face additional prison terms under other charges. At least 24 of them are former political prisoners who have already spent many years in prison for their pro-democracy activities.

At least 30 members of the group have been transferred to prisons around the country. 5 leading members of the group have been moved to some of Burma's remotest prisons: **Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi and Min Zeya** have been transferred to Kengtung, Mai Sat and Lashio prisons respectively, all in Shan State. Meanwhile **Htay Kywe** has been moved to Buthidaung prison in Arakan State in the west of the country, and **Htay Win Aung aka Pyone Cho** has been moved to Kawthaung Prison in Tenasserim division in the far south.

The regime has also split up **Kyaw Min Yu aka Jimmy** and his wife **Nilar Thein**, transferring **Kyaw Min Yu aka Jimmy** to Taunggyi Prison in Shan State, and **Nilar Thein** to Thayet Prison in Magwe division.

28 November

14 members of the 88 Generation Students Group have received additional sentences. **Thein Than Tun (aka) Ko Ko Gyi¹, Zaw Htet Ko Ko, Thara Phee Theint Theint Tun (Female), Nobel Aye (aka) Hnin May Aung (Female), Lay Lay Mon (Female), Nweah Hnin Tin Htoo Aung Ye (aka) Noe Noe (Female), Aye Thida (Female), Thaw Zin Tun, Saw Myo Min Hlaing, Aung Thike Soe, Chit Ko Lin, Than Tin (aka) Kyee Than, San San Tin (Female) and Tin Htoo Aung**, were each sentenced to six years imprisonment by a court held inside Insein Prison Compound.

Thein Than Tun (aka) Ko Ko Gyi, Zaw Htet Ko Ko, Thara Phee Theint Theint Tun (Female), Nobel Aye (aka) Hnin May Aung (Female), Lay Lay Mon (Female), Nweah Hnin Ye (aka) Noe Noe (Female), and Aye Thida (Female) were already sentenced to 5 years on 21 November. They now face 11 years in prison.

Thaw Zin Tun, Saw Myo Min Hlaing, Aung Thike Soe, Chit Ko Lin, San San Tin (Female) and Tin Htoo Aung received 3 years in prison on 21 November. They now face 9 years in prison. ([AAPP 281108](#))

21 November

13 members of the 88 Generation Students group, who have been detained in Insein Prison since last year and are still detained there, were sentenced from three years to five years by a special court held inside Insein Prison Compound. **Thein Than Tun (aka) Ko Ko Gyi, Zaw Htet Ko Ko, Thara Phee Theint Theint Tun (Female), Lay Lay Mon (Female), Hnin May Aung (Female), San San Tin (Female), Aye Thida (Female), and Nweah Hnin Ye (aka) Noe Noe (Female)** received five years imprisonment each. **Thaw Zin Tun, Saw Myo Min Hlaing, Aung Thike Soe, Chit Ko Lin, San San Tin (Female) and Tin Htoo Aung** received three years imprisonment each. ([US Campaign for Burma 211108](#))

¹ N.B. Thein Than Tun (aka) Ko Ko Gyi is another member of the 88 Generation Students Group, not to be confused with 88 Generation leader Ko Ko Gyi.

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

At least 6 members of the 88 Generation Students Group were transferred to various prisons around Burma:

- **Tint San**, former political prisoner – Monywa Prison in Sagaing Division
- **Kyaw Min Yu aka Jimmy**, former political prisoner – Taunggyi Prison in Shan State
- **Kyaw Kyaw Htwe aka Marky**, former political prisoner – Mergui Prison in Tenasserim Division
- **Zaw Zaw Min**, former political prisoner – Taungoo Prison in Pegu Division
- **Nyan Lin**, former political prisoner – Pa-an Prison in Karen State
- **Than Tin aka Kyi Than** – Sittwe Prison in Arakan State.

([AAPP 211108](#))

20 November

At least 7 members of the 88 Generation Students Group were transferred to prisons around the country:

- **Thin Thin Aye aka Mie Mie** (female), former political prisoner – Bassein Prison in Irrawaddy Division.
- **Mar Mar Oo** (female), former political prisoner – Tharawaddy Prison in Pegu Division.
- **Sandar Min aka Shwee** (female), former political prisoner – Myaungmya Prison in Irrawaddy Division.
- **Thet Thet Aung** (female) - Myingyan Prison in Mandalay Division.
- **Min Zeya** – Lashio Prison in Shan State
- **Thet Zaw**, former political prisoner – Moulmein Prison in Mon State.
- **Nilar Thein** (female), former political prisoner – Thayet Prison in Magwe Division.

Kyaw Swar Htay aka Kyaw Swar of the 88 Generation Students Group received a total of 14 years and six months imprisonment. His prison terms were delivered by Sanchaung, Kyauktada and Kamaryut Township Courts, held inside Insein Prison Compound. He has been detained since November 2007. ([US Campaign for Burma 201108](#))

15/16 November

At least 9 members of the 88 Generation Students Group were transferred from Insein prison to prisons far away from Rangoon.

- **Min Ko Naing** was transferred to Kengtung Prison in Shan State
- **Ko Ko Gyi** was transferred to Mai Sat Prison in Shan State, near the Thai-Burma border
- **Htay Win Aung (aka) Pyone Cho** was transferred to Kawthaung Prison in Tenasserim division, southern Burma, 800 miles south of Rangoon
- **Mya Aye** was transferred to Loikaw Prison in Kayah State (Karenni State), 551 miles north of Rangoon.
- **Htay Kywe** was transferred to Buthidaung Prison in northern Arakan State, 730 miles north-west of Rangoon.
- **Hla Myo Naung** was transferred to Myitkyina Prison in Kachin State, 900 miles north of Rangoon.
- **Aung Thu** was transferred to Kengtung Prison in eastern Shan State.

Please Note: All information contained in this report is correct to the best of AAPP's knowledge at the time of going to press. The situation inside Burma is changing very rapidly, and this should be considered a 'live' document. If you reproduce this report or sections of it, please retain all original links and attribute it to AAPP. Thanks.

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

- **Aung Naing (aka) Myo Aung Naing** was transferred to Kale Prison in Sagaing division.
- **Myat San** was transferred to Monywa Prison in Sagaing Division, 517 miles north of Rangoon.
([AAPP 171108](#))

15 November

The nine members of the **88 Generation Students Group**, including **Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi, Mya Aye, Htay Kywe, Pyone Cho (aka) Htay Win Aung, Aung Thu, Hla Myo Naung, Aung Naing (aka) Myo Aung Naing** and **Nyan Lin**, who were transferred to Ma-ubin Prison in the delta region on 30 October 2008, were transferred back to Insein Prison. This was apparently in preparation for transfers to more remote prisons around the country. They arrived at Insein Prison in the afternoon and were allowed to meet with their family members, who had been on their way to visit them at Ma-ubin Prison and had to rush back to Insein instead. One of them, **Aung Thu** was sent to Insein Prison Hospital as soon as he arrived back to Insein because of his poor health. **Hla Myo Naung's** health is also reportedly deteriorating. ([US Campaign for Burma 151108](#))

13 November

Two members of the **88 Generation Students Group**, **Myo Yan Naung Thein** and **Min Min Soe** were sentenced to two years' imprisonment each by Rangoon Eastern District Court, held inside Insein Prison Compound. They have been detained since December 2007, and were charged under Section 505 (B) of the Penal Code. ([US Campaign for Burma 131108](#) and [Mizzima.131108](#))

Min Han, poet and 88 Generation Students Group member, was sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment by Rangoon Western District Court, held inside Insein Prison Compound. He has been detained in Insein Prison since September 2007. He was charged with Sections 145, 147 and 505 (B) of the Penal Code. ([US Campaign for Burma 131108](#))

11 November

Fourteen members of the **88 Generation Students Group** were sentenced to 65 years each. Those sentenced were all prominent members of the group, and included high profile leaders **Thin Thin Aye aka Mie Mie, Nilar Thein** and her husband **Kyaw Min Yu aka Jimmy**. The other members of the group are **Min Zeya, Zaw Zaw Min, Than Tin (aka) Kyi Than, Zay Ya (aka) Kalama, Ant Bwe Kyaw, Kyaw Kyaw Htwe (aka) Marky, Pannate Tun, Thet Zaw, Mar Mar Oo, Sandar Min (aka) Shwe, and Thet Thet Aung**. The sentence was handed down behind closed doors in Insein prison special court. Family members were not allowed to attend the hearing. ([AAPP 111108](#) and [dwb.121108](#)). They were sentenced for five counts of indictment, 15 years each for four counts under Section 33 (A) of the Electronic Transactions Law and 5 years imprisonment for one count under Section 6 of the Law Relating to the Forming of Organizations. They face another 16 counts of indictment and additional sentences ([US Campaign For Burma 111108](#))

On the same day, nine members of the 88 Generation Students group, including **Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi, Mya Aye, Htay Kywe, Pyone Cho (aka) Htay Win Aung, Aung Thu, Hla Myo Naung, Aung Naing (aka) Myo Aung Naing** and **Nyan Lin**, were sentenced to 65 years imprisonment by a special court held inside Ma-ubin Prison. They were sentenced to

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

15 years imprisonment each for four charges under Section 33 (A) of the Electronic Transactions Act and 5 years imprisonment for one charge under Section 6 of the Law Relating to the Forming of Organizations. ([US Campaign for Burma 151108](#) and [Mizzima 151108](#))

Min Ko Naing and the eight members of the group were previously sentenced to six-month imprisonment each by a court in Insein Prison on Oct 29 for contempt of court and transferred to Ma-ubin Prison on Oct 30. Therefore, they currently face 65 years and 6 months in prison. ([US Campaign for Burma 151108](#))

National League for Democracy members

472 members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) are currently detained. This month, at least 66 NLD members have been given sentences ranging from 4 months to life imprisonment plus 13 years. AAPP can confirm that at least 35 NLD members have been transferred to prisons away from Rangoon. For the full list of transferred political prisoners, please see the appendix.

