

Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE:	Aung Soe			
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:	Aung Soe			
GENDER:	Male	Ethnicity:		
DATE OF BIRTH:		Age:		
RELIGION:				
PARENTS NAME:				
EDUCATION:				
OCCUPATION:	Member of the Yangon People's Support Network/ Rangoon Civil Assistance Network			
LAST ADDRESS:				
ARREST DATE:	2014: May 18 2013: April 25		PHOTO DATE: April 25, 2013	
SECTION OF LAW:	2014: December 31: Sections 447, 427 and 353 of the Penal Code August 6: Sections 505(b), 145, and 143 of the Penal Code November 3 (charged): Section 447 of the Penal Code 2013: July 8: Sections 505(b), 295, 295(a), 144 and 333 of the Penal Code June 1: Section 188 of the Penal Code 2012: Charged under (but never sentenced) Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act, and Sections 505 (b), 447, 143, and 34 of the Penal Code.			
SENTENCING HISTORY:	2014: 2 years & 6 months December 31: Sentenced under Sections 447, 427 and 353 of the Penal Code 3 years & 6 months August 6: Sentenced to one year and six months under Section 505(b), one year and six months under Section 145, and six months under Section 143 of the Penal Code by Pyin-Oo-Lwin Township Court 2013: 11 years & 6 months July 8: 10 years imprisonment under Section 295, 295(a), 333, and 505(b) of the Penal Code by Shwebo Township Court June 1: one year and 6 months under Section 188 of the Penal Code by Shwebo Township Court			
COURT HEARING:	2014: December 31: Madaya Township Court August 6: Pyin-Oo-Lwin Township Court 2013: July 8, 2013: Shwebo Township Court June 1, 2013: Shwebo Township Court			
NAME OF PRISON:	2014: Obo Prison 2013: Shwe Bo Prison			
RELEASE DATE:	2014: Remains incarcerated 2013: 15 November			
IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:				
AAPP has not found any information regarding his health status in prison.				
CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:				
As of April 2015, Aung Soe remains in Obo Prison. He had additional charges of trespassing and vandalism				

brought against him by Madaya Township Court on November 3, 2014. He is being charged under Section 447 of the Penal Code for the vandalism of a fish farm located in Thapyae-Thar Village.

CAREER BACKGROUND:

Aung Soe is a member of Yangon People's Support Network, which campaigns for the respect of rule of law and democracy in Burma, and has been actively involved in the campaign against the Letpadaung Copper Mine project.

Aung Soe was arrested, along with Moe Thwayon, on December 2, 2012, at a rally held in solidarity with the Letpadaung protesters near the Chinese embassy in Rangoon. The protesters were condemning the violent police assault on protest camps near the Letpadaung Copper Mine on November 29, 2012, which resulted in the arrest of six activists. He was eventually released on bail.

Aung Soe was arrested again on April 25, 2013 in relation to protests regarding the Letpadaung Copper Mine. He was eventually sentenced on June 1, 2013, to one year and six months imprisonment. His sentence was subsequently extended by 10 years on July 8, 2013. He was released on November 15, 2013.

On May 18, 2014, Aung Soe was again arrested due to ongoing protests in opposition of land grabbing in Mandalay. He was most recently sentenced to three years and six months imprisonment on August 6, 2014.

ARREST DETAILS:

2014:

Aung Soe was arrested on 18 May 