28 November

The junta's court delivered harsh sentences to 7 members of the **Human Rights Defenders and Promoters Network**, including **Yan Shwe**, also an NLD member, who received life imprisonment plus 13 years. ([US Campaign for Burma 281108](#)).

26 November

Thein Swe, a member of NLD sentenced to 6 years and 6 months on 17 November, was transferred to Sittwe prison in Arakan state. Speaking to the media, his father U Min Swe said that transferring political prisoners far away from family is a kind of next punishment for them and their families. ([dvb.261108](#))

25 November

NLD Youth member **Zaw Min**, currently still under trial, was transferred to Thandwe Prison in Arakan State. **Tin Win**, sentenced to 2 years, was transferred to Myitkyina Prison in Kachin State. **Thike Min**, sentenced to 7 years and 6 months on 14 November 2008, was transferred to Hsipaw Prison in Shan State. ([AAPP 251108](#))

24 November

NLD member **Than Zaw Myint**, sentenced to 9 years and 6 months on 14 November, was transferred to Thaton Prison in Mon State. NLD member **Tun Tun Naing**, sentenced to 19 years on 7 November, was transferred to Meiktila Prison in Mandalay Division. NLD Youth member **Kyi Kyi War** (female) arrested on 4 January 2008 and sentenced to 11 years on 14 November 2008 (charged with sections 6, 32/b, and 13/1) was transferred to Paungte Prison in Pegu division. NLD member **Ma Nge** (female), arrested on 28 August 2007 and sentenced to 7 years and 6 months on 14 November 2008 (charged with sections 143, and 505/b) was transferred to Tharawaddy prison in Pegu division ([AAPP 241108](#)).

Soe Myint Htein, member of the NLD, Human Rights Defenders and Promoters network and the Myanmar Development Committee, arrested on 21 September 2007 and sentenced to 4

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

years and 6 months charged under sections 505/b, 143, and 147 on 6 October 2008, was transferred to Taunggyi prison in Shan State. ([AAPP 241108](#)).

22 November

A lone demonstrator staged a silent protest in front of detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party headquarters Saturday demanding the military government free all student activists as the country celebrated its National Day. Although the government does not hold any public events to mark the day, Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy regularly celebrates with a party.

Before the celebration, NLD party member **Min Thein** walked into the middle of the street in front of the party headquarters and stood silently with a placard reading, "Release Min Ko Naing and other political prisoners." Plainclothes police took videos and photos of Min Thein's lone protest but did not arrest him during the minutes he stood silently.

"I am expressing my feelings and I am ready to face all consequences," **Min Thein** told reporters after the protest ([Associated Press 221108](#)).

21 November

A special court held inside Insein Prison Compound sentenced 3 NLD members in the same hearing as 3 other activists and 5 monks. The NLD members were **Than Htay**, NLD Secretary from Tharkayta Township, Rangoon, NLD member **Ngwe Soe**, who received four years imprisonment each, and NLD member **Khin Tun** who received four years and six months imprisonment. Individual activist **Kyaw San Lin** received four years. ([AAPP 211108](#), [rfa 211108](#) and [US Campaign for Burma 211108](#))

A special court held inside Insein Prison Compound delivered harsh sentences to six NLD members and four monks, who have all been detained since September 2007 for their support of **U Gambira** and their participation in the Saffron Revolution. **Aung Kyaw Kyaw** (NLD member and **U Gambira**'s elder brother) and **Kyaw Naing** were sentenced to 14 years imprisonment each. NLD Youth member **Than Naing** from Taung Twin Gyi Township received 6 years imprisonment. NLD members **Shwe Maung**, **Zaw Win** and **Wunna Aung** from Mandalay were sentenced to four years imprisonment each. As they have already received four years imprisonment each from a different court last week, their total prison term become 8 years each. ([rfa 211108](#) and [US Campaign for Burma 211108](#))

20 November

A special court held inside Insein Prison Compound delivered sentences of two years and six months imprisonment each to a monk and 13 members of the National League for Democracy. They are **U Sandimar** (monk), **Thein Win** (NLD-South Okkalapa Township), **Myint Swe** (NLD-Kyee Mying Daing Township), **Maung Maung Thein** (NLD-Mingaladon Township), **Han Sein** (NLD-Insein Township), **Tin Ohn** (NLD-Aung San Myo Thit), **San Baw an Chit Khin** (NLD-Twan Tay Township), **Tun Myint** (NLD-Bahan Township Secretary), **Soe Oak** (NLD-Bahan Township Joint Secretary), **Kyaw San** (NLD-Nyaung Lay Bin Township), **Robert San Aung**, **Maung Sein** and **Myint Aung** (NLD-Wakema Township, Irrawaddy Division). They all were arrested on 19 June 2008 by the Swan Arr Shin, the regime's civilian militia, while they were attending a birthday ceremony for Daw

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

Aung San Suu Kyi at the NLD Headquarters. **Tin Ohn** is currently in the Rangoon General Hospital's guard ward and was sentenced in absentia. ([US Campaign for Burma 201108](#))

17 November

Two members of the NLD and one activist from the **Human Rights Defenders and Promoters** network were sentenced to six years and six months imprisonment. **Kyi Phyu** (NLD youth), **Thein Swe** (NLD youth) and **Myo Thant aka John Nawtha** (HRDP), received six years and six months imprisonment each. ([rfa.171108](#))

16 November

NLD spokesperson **U Nyan Win** condemned the prison transfers of student leaders. ([rfa 161108](#))

U Maung Maung Latt from Nyaungtone Township was transferred to Tharawaddy Prison in Pegu Division. ([AAPP 161108](#))

15 November

A special court held inside the Insein Prison Compound delivered harsh sentences to four NLD youth leaders from Htan Tabin Township. **Htar Htar Thet** (Female), **Aung Zaw Moe** (aka) **Aung Kyaw**, **Maung Maung Latt** and **Tun Tun Oo** arrested in September 2007, detained in Insein Prison and sent before Hlaing Thar Yar Township for trials. Their lawyers, **U Aung Thein** and **U Khin Maung Shein** were sentenced to four months each by the High Court on 7 November, under Section 3 of the Contempt of Court Act. **Htar Htar Thet** and **Tun Tun Oo** received 19 years imprisonment each and **Aung Zaw Moe** and **Maung Maung Latt** received 10 years each. ([US Campaign for Burma 151108](#))

14 November

Six NLD members were sentenced by Kamaryut Township Court held inside Insein Prison Compound. **Thant Zin Myo**, **Than Zaw Myint**, and **San Win** received nine years and six months imprisonment each and **Khaing Min**, **Kyaw Soe Win** and **Ma Nge** (female) received seven years and six months imprisonment each. They were arrested in August 2008 for their peaceful protests against rising commodity prices. ([US Campaign for Burma 141108](#) and [Mizzima 151108](#), [dvb.141108](#) and [rfa 141108](#)). **Thike Min** was also sentenced to seven years and six months by Kamaryut Township special court ([Irrawaddy 141108](#), [rfa 141108](#) and [Mizzima 151108](#)).

Among them, **Thant Zin Myo**, **San Win** and **Kyaw Soe Win** have already been sentenced to seven years and six months imprisonment on 13 November 2008, by a different court. **Thant Zin Myo** also received an additional two years imprisonment, for failing to appear before a court hearing. Therefore, **Thant Zin Myo's** total prison term is 19 years, and **San Win** and **Kyaw Soe Win** both face a total of 17 years in prison. ([US Campaign for Burma 141108](#) and [rfa 141108](#))

A judge from a special court held inside Insein Prison Compound also delivered sentences to NLD Youth members **Nyi Nyi Min** and **Tin Win** from South Dagon Myothit Township, and **U Tin Myint**, Chairman of Thaketa Township NLD. **Nyi Nyi Min** and **Tin Win** were sentenced to two years imprisonment each and **U Tin Myint**, was given two years and six

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

months imprisonment. ([US Campaign for Burma 141108](#), [Irrawaddy 141108](#), [rfa 141108](#) and [dvb 141108](#)).

A special court held inside Oo-Bo Prison in Mandalay delivered prison sentences to three Mandalay NLD members. **Shwe Maung, Wunna Aung** and **Zaw Win** have been detained since September 2007. They were charged with Section 505 (B) of the Penal Code and received four years' imprisonment each. ([US Campaign for Burma 141108](#)). **Shwe Maung** was imprisoned in 2002 for making a symbolic gold-coated copper hat, known as *kha mauk*, which was the emblem of NLD party when it won in the 1990 elections. The hat is a recognized NLD symbol and was intended as a gift for NLD leader Aung San Suu Kyi. ([Irrawaddy 141108](#))

Kyi Kyi War (Female), Kyaw Zin Win, Aung Kyaw Oo, Kyaw Kyaw Lin and **Nay Zar Myo Win**, who are all NLD Youth members in Dawbon Township in Rangoon, were sentenced to five years imprisonment each by Kyauktada Township Court ([US Campaign for Burma 141108](#) and [Irrawaddy 141108](#)). Another NLD member **Kyin Hlaing** also received four years imprisonment from the same court. They have all been detained since September 2007. **Kyi Kyi War** received an additional 6 years imprisonment for charges under the Unlawful Association Act and the Video Act, making a total of 11 years imprisonment. **Kyaw Zin Win** received an additional 11 years imprisonment for charges under the Unlawful Association Act, the Video Act and Immigration Act, making a total of 16 years imprisonment. **Kyaw Kyaw Lin** also received an additional imprisonment, making a total of 13 years imprisonment. ([AAPP 171108](#))

13 November

The junta's special courts inside Insein Prison Compound delivered seven years and six months imprisonment each with hard labor to 11 NLD members from Hlaing Thar Yar Township in Rangoon. They are **Thant Zin Myo, Kyaw Soe Win, Aung Min Naing (aka Mee Thwe, San Win, Myo Kyaw Zin, Win Myint, Yan Naing Tun, Than Naing** (a former political prisoner), **Soe Min Min aka Ah Nge Lay, Tin Yu,** and **Hla Hla Maw** (female). ([US Campaign for Burma 131108](#) and [Irrawaddy131108](#) and [Mizzima.131108](#)) They had previously appeared at Hlaing Thar Yar Township Court on 4 November. ([US Campaign for Burma 051108](#)) 72 year-old NLD Chairman **Tin Yu** from Hlaing Thar Yar Township had previously been hospitalized after being attacked while walking out the front door of his house by an unknown assailant in late March. ([Irrawaddy131108](#))

They were arrested on 15 May 2007, while they were marching towards the Shwe Dagon Pagoda, carrying posters and placards bearing the slogan "Free Daw Aung San Suu Kyi". They also wore T-shirts with Aung San Suu Kyi's photo on them. They were released a few days later and the authorities even announced their release in the newspaper, saying that "the Government regards them as sons and daughters of the Country and forgave them with great mercy." However, one year later, they were arrested again under the same charges, put in Insein Prison and sent before Hlaing Thar Yar Township Court for trial. During the court hearing, three defendants, **Yan Naing Tun, Myo Kyaw Zin** and **Aung Min Naing (aka Mee Thwe)** asked the Judge to summon the junta's Police Chief Brig. Gen Khin Yee and Information Minister Brig. Gen Kyaw Sann as their defense witnesses. The judge refused to grant their request and charged them, along with their lawyers **Nyi Nyi Htwe** and **Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min**, for contempt of court. The two lawyers were sentenced to six months'

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

imprisonment each by Rangoon Northern District Court on October 30. ([US Campaign for Burma 131108](#))

Myo Kyaw Zin now faces a total of 10 years in prison. He received 6 months for contempt of court in the same case as lawyers **Nyi Nyi Htwe** and **Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min**, 2 years on 5 November for protesting in court ([RFA-051108](#)) and 7 years and 6 months on 13 November. ([AAPP 171108](#))

Aung Min Naing (aka) Mee Thwe now faces a total of 12 years and 6 months in prison. He received 6 months for contempt of court in the same case as lawyers **Nyi Nyi Htwe** and **Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min**, 4 years and 6 months under Sections 143 and 505B of the Penal Code in early November, and 7 years and 6 months on 13 November. ([US Campaign for Burma 131108](#))

Yan Naing Tun now faces a total of 8 years in prison. He received 6 months for contempt of court in the same case as lawyers **Nyi Nyi Htwe** and **Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min**, and 7 years and 6 months on 13 November. ([AAPP 171108](#))

NLD member **Myo Khin** and an individual activist **Myo Khaing**, both detained since September 2007, were sentenced by Rangoon Eastern District Court, held inside Insein Prison Compound. They were charged under Sections 143, 145 and 505 (B) of the Penal Code. **Myo Khin** and **Myo Khaing** both received 4 years and six months imprisonment ([AAPP 171108](#)).

11 November

Dala Township Court sentenced **Ni Ni Mar** to two years' imprisonment. **Ni Ni Mar**, a cyclone survivor and NLD organizer from Dala Township, was arrested in October when she made a complaint about the relief items she received from the authorities. The authorities received relief supplies from international NGO AMI, for cyclone survivors. However, they kept the original relief supplies and sold them on the black market. They replaced the original items with low-quality items and issued them to cyclone survivors. When **Ni Ni Mar** complained, she was arrested and charged under Section 353 of the Penal Code, an offence of disturbing or interrupting an official duty. ([US Campaign for Burma 111108](#))

Than Naing, an NLD Youth member, former political prisoner and active campaigner to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, received seven and a half years imprisonment from Mingalar Taungnyunt Township Court in Rangoon ([AAPP 171108](#))

10 November

The regime ordered two more activists to serve a 19 year jail-term each in connection with last September's protests, without hearing their counter arguments, according to their families. Reverend **U Thattama** of Garna Puli monastery in Twante Township, Rangoon and NLD member **Htun Htun Naing aka Pho Nyan aka Win Oo**, a resident of nearby Insein, were sentenced by judge Sein Hla Oo of Eastern Rangoon Province court inside Insein prison. ([dvb-101108](#))

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

7 November

Three activists including NLD member **U Ohnn Kyaw** from Dawbon Township in Rangoon were sentenced to 5 years imprisonment. **Ko Tun Tun Win** from Bahan Township in Rangoon was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment ([dvb-071108](#)).

5 November

Six NLD leaders from Mandalay Division had their appeals rejected by Mandalay District court ([dvb-051108](#)). **Daw Win Mya Mya** and five other leaders of Mandalay Division Organizing Committee of the NLD (**U Kan Tun, Min Thu, U Than Lwin, Win Shwe and Tin Ko Ko**) were arrested in September 2007, and given sentences ranging from two to thirteen years' imprisonment on October 24 2008 by a judge from Aung Myay Thar Zan Township Court, held inside the Oo-Bo Prison compound. Their lawyers are **U Myint Thwin, U Myo Swe** and **U Shwe Hla** ([US Campaign for Burma 041108](#)).

U Kan Tun was given 12 years, **Min Thu** 13 years, **U Than Lwin** (MP for Madaya 2 constituency in Mandalay division) 8 years, **Win Shwe** 11 years, and **Tin Ko Ko** 2 years. ([AAPP171108](#)).

Monks

A total of 220 monks are currently detained. At least 27 have been given sentences ranging from 2 to 68 years in the case of **U Gambira**, a leader of the **All Burma Monks' Alliance**, founded last year during the Saffron Revolution. AAPP can confirm that at least 17 monks have been transferred to prisons away from Rangoon. For the full list of transferred political prisoners, please see the appendix.

25 November

U Eindaka aka U Panama aka Aung Than Myint, sentenced to a total of 20 years and 6 months, sentenced on 21 November 2008, was transferred to Lashio Prison in Shan State. **U Eithariya aka U Zin Gyoung Gyoung aka Aye Maung Gyi**, sentenced to 22 years on 21 November 2008, was transferred to Hsipaw Prison in Shan State.

24 November

U Thadhama (aka) Thet Zaw, sentenced to 19 years on 7 November under sections 33/a/38, 505/b, and 295/a, was transferred to Meiktila prison in Mandalay division. ([AAPP 241108](#))

U Zarnaya (aka) Nyan Win, sentenced to 6 years and 6 months on 11 November, charged with sections 505/b, 143, 145, and 147, was transferred to Meiktila prison in Mandalay division. ([AAPP 241108](#))

21 November

Monks **U Vilathetka aka Hla Htwe, U Nanda aka Than Htut, U Eindriya aka Aung Ko Nyein**, all of whom were sentenced to 6 years and 6 months with hard labour on 11 November 2008 (and all charged under sections 505b, 143, 145 and 147), were transferred to Monywa Prison in Sagaing Division. ([AAPP 211108](#))

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

Monk and former political prisoner **U Sandar Thiri aka U Payit aka Myint Han**, sentenced to 11 years imprisonment on 18 November 2008, was transferred to Shwe Bo Prison in Sagaing Division. ([AAPP 211108](#))

Monk **U Zavana aka Mote Sate aka San Win**, sentenced to 2 years imprisonment, was transferred to Mandalay Prison in Mandalay Division. Monk **U Pyanyar Thiha aka Myint Oo**, sentenced to 6 years, was transferred to Motepalin Labour Camp in Mon State. ([AAPP 221108](#))

A special court held inside Insein Prison Compound handed down an additional sentence, 12 years imprisonment with hard labor, to **U Gambira**, a leader of the All Burma Monks' Alliance (ABMA) which led the peaceful protests in September 2007. **U Gambira** has already received 12 years imprisonment by a different court on 18 November 18 2008 ([rfa181108](#) and [Mizzima.191108](#)) and 15 years on 20 November 2008. According to his relatives, his total prison term as of 21 November becomes 68 years. ([US Campaign for Burma 211108](#), [rfa 211108](#), [Irrawaddy 211108](#) and [Mizzima 211108](#)). **U Gambira** appeared in court on 16 November but his defence lawyer was not allowed into the court area ([rfa 161108](#)).

A special court held inside Insein Prison Compound delivered harsh sentences to four other monks and six activists, who have been detained since September 2007 for their support of **U Gambira** and their participation in the Saffron Revolution. **U Kaylartha** (a monk from Mandalay) received 4 years imprisonment. He was already given 35 years imprisonment by a different court on 18 November ([rfa181108](#)) therefore his total prison term becomes 39 years. **U Eindaka aka U Panama aka Aung Than Myint** (abbot of Maggin monastery) received four years imprisonment. As he was already given 16 years and six months' imprisonment on 6 November, his total prison term becomes 20 years and six months. **Eithariya aka U Zin Gyoung Gyoung aka Aye Maung Gyi** (a senior monk from Maggin monastery) also received 14 years imprisonment ([rfa 211108](#)). As he was already given 8 years' imprisonment on 6 November, his total prison term becomes 22 years. **U Thumana** (a monk and writer with the pen name Min Set) received six years imprisonment ([rfa 211108](#) and [US Campaign for Burma 211108](#))

A special court held inside Insein Prison Compound delivered harsh sentences to five monks, who have been detained since September 2007 for their participation in the peaceful protests. Five monks from Sasana Theikvan Monastery in Bahan Township, **U Pyanyar Thiha aka Myint Oo**, **U Nara Pati aka Tint Naing Tun**, **U Pyinnyar Depa**, and **U Zarnaya (aka) Nyan Win** received various imprisonments. However, only **U Pyanyar Thiha aka Myint Oo's** sentence of 6 years and **U Zarnaya (aka) Nyan Win's** sentence of 6 years and 6 months with hard labour have been confirmed, the other prison terms are not known yet. **U Okkan Thamala** received 5 years and 9 months ([rfa 211108](#)).

20 November

A special court held inside Insein Prison Compound handed down an additional sentence of 15 years with hard labour to **U Gambira aka Sandor Bartha aka Nyi Nyi Lwin**, a leader of the **All Burma Monks' Alliance** (ABMA) which led the peaceful protests in September 2007. This now brings **U Gambira's** total sentence to 27 years, following his sentence of 12 years delivered by a different court on 18 November. ([US Campaign for Burma 201108](#))

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

A special court held inside Insein Prison Compound delivered sentences of two years and six months imprisonment each to monk **U Sandimar** and 13 members of the National League for Democracy. ([US Campaign for Burma 201108](#))

18 November

Monks' leader **U Gambira aka Sandor Bartha aka Nyi Nyi Lwin** received 12 years imprisonment. He is a leader of the **All Burma Monks' Alliance** and played a key role in last September's Saffron Revolution. He was arrested in November 2007 and has been detained in Insein Prison since then. He faces a total of 16 different charges. His 12 year sentence was handed down by Kyee Mying Daing Township Court, held inside Insein Prison Compound.

Another monks' leader from Mandalay, **U Kaylartha aka U Kaythara aka Pho Lay** received 35 years imprisonment from the same court. He also played a leading role in the Saffron Revolution and has been detained since September 2007. He was charged with violating Section 505B of the State Offence Act, Section 13/1 of the Immigration Act, Section 17/2 of the Illegal Organisation Act and Section 6 of the Organisation Act. ([Irrawaddy 181108](#))

Two other monks, **U Pannita aka Myint Soe** and **U Sandar Thiri aka U Payit aka Myint Han** (a former political prisoner) were sentenced to 9 years and 11 years imprisonment respectively by Bahan Township Court, held inside Insein Prison Compound. They have both been detained since September 2007. **U Sandar Thiri** is from Shwe Aim Dhama Theingi Monastery in Thingangyun Township, Rangoon. ([US Campaign for Burma 181108](#))

17 November

U Sandar Wara aka U Sandar Vara aka Nyan Lin, a monk from Thiri Zayyar Monastery in North Okkalapa Township, Rangoon was sentenced to 8 ½ years imprisonment. A leader of last September's Saffron Revolution, he was arrested by the authorities and since then has been detained in Insein Prison. ([US Campaign for Burma 171108](#)). He was sentenced by Tamwe township court. ([DVB 181108](#))

14 November

Senior abbot **U San Dimar** from Kyar Monastery in Pazundaung Township, Rangoon was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment by Kyauktada Township Court. Abbot **U San Dimar** is well respected for his establishment of a boy's orphanage within his monastery. His monastery was raided by the regime's security forces in September 2007 during the Saffron Revolution, and he was arrested then. He was forcibly disrobed by the authorities and has been detained in Insein Prison. He received 8 years imprisonment under Sections 17 (1) and 17 (2) of the Unlawful Protection Act. His supporter, **Ko Ko (aka) Wunna Nwe**, also received 8 years imprisonment. Both still face outstanding charges under Section 6 of the Law Relating to the Forming of Organisations and Sections 5 and 6 of the Explosives Act. Their trials are due to continue on 23 November. ([US Campaign for Burma 141108](#))

13 November

Three monks were sentenced by a court from 4 ½ to 11 years imprisonment. **U Khaymar Wantha aka Kyaw Win** received 11 years imprisonment and two monks from Ngwe Kyar Yan Monastery in South Okkalapa Township, **U Gawsita aka U Gaw Thita aka Kyaw Sein**

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

and **U Zadila aka U Za Htila aka Sein Myint** received 4 ½ years imprisonment each. They all participated in last September's peaceful protests and have been detained in Insein Prison since then. (US Campaign for Burma 171108)

11 November

Five Buddhist monks from Ngwe Kyar Yan monastery in South Okkalapa Township in Rangoon were sentenced to six and a half year imprisonment each with hard labour. **U Zarnaya (aka) Nyan Win, U Agga Dhama aka Pho Tet, U Vilathetka aka Hla Htwe, U Nanda aka Than Htut Aye** and **U Eindriya aka Aung Ko Nyein** were arrested after the security forces brutally raided the monastery in September 2007. All of the monks were forcibly disrobed after their arrest and detained in Insein Prison. They were charged under Sections 143, 145, 147 and 505 (B) of the Penal Code and sent before South Okkalapa Township Court for trial. However, their sentences were delivered by a court held inside Insein Prison Compound. ([US Campaign For Burma 111108](#) and [Mizzima.121108](#))

On 4 November police brought the 5 monks to South Okkalapa Township Court for trial under the charges of Section 295 and 505 (B) of the Penal Code. The monks refused to proceed to the Court House from the police car and instead sat on the ground and recited the Metta Sutra, the Lord Buddha's teaching of loving and kindness. Security forces used force to drag them into the Court House in front of many people. Deputy Police Commissioner Mya Htay brought an additional complaint against them. They face an additional charge under section 353 of the Penal Code, the offence of assault or criminal force to deter a public servant from discharging his duty. It carries a penalty of two years' imprisonment, a fine or both.

([US Campaign for Burma 041108](#))

10 November

The courts ordered two more activists to serve a 19 year jail-term each in connection with last September's protests, without hearing their counter arguments, according to their families. Monk **U Thadhama (aka) Thet Zaw** of Garna Puli monastery in Twante Township, Rangoon and NLD member **Htun Htun Naing aka Pho Nyan aka Win Oo**, a resident of nearby Insein, were sentenced by judge Sein Hla Oo of Eastern Rangoon Province court inside Insein prison. ([dvb-101108](#)). They were both charged with Section 33 and 38 of the Electronic Transactions Law, and Sections 295 (A) and 505 (B) of the Penal Code. ([US Campaign for Burma 111108](#))

7 November

Two monks arrested in connection with last year's Saffron Revolution were given lengthy jail terms by Rangoon Kyauktaga township court. **U Eindaka aka U Panama aka Aung Than Myaint** (a former political prisoner), abbot of Maggin monastery was sentenced to 16 and half years' imprisonment while another monk **U Eithariya aka U Zin Gyoung Gyoung aka Aye Maung Gyi** (also a former political prisoner) who was staying at the monastery when it was raided by government officials in November 2007 was given 8 years. The two still face additional charges and could have their sentences extended ([dvb-071108](#)).

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

Cyclone Nargis volunteers

22 Cyclone Nargis volunteers are currently detained. In the month of November, 4 of them have been given harsh sentences by the regime. Two of them, well-known comedian **Zarganar** and his colleague **Zaw Thet Htwe**, are former political prisoners. They were given sentences totaling 59 years and 19 years respectively.

27 November

Zarganar and his two journalist friends were given additional prison terms by a special court in Rangoon's Insein Prison. **Zarganar**, who was sentenced to 45 years imprisonment in an earlier court appearance last week, received an additional 14 year prison term for offences under four sections of the criminal code—17/2, 32 (b), 295 (a) and 505 (b). He now faces 59 years in prison. His journalist friend and associate in a mission to deliver aid to cyclone victims, **Zaw Thet Htwe**, who had earlier been sentenced to 15 years imprisonment, received a further four years on Thursday for offences under sections 505 (b) and 295 (a), making a total of 19 years. Video journalist **Thant Zin Aung**, who had also been sentenced earlier to 15 years imprisonment, received an additional three years for infringements of section 32 (b), making a total of 18 years. ([Irrawaddy 271108](#))

21 November

Four volunteers, who devoted their time and energy to helping victims of Cyclone Nargis, were sentenced heavily by a closed-door court held inside Insein Prison Compound. Burma's famous comedian and social worker **Zarganar (aka) U Thura** received 45 years imprisonment. His colleagues **Zaw Thet Htwe** (a journalist and former political prisoner) and **Thant Zin Aung** received 15 years each and **Tin Maung Aye** received 29 years imprisonment. They all were arrested at the end of May and early June 2008, while they were delivering relief supplies to cyclone victims in the delta region, who were neglected by the regime. **Zarganar** and **Zaw Thet Htwe** were also strong supporters of Buddhist monks during the peaceful protests in Burma in September 2007. The trials of **Zarganar**, **Zaw Thet Htwe** and **Thant Zin Aung** continue with other charges. ([rfa 211108](#), [Mizzima 211108](#) and [Irrawaddy 211108](#) and [US Campaign for Burma 211108](#))

Women

A total of 184 women are currently detained. In the month of November, at least 22 women have been given sentences ranging from 2 to 65 years and 6 months. Some still face outstanding charges and are expected to receive additional sentences soon. **88 Generation Students Group** leading members **Mar Mar Oo**, **Sandar Min aka Shwee**, **Nilar Thein** and **Thet Thet Aung** were all sentenced to 65 years in prison on 11 November. **Nilar Thein** and **Thet Thet Aung's** husbands are also leading members of the group, and both couples have children, who are being looked after by extended family. The regime has separated **Nilar Thein** and her husband **Kyaw Min Yu aka Jimmy**, transferring **Nilar Thein** to Thayet Prison in Magwe division and **Kyaw Min Yu aka Jimmy** to Taunggyi Prison in Shan State.

Lawyers

Please Note: All information contained in this report is correct to the best of AAPP's knowledge at the time of going to press. The situation inside Burma is changing very rapidly, and this should be considered a 'live' document. If you reproduce this report or sections of it, please retain all original links and attribute it to AAPP. Thanks.

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

There are currently 13 lawyers detained in total. In the month of November, lawyers have been denied access to the court hearings, amid reports that they face increasing harassment ([Irrawaddy-31108](#)). 3 NLD lawyers were sentenced in the month of November.

20 November

A special court held inside Insein Prison Compound sentenced NLD lawyer **Robert San Aung** to 2 years and 6 months imprisonment, along with 12 other NLD members and a monk. ([US Campaign for Burma 201108](#))

16 November

Lawyer **U Aung Thein** was transferred to Bassein Prison in Irrawaddy Division, 140 miles west of Rangoon. Lawyer **U Khin Maung Shein** was transferred to Myaung Mya Prison in Irrawaddy Division, 170 miles west of Rangoon. ([AAPP 171108](#))

7 November

NLD lawyers **U Khin Maung Shein** and **U Aung Thein** were each sentenced to four months' imprisonment for 'contempt of court' ([dvb-071108](#) and [irrawaddy-071108](#)). They were charged under section 3 of the Contempt of Court Act ([US Campaign for Burma 071108](#)) and appeared in court to defend themselves on 6 November ([rfa-061108](#)). The two lawyers had more than 100 cases and were representing many high profile activists including 88 Generation Student leader **Min Ko Naing**, monk leader **U Gambira** and comedian **Zarganar**. Meanwhile trials of political activists continue without their defence lawyers ([AAPP 071108](#)).

3 November

U Kyaw Hoe, a defense lawyer for students, reported that prison authorities have forbidden defence lawyers from representing the remaining 88 Generation Students who are still in Insein prison and under trial at southern district special court, after nine 88 Generation Students Group members were sentenced to six months for contempt of court and transferred to Maubin Prison. ([RFA 31108](#))

Human Rights Defenders & Promoters network

37 members of the **Human Rights Defenders and Promoters** (HRDP) network are currently detained. At least 9 have been sentenced in the month of November, in some cases to extremely harsh sentences. The group's founding member **U Myint Aye** was sentenced to life imprisonment plus 8 years, along with his colleague **Zaw Zaw Aung**. **Yan Shwe** (also an NLD member) was sentenced to life imprisonment plus 13 years. At least 6 have been transferred to prisons away from Rangoon. For the full list of transferred political prisoners, please see the appendix.

28 November

The junta's court delivered harsh sentences to 7 members of the **Human Rights Defenders and Promoters Network**, including its leader **Myint Aye**. They were all arrested in August 2008 and accused of planning to cause an explosion in Shwe Pyi Thar Township. **Myint Aye**, **Yan Shwe** (also an NLD member) and **Zaw Zaw Aung** received life imprisonment. In addition to the life imprisonment, they also received 8-year, 13-year and 8-year

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

imprisonments respectively. **Myo Min**, **Thant Zaw Mying** and **Nan Aung** received 8-year imprisonments each and **Tun Tun Oo** was sentenced to 5 years in prison ([US Campaign for Burma 281108](#)).

25 November

A group of Human Rights Defenders and Promoters, including its leader **U Myint Aye**, appeared in Insein Prison Special Court. Their families were not informed about the court hearing. **U Myint Aye's** lawyers were **U Khin Maung Shein**, sentenced to 4 months on 7 November and **Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min**, who is currently in hiding and was sentenced in absentia at the end of October to 6 months imprisonment. The group will appear in court again on 27 or 28 November. ([rfa.251108](#))

21 November

Kyaw Soe aka Kyaw Kyaw Soe aka Jaffri, sentenced to 10 years on 11 November 2008 (under sections 13/1, 17/1 and 505/b), was transferred to Myingyan Prison in Mandalay Division. **Aung Myint**, sentenced to 2 years on 11 November 2008 (under section 505/b), was transferred to Myaungmya Prison in Irrawaddy Division. ([AAPP 211108](#))

20 November

HRDP member and former political prisoner **U Maung Kan**, sentenced to 10 years on 11 November, was transferred to Taunggyi prison in Shan State. ([AAPP 211108](#))

17 November

One activist from the **Human Rights Defenders and Promoters** network and two members of the NLD were sentenced to six years and six months imprisonment. **Myo Thant** (HRDP), **Kyi Phyu** (NLD) and **Thein Swe** (NLD) received six years and six months imprisonment each. ([US Campaign for Burma 171108](#))

16 November

Human Rights Defenders and Promoters network member **Aung Zaw Oo** was transferred to Bago (Pegu) Prison in Bago Division, 50 miles north of Rangoon. (US Campaign for Burma 171108 and [rfa181108](#) and [dvb.181108](#)). He was sentenced to 12 years imprisonment on 11 November.

Other organisations

A number of new activist organizations were formed by young people at the time of last year's Saffron Revolution, including Justice, The Best Manure, and Generation Wave.

26 November

Tin Myo Htut (aka) Kyaw Oo, and **Saw Maung** who are from Generation Wave were sentenced to 8 years imprisonment each by Kemmedine township court ([rfa 261108](#)).

21 November

Lan Pya Kyal, the **Guiding Star** group, lead by lawyer **U Aye Myint** (winner of the Ludovic-Trarieux International Human Rights Prize from Europe), released a statement criticizing the

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

unfair 6 month sentences handed down to youth lawyers **Ko Nyi Nyi Htwe** and **Saw Kyaw Kyaw Min** for contempt of court. ([dvb21108](#))

20 November

A judge from Lanmadaw Township in Rangoon delivered harsh sentences to six members of the **Generation Wave** group, which was formed by young Burmese people during the Saffron Revolution. They are **Arkar Bo**, **Aung Zay Phyo**, **Thiha Win Tin**, **Yan Naing Thu**, **Wai Lwin Phyo** and **Zay Yar Thaw**. They all received five years imprisonment each under Section 6 of the Law Relating to Forming an Organization. Famous hip-hop musician **Zayar Thaw** received an additional one under the charge of Section 24 (1) of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, bringing his total sentence to 6 years. ([AAPP 221108](#))

Ten minutes before his sentence was passed, **Zayar Thaw** made the following statement:

'I feel sad, but not because of my imprisonment. As a citizen, I exercised my rights to freedom of opinion and expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, according to Articles 19, 20, 21 included in the 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Without basic human rights like those, while many people are being imprisoned, charged under sections of law, how can we believe that 2010 will bring true democracy and human rights? I feel sad for the future of our country and people when I think about these facts. These words come from my heart. I wish to say to people, "Have the courage to reject the things you don't like, and even if you don't dare to openly support the right thing, don't support the wrong thing." ' [Unofficial translation by AAPP 25 November 2008. \(Generation Wave 201108\)](#)

3 November

Eight young Burmese activists, **Kyaw Zin Min**, **Wunna Nwe**, **Ko Nge**, **Kyaw Oo**, **Saw Maung**, **Aung Moe Lwin**, **Myo Htet Nay** and **Zin Min Shein**, who were all arrested in September 2008, appeared before Rangoon Western District Court and were charged under Section 6 of the Law Relating to the Forming of Organizations. The judge set the next hearing for November 10, 2008. They are members of "Justice" and "The Best Manure", two activist groups formed secretly during September 2007's Saffron Revolution. In August 2008, the two groups combined and formed a new coalition, called the "All Burma Democratic Alliance (ABDA)" to increase their non-violent action to promote freedom and democracy in Burma. ([US Campaign for Burma 041108](#) and [rfa-41108](#))

Journalists, bloggers and writers

This month, at least 19 journalists, bloggers and writers have been given sentences ranging from 3 months to 20 years. AAPP can confirm that at least 5 have been transferred to prisons away from Rangoon. For the full list of transferred political prisoners, please see the appendix.

28 November

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

Two journalists, **Thet Zin** and **Sein Win Maung**, arrested on 16 February 2008, were each sentenced to 7 years in prison by a closed-door court held inside Insein Prison Compound today. **Thet Zin** is a former political prisoner and Editor-in-Chief of the Myanmar Nation Weekly Journal. **Sein Win Maung** was the Administrative Manager of the journal and they were arrested together when the junta's security forces raided the journal office and their homes ([AAPP 281108](#) and [US Campaign for Burma 281108](#)).

24 November

Lu Tin Win, writer, poet and former political prisoner, arrested on 28 September 2007, and sentenced to 4 years charged under sections 147, and 505/b on 18 September 2008, was transferred to Tavoy prison in Tenasserim division. ([AAPP 241108](#))

23 November

Blogger **Nay Phone Latt's** mother went to visit her son in Pa-an prison in Karen state. Afterwards, she said, "He told me that he can stand the long imprisonment given to him, but he's upset that he can't carry on using his skills to work for Burmese people." ([rfa.231108](#))

16 November

Poet **Saw Wai** from Phyu Township in Pegu division was transferred to Mandalay Prison in Mandalay division, 432 miles north of Rangoon. On 10 November he was sentenced to two years imprisonment. He was arrested on 22 January 2008, after his poem mocking Than Shwe entitled "February 14" was published in the Love Journal. The first words of each line of the poem spelled out "Power Crazy Senior General Than Shwe". ([AAPP-111108](#)) He was charged with Section 505 (B) of the Penal Code. ([US Campaign for Burma 171108](#))

Blogger **Nay Phone Latt** was transferred to Pa-an Prison in Karen State, 135 miles northeast of Rangoon. ([AAPP 171108](#), [US Campaign for Burma 171108](#) and [rfa.171108](#)). On 10 November **Nay Myo Kyaw (aka) Nay Phone Latt** was sentenced to twenty years and six months by vice district Judge Daw Soe Nyan from Northern Rangoon district. His trial was held behind closed doors in Insein prison special court. **Nay Phone Latt** is a youth member of the National League for Democracy and one of Burma's best-known bloggers. **Thin July Kyaw (aka) Pho Mu (aka) Karin Ma** was sentenced to two years and six months during the same proceedings. **Thin July Kyaw**, an activist, is from Dagon Township in Rangoon. ([AAPP-111108](#)). **Nay Myo Kyaw (aka) Nay Phone Latt** was sentenced to 2 years under Section 505 (B) of the Penal Code, three years and six months under Sections 32 and 26 of the Television and Video Law, and 15 years under Sections 33 and 38 of the Electronic Communications Law. ([US Campaign for Burma 111108](#))

13 November

Poet and 88 Generation Students Group member **Min Han** was sentenced to 11 years' imprisonment by Rangoon Western District Court, held inside Insein Prison Compound. He has been detained in Insein Prison since September 2007. He was charged with Sections 145, 147 and 505 (B) of the Penal Code. ([US Campaign for Burma 201108](#) and [US Campaign for Burma 131108](#) and [Mizzima131108](#) and [dwb 141108](#)).

14 November

Please Note: All information contained in this report is correct to the best of AAPP's knowledge at the time of going to press. The situation inside Burma is changing very rapidly, and this should be considered a 'live' document. If you reproduce this report or sections of it, please retain all original links and attribute it to AAPP. Thanks.

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

Ein Khaing Oo, a 24-year female reporter from Eco Vision Journal was sentenced to two years imprisonment by Tamwe Township Court. She was arrested in July 2008 and charged under Section 505 (B) of the Penal Code. Her colleague **Kyaw Kyaw Thein**, former editor of Weekly Journal, was also arrested together with **Ein Khaing Oo**. He received 7 years imprisonment from the same court under Sections 124 and 505 (B) of the Penal Code. ([US Campaign for Burma 141108](#) and [Mizzima141108](#) and [\(dvh 141108\)](#)).

On July 10 2008, they brought some cyclone survivors from Hlaing Thar Yar Township to the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Rangoon. In the ICRC office, they helped translate for the cyclone survivors who complained about the neglect of the regime and requested assistance from the ICRC. While they were on the way to UNDP office, they all were arrested. The cyclone survivors were later released later, but the two journalists have been held in detention since then. The authorities also accused them of taking photographs of the damage done by cyclone Nargis and sending them to foreign media. ([US Campaign for Burma 141108](#))

10 November

U Khin Maung Aye, editor of News Watch journal and **Ko Tun Tun**, a journalist from News Watch journal, were each sentenced to 3 months imprisonment. ([khitpyaing-101108](#)). They were reported to have been arrested on 6 November. ([khitpyaing-061108](#))

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

6 November

Daw Aung San Su Kyi was allowed a visit from her family doctor for a health check-up. ([rfa-061108](#))

Labour activists

28 November

Four farmers from Magwe Division who made a complaint to the International Labour Organisation (ILO) about land confiscation, have gone on trial at Natmauk Township Court. **Hla Soe**, **Nay Lin** and **Sein Sating** from Natmauk Township were arrested on October 20 2008, and **Zaw Htay** from Aunglan Township was arrested on October 30 2008. They are being charged under Sections 33 (A) and 38 of the Electronic Transactions Law, which is punishable with a 15-year sentence. They are accused of using the internet to send state secrets to the international community.

A group of farmers from Aunglan and Natmauk Townships in Magwe Division sent a letter to the ILO office in Rangoon in July 2008, appealing for the ILO to help them get back their farmlands which were forcibly confiscated by the authorities. Central Military Weapons and Ammunitions Warehouse Battalion, stationed nearby Natmauk-Magway Railroad confiscated 5,000 acres from farmers in 2006 without compensation for its headquarters expansion. 49 farmers signed the letter to the ILO. After Hla Soe, Nay Lin and Sein Sating and Zaw Htay

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

were arrested, the rest of the signatories have gone into hiding to avoid being arrested. ([US Campaign For Burma 281108](#))

21 November

A special court held inside Insein Prison Compound sentenced labour activist **Tun Tun Naing** to 4 years imprisonment, in the same hearing as 5 other activists and 5 monks. The other activists were NLD members **Than Htay** and **Ngwe Soe**, who received four years imprisonment each, individual activist **Kyaw San Lin**, who received four years, and NLD member **Khin Tun** who received four years and six months imprisonment. ([AAPP 211108](#), [rfa 211108](#) and [US Campaign for Burma 211108](#))

18 November

Labour activist **Su Su Nway** was transferred to Mandalay Prison in Mandalay Division, 432 miles north of Rangoon on 16 November, then to Kale Prison in Sagaing Division on 18 November. Her colleague **Bo Bo Win Hlaing** was transferred to Putao Prison in Kachin State, 1150 miles north of Rangoon. ([US Campaign for Burma 171108](#)) On 11 November **Su Su Nway** was sentenced to 12 years and 6 months under sections 130 (B), 152 and 505 (B) of the Penal Code. Her colleague **Bo Bo Win Hlaing** from the NLD received 8 years imprisonment under section 124 (A) of the Penal Code. They were both arrested on 13 November 2007. ([US Campaign For Burma 111108](#))

4 November

Three farmers who reported the seizure of their farms to the International Labour Organisation's office in Rangoon were detained by the army. ([dvb-41108](#))

Seven labour activists were transferred from Insein prison to various prisons in Upper Burma. They include **Kyaw Kyaw**, **Thu Rein Aung**, **Myo Min** and **Kyaw Min**. Two of them, **Kyaw Kyaw** and **Thu Rein Aung**, met the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma, **Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana** on 5 August 2008 in Insein Prison during his recent trip to Burma. All seven were arrested on 1 May 2007 after attending a May Day event at the American Center in Rangoon and were sentenced to life imprisonment plus eight years. ([US Campaign For Burma 041108](#))

Students

There are currently 271 students detained. At least 16 have been sentenced in the month of November, to sentences ranging from 3 years 6 months to 24 years. At least 11 have been transferred to prisons around the country. For the full list of transferred political prisoners, please see the appendix.

24 November

Student **Ye Myat Hein** was transferred to Kale prison in Sagaing Division. He was sentenced to a total of 16 years on 17 November. Student **Zin Lin Aung**, arrested on 27 October 2007 and sentenced to 6 years and 6 months on 17 November, charged under sections 124/a, 505/b, 295/a, 147, 145, and 143, was transferred to Paungte prison in Pegu division. **Honey Oo**, student and member of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions, arrested on 9 October 2007 and sentenced to 9 years and 6 months on 13 November 2008 (charged with sections

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

143, 145, 124/a, and 6), was transferred to Lashio prison in Shan state. **Ye Min Oo**, student and member of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions, arrested on 9 October 2007, and sentenced to 6 years on 17 November 2008 (charged with sections 124/a, 505/b, 295/a, 147, 145, and 143) was transferred to Myingyan prison in Sagaing division. ([AAPP 241108](#)).

Aung Thein Lwin (aka) Aung Aung (aka) Shell, a student and former political prisoner, arrested on 27 November 2007, and sentenced to 11 years on 30 October, charged under sections 145, 147, 152, 195/a, and 505/b, was transferred to Bamaw prison in Kachin state. ([AAPP 241108](#)).

21 November

Nay Lin Aung aka Lin Lin, who was sentenced to 22 years on 11 November 2008 (charged under sections 17/1, 505/b and 17/20) was transferred to Kale Prison in Sagaing Division. **Aung Myo Paing aka Ahyoe**, sentenced to 10 years on 11 November 2008, (under sections 505/b, 13/1 and 17/1), was transferred to Kawthaung Prison in Tenasserim Division. ([AAPP 211108](#))

20 November

Pyae Phyto Hlaing aka Ah Thay Lay, sentenced to 24 years on 11 November (charged under sections 17/1, 505/b, 17/20 and 13/1) was transferred to Buthidaung Prison in Arakan State. **Myat Lin Htut aka Pyaung Gyi**, sentenced to 10 years on 11 November 2008 (under sections 17/1, 505/b, and 13/1) was transferred to Lashio Prison in Shan State. **Pyae Phyto Aung aka Hnan Mue**, sentenced to 10 years on 11 November 2008 (under sections 17/1, 505/b, and 13/1), was transferred to Pa-an Prison in Karen State. ([AAPP 201108](#))

Thiha Aung aka Aung Aung, sentenced to 8 years on 11 November 2008 (charged under sections 17/1, 13/1 and 505/b), was transferred to Loikaw Prison in Kayah State. **Phyo Maung Maung Soe aka Phyo Gyi**, sentenced to 10 years on 11 November 2008 (under sections 17/1, 505/b and 17/20), was transferred to Kyaukphyu Prison in Arakan State. ([AAPP 201108](#))

Han Win Aung, sentenced to 7 years imprisonment, was transferred to Taungoo Prison in Pegu Division ([AAPP 201108](#)). **Thiha Thet Zin**, sentenced to a total of 18 years on 18 November 2008, was transferred to Kengtung Prison in Shan State. ([AAPP 201108](#))

19 November

De Nyein Lin, a leading member of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions, was sentenced to six years and six months imprisonment on charges relating to his involvement in anti-government demonstrations, family members reported. The sentence was handed down by a court in Rangoon's Sanchaung Township. **De Nyein Lin's** father **Zaw Zaw Min**, a member of the 88 Generation Students Group, was sentenced to 65 years on 11 November. **De Nyein Lin's** grandfather, veteran journalist **Saw Win**, a member of the opposition National League for Democracy, died in prison in 1998, seven years into a 10-year sentence. ([Irrawaddy 191108](#) and ([Mizzima 191108](#)).

Two Township Courts in Rangoon delivered harsh sentences to two other members of the **All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU)**. Sanchaung Township Court sentenced **Kyaw Htay Lwin (aka) Kyaw Swar** to four years and five years imprisonment respectively.

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

Kyaw Htay Lwin received an additional six years and six months from Kyauktada Township Court on the same day, bringing his total sentence to 11 years and 6 months. ([US Campaign for Burma 201108](#))

18 November

Thiha Thet Zin received an additional 10 years imprisonment from a special court. His total prison term becomes 18 years, as he had previously been sentenced to 8 years on 11 November. He is the sole survivor in his family as his parents, wife and children were all killed by Cyclone Nargis while he was in detention.

His first cousin, **Thein Zaw** also received an additional 5 years imprisonment from the same court. He had also previously been sentenced to 8 years on 11 November, so his total prison term is now 13 years. ([US Campaign for Burma 181108](#))

13 November

21-year old law student **Honey Oo** was sentenced to nine years and six months imprisonment by Rangoon Eastern District Court. She is a member of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU) and has been detained since September 2007. She was charged under Sections 143, 145, and 124 of the Penal Code and Section 6 of the Law Relating to the Forming of Organizations.

Her defense lawyer **U Aung Thein** was charged under Section 3 of the Contempt of Court Act and sentenced to four months imprisonment on November 7 2008. She was sentenced without a defence lawyer.

Honey Oo was accused by authorities of participating in the protests on September 25-26 2007 in Rangoon. However, Honey, who was a fourth year law student then, was sitting an examination at Dagon University on those days. The University authorities refused to issue a written statement to prove that she was in the examination room at that time. The University authorities also refused to testify before the Court. ([US Campaign for Burma 131108](#))

11 November

Nine young student activists from Bogalay Township in Irrawaddy Division, arrested since September 2007 and detained in Insein Prison, received harsh sentences from a special court held inside Insein Prison Compound. **Pyae Phyto Hlaing** was sentenced to 24 years imprisonment under Section 13 (1) of the Immigration Act, Section 17 (1) of the Unlawful Association Act, Section 17/20 of the Printers and Publishers Registration Act and Section 505 (B) of the Penal Code. **Nay Lin Aung (aka) Lin Lin** was sentenced to 22 years imprisonment under the same sections of law. **Aung Myo Paing (aka) Ahyoe, Phyto Maung Maung Soe (aka) Phyto Gyi, Myat Lin Htut (aka) Pyaung Gyi, Pyae Phyto Aung (aka) Hnan Mue**, were sentenced to 10 years imprisonment each with the same charges except Section 17/20. **Thiha Aung (aka) Aung Aung** was sentenced to 8 years. (AAPP 171108).

Thein Zaw and **Thiha Thet Zin** were sentenced to 8 years imprisonment each with the same charges except Sections 17/20 and 505 (B). **Thiha Thet Zin** is a sole survivor in his family as his parents, his wife and children were all killed by Cyclone Nargis while he was in prison ([US Campaign for Burma 111108](#))

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

Individual activists

At least 28 individual activists have been sentenced in the month of November, and at least 8 have been transferred to prisons around the country. For the full list of transferred political prisoners, please see the appendix.

30 November

Burma's famous musician **Win Maw** is currently being held in Taungoo Prison in Pegu Division. On 11 November he received a seven-year imprisonment from Mingalar Taungnyunt Township Court in Rangoon for his leading role in video-recording the bloody events of the Saffron Revolution and distributing DVDs containing footage of the brutal crackdown by the junta's security forces against peaceful protesting monks. ([AAPP 221108](#))

25 November

Aung Than, sentenced to 2 years, was transferred to Thandwe Prison in Arakan State ([AAPP 251108](#)).

24 November

Ma Ei (female), arrested on 2 October 2007 and sentenced to 5 years under sections 295/a and 15/a, was transferred to Paungte Prison in Pegu Division. **Thit Lwin Oo**, who was arrested on 15 May 2007, was transferred to Tavoy Prison in Tenasserim division. **Myo Khaing (aka) Kalarlay**, who was arrested between August and October 2007, and sentenced to 4 years and 6 months on 13 November 2008 (charged under sections 143, 147, and 505/b), was transferred to Tharawaddy prison in Pegu division. **Aung Thin Khaing aka Thar Gyi** was transferred to Moulmein Prison in Mon State. ([AAPP 241108](#))

21 November

Individual activist **Kyaw San Lin** received four years imprisonment from a special court held inside Insein Prison Compound ([AAPP 211108](#), [rfa 211108](#) and [US Campaign for Burma 211108](#)). 5 other activists and 5 monks were sentenced in the same hearing. They included NLD members **Than Htay**, NLD Secretary from Tharkayta Township, Rangoon, NLD member **Ngwe Soe**, who received four years imprisonment each, and NLD member **Khin Tun** who received four years and six months imprisonment. ([AAPP 211108](#), [rfa 211108](#) and [US Campaign for Burma 211108](#))

Thein Aye, sentenced to 2 years on 11 November, was transferred to Myitkyina Prison in Kachin State. ([AAPP 211108](#))

Thin July Kyaw (aka) Pho Mu (aka) Karin Ma was transferred to Prome Prison in Pegu Division. On 10 November she was sentenced to two years and six months during the same proceedings as **Nay Myo Kyaw (aka) Nay Phone Latt**. **Thin July Kyaw**, an activist, is from Dagon Township in Rangoon. ([AAPP 211108](#))

17 November

Consumer activist **Htin Kyaw aka Kyaw Htin** was sentenced to 12 ½ years imprisonment. He is the founder of the Myanmar Development Committee and a former political prisoner who led protests against commodity price rises in August 2007. He was arrested in

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

September 2007 and has been detained in Insein Prison since then. His trial has been frequently interrupted, as he has protested against the unfair process at many of his court appearances. The day he was sentenced, he refused to attend court, and therefore the judge delivered the sentence in his absence and prison officials came to his prison cell to read the verdict. (US Campaign For Burma 171108). He was sentenced by judge U Kyaw Swe from Western Rangoon District Court inside Insein Prison Compound. ([DVB 181108](#) and [Mizzima 171108](#))

14 November

A special court held inside Insein Prison Compound handed down an 8-year sentence to **Saw Maset**. He was arrested in December 2007 and charged under Sections 17 (1) and 17 (2) of the Unlawful Association Act. ([US Campaign for Burma 141108](#))

Ko Ko (aka) Wunna Nwe, received 8 years imprisonment from Kyauktada Township Court for his work to support senior abbot **U San Dimar**. **U San Dimar** was also sentenced to 8 years imprisonment. ([US Campaign for Burma 141108](#))

13 November

Rangoon Western District Court, held inside Insein Prison Compound, sentenced computer technician **Mya Mya Theint** (Female) to 5 years imprisonment in the same court hearing as poet and 88 Generation Students Group member **Min Han** was sentenced to 11 years. ([US Campaign for Burma 131108](#))

Individual activist **Myo Khaing** and NLD member **Myo Khin**, both detained since September 2007, were sentenced by Rangoon Eastern District Court, held inside Insein Prison Compound. They were charged under Sections 143, 145 and 505 (B) of the Penal Code. **Myo Khaing** and **Myo Khin** both received 4 years and six months imprisonment. ([AAPP 171108](#))

A court hearing held inside Insein Prison Compound sentenced **Thein Aye** to two years imprisonment. He has been suffering from mental illness for a long time and was arrested in October 2007, when police raided his house. Police accused him of providing a hiding place for student leader **De Nyein Lin**, and arrested him instead when they couldn't find **De Nyein Lin**. **De Nyein Lin** was arrested later at another location, and is currently detained in Insein Prison. ([US Campaign for Burma 171108](#))

11 November

Burma's famous musician **Win Maw** received a seven-year imprisonment from Mingalar Taungnyunt Township Court in Rangoon for his leading role in video-recording the bloody events of the Saffron Revolution and distributing DVDs containing footage of the brutal crackdown by the junta's security forces against peaceful protesting monks. ([AAPP 221108](#))

Ethnic nationalities

There are currently 211 ethnic nationalities detained. At least 12 were sentenced in the month of November.

18 November

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

Three ethnic nationality youth leaders were sentenced by Kye Mying Daing Township Court, held inside Insein Prison Compound. Two Chin youth leaders, **Kyaw Soe (aka) Kam Lat Hkat** and **Kat Hkat Kwal** received 33 years and 8 years imprisonment respectively. They are son and nephew of Chin leader and MP-elect **U Pu Chin Sian Thang** (Chairman of Zomi National Congress) respectively. An Arakanese youth leader **Tin Htoo Aung** also received 33 years imprisonment. ([US Campaign for Burma 181108](#) and ([rfa.181108](#)). The three activists were accused of taking part in protests demanding national reconciliation, and were arrested at a teashop in Rangoon on 28 October 2007. ([Mizzima 191108](#))

11 November

A court in Maung Taw Township in Arakan State delivered harsh sentences to nine Muslim leaders. They were arrested by the authorities in March 2008, while they were holding a meeting at the residence of **Than Tun**, who is a lawyer. Among the 12 arrested, the authorities released three in exchange to use them as prosecution witnesses. They were accused by the authorities of planning to form an illegal organization with intention to instigate unrest in the country.

Than Tun was sentenced to 13 and a half year imprisonment. **Kyaw Win**, who was the founder of the NLD branch in Maung Taw Township, and another 7 co-defendants, received ten years' imprisonment each. ([US Campaign for Burma 111108](#))

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

Key international developments

26 November

The Burma Fund, Policy Think Tank of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma (Burmese Government in Exile), has launched a new report, "**The Findings in the Open Heart Letter Campaign**" compiled by the 88 generation student leaders before they were arrested by the military regime in August, 2007.

The Burma Fund published this report on 22 November, 2008 - the 88th Anniversary of the first historic boycott against British colonial rule by Rangoon University students.

This report honours all members of the 88 Generation students Group who had already served long prison terms but were recently subjected to 65 years prison sentences ([Burma Partnership 261108](#))

24 November

Asia Human Rights Commission condemns lawyer sentences

A regional human rights body has condemned the Burmese military rulers for arbitrarily sentencing two lawyers, who were acting as defence counsels for political activists and called for their immediate release.

The Asia Human Rights Commission (AHRC) during a consultation meeting concluded on Sunday called for the release of Burma's Supreme Court advocates Khin Maung Shein and Aung Thein, who addressed the complaints of their clients -- political activists arrested for anti-government protests last year -- to the court.

"The imprisonment of the two Supreme Court advocates in this case must be deemed arbitrary, and we the assembled jurists, lawyers and legal academics duly call for the immediate release of U Aung Thein and U Khin Maung Shein," AHRC said in a press release on Sunday ([Mizzima 241108](#))

21 November

Call to ASEAN leaders

Activists from over 40 civil society networks and organizations across the Asia-Pacific Region called on ASEAN leaders to actively demand the release of all political prisoners in Burma, particularly asking the issue to be brought to focus at the upcoming ASEAN summit in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

The open letter, endorsed by 44 organizations, states, "So far in November the military regime has sentenced 137 pro-democracy activists, some with sentences up to 65 years imprisonment ... These arbitrary trials and imprisonments are more than just incidences of injustice, but political actions aimed at perpetuating fear and prolonging dictatorial domination in Burma."

The activists want ASEAN leaders to recognize the continual arrest and sentencing of pro-democracy activists - artists, students, monks, journalists, lawyers and civilians - as an indication of the increasing instability in Burma. They believe the military junta is not

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

working towards national reconciliation, which many international leaders and ASEAN ministers have called for, but instead actively attempting to silence any person or organization struggling for a government that respects human rights and the rule of law.

“Burma is already a red stain on ASEAN’s name, and problems of its further instability are already spilling over. Ever since Burma’s military regime pledged to sign the ASEAN charter, it has moved further from the standards of the Charter and engaged in harsh measures that create an insecure society. ASEAN leaders must not ignore these actions,” noted Khin Ohmar, Coordinator of the Burma Partnership. ([Burma Partnership 211108](#))

General Assembly Human Rights Committee

A key U.N. committee criticized Myanmar and North Korea on their human rights records Friday, and also targeted Iran despite its efforts to block the vote. Separate resolutions approved by the General Assembly's human rights committee expressed serious concern at accusations of abuse including attacks on peaceful demonstrators in Myanmar, public executions in North Korea, and torture, flogging and amputations in Iran.

A resolution strongly condemning "the ongoing systematic violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights" in Myanmar was approved by a vote of 89 to 29 with 63 abstentions.

It expressed "grave concern" at the continuing practice of enforced disappearances, sexual violence including rape, the extension of the house arrest of pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, "as well as the high and increasing number of political prisoners.”

The resolutions now go to the 192-member General Assembly for final votes, expected next month. Though resolutions approved by the full assembly are not legally binding, they carry moral weight and reflect the majority view of world opinion. ([Associated Press 211108](#))

19 November

Call for ICC referral for Burma

The Burma Lawyers’ Council and the Global Justice Center called for the UN Security Council to refer Burma to the International Criminal Court. Certain judges in Burma, acting under the orders of Chief Justice U Aung Toe and Senior General Than Shwe, are themselves criminally liable as co-conspirators to crimes against humanity for their acts in “trying” and “convicting” 60 political activists last week. “These acts are the latest from the junta which uses the judiciary as one of its key weapons to commit grave crimes,” says Global Justice Center President Janet Benshoof. Judges including those listed below are criminally culpable and must be referred to the International Criminal Court.

Judges did not allow the defendants to question prosecution witnesses, many defendants did not have legal representation and those that did were not permitted to meet with their lawyers in private. Burma Lawyers’ Council General Secretary U Aung Htoo stated, “Rule of law in Burma cannot even be dreamt of when the judiciary has become an instrument of political oppression, exercised by the SPDC military junta.”

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

Burma Lawyers' Council and Global Justice Center urge the international community to expose the regime's criminal partnership with members of the judiciary and to join the call for a UN Security Council referral of all grave international crimes in Burma to the International Criminal Court. ([Global Justice Center 191108](#))

18 November

A group of UN human rights experts - Special Rapporteurs Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana (human rights in Myanmar), Mr. Leandro Despouy (independence of judges and lawyers), Mr. Frank La Rue (freedom of opinion and expression), Ms. Margaret Sekaggya (human rights defenders) and Ms. Asma Jahangir (freedom of religion or belief) - condemned the severe sentences and unfair trials of prisoners of conscience in Burma. The UN experts demanded that all detainees be retried in open hearings respecting fair trial standards and the immediate release of their defence counsels. They reiterated previous calls to initiate reforms for a transition to a multiparty democratic and civil government, as envisaged by the new Constitution. They strongly urged the authorities to immediately commence work on ensuring those indispensable pre-conditions for free and fair general elections to be held in 2010. These include a comprehensive review of national legislation to ensure its compliance with international human rights standards, the release of political prisoners of conscience, and reform of the armed forces and the judicial system. ([United Nations 181108](#))

17 November

The United States issued a statement, "The United States strongly condemns the regime's persistent repression of its people for exercising basic freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We further deplore the complete lack of due process, as these men and women have been arrested, detained, charged, and tried behind closed doors without the benefit of counsel. The international community and the United Nations Security Council must not remain silent as the regime demonstrates yet again its contempt for universal freedoms and its disdain for the international community's calls to release all political prisoners." ([The White House 171108](#))

12 November

There was an **adjournment debate in the Dáil Éireann (Irish Parliament)** in response to the harsh sentences handed down to political activists on 11 November. ([Dáil Éireann 121108](#))

11 November

The United Nations, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Burma Campaign UK, the UK government, the US State Department and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus all issued statements condemning the 65-year sentences handed down to 14 members of the **88 Generation Students Group**.

1. **United Nations** "The secretary-general is deeply concerned by recent reports of sentences and severe prison terms imposed in connection with the peaceful demonstrations of last year in Myanmar. He calls once again for all political prisoners to be released and for all citizens of Myanmar to be allowed to freely participate in their country's political future as part of an inclusive national reconciliation process," said the U.N. Secretary-General's spokesperson in a statement ([UN 131108](#))

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

2. **US State Department** Robert Wood, US State Department spokesman said, “The United States strongly condemns the Burmese regime’s harsh sentencing of at least 30 political activists to between two and sixty-five years in prison. These brave democracy activists are peaceful citizens whose only crime was to challenge the regime’s illegitimate rule. We further condemn the manner in which the trials were conducted. The regime held closed court sessions and did not allow family members or lawyers to attend. We reiterate our call for the regime to cease harassing and arresting civilians for peacefully exercising their internationally recognized human rights.” ([US State Department 121108](#))
3. **Amnesty International** “In the midst of its so-called 'Roadmap to Democracy', the government of Myanmar reveals its true intentions by sentencing these dissidents for nothing more than peacefully expressing their views during last year’s demonstrations,” said Benjamin Zawacki, Amnesty International's Myanmar researcher. “These sentences and the ongoing trials should disabuse anyone of the notion that the Myanmar government has any intention of honouring its assurances to the United Nations that it would improve its human rights record and increase political participation. It knows only repression,” continued Zawacki. ([Amnesty International 111108](#))
4. **Human Rights Watch** “It’s no secret that Burma’s military rulers show no respect for law, but these last few weeks show a more concentrated crackdown on dissent clearly aimed at intimidating the population,” said Elaine Pearson, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch. “These peaceful activists should not be on trial in the first place, let alone thrown in prison for years after unfair trials. Burma’s leaders are clearing the decks of political activists before they announce the next round of sham political reforms,” Pearson said. ([Human Rights Watch 111108](#))
5. **Burma Campaign UK** “These sentences make it all the more important that Ban Ki-moon goes ahead with his visit”, said Nang Seng. “Ban Ki-moon says he won’t go unless there is progress, but unless he goes there will be no progress. We have had 37 visits to Burma by UN envoys, but things have only got worse. We need his personal engagement on Burma. UN envoy visits don’t work.” ([Burma Campaign UK 111108](#))
6. **ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Myanmar Caucus statement** “These are draconian sentences. Moreover, these extraordinarily lengthy sentences were reportedly handed down to these activists whom did not have legal representation at that time. This is against basic judicial principles and cannot still be occurring in a time when international conventions exist that protect human rights and justice for people,” said AIPMC President Kraissak Choonhavan. “The fact that the Myanmar military regime has ratified the ASEAN Charter is also enough grounds to call into question the legality of these sentences. Regional and international leaders must act,” he added on behalf of his regional parliamentary colleagues from AIPMC. ([AIPMC 111108](#))
7. **UK Government** Bill Rammell Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs said, 'I am deeply concerned to learn that the Burmese regime has sentenced fourteen members of the '1988 student group' to 65 year terms. Those detained have done nothing other than exercise their right to express themselves and have at all times underlined their willingness to work with others for a better Burma. This once again underlines the need for a genuine and inclusive political process. I therefore reiterate the recent call by the

Chronology of Political Prisoners in Burma for November 2008

Council of the European Union for the lifting of restrictions placed on political parties and the early release of those in detention, including Aung San Suu Kyi. There can be nothing approaching free elections until these steps are taken.' ([UK Government](#) 111108)

10 November

President George W. Bush announced his intention to nominate **Michael Green as Special Representative and Policy Coordinator for Burma**. This position is subject to Senate confirmation. ([The White House](#) 101108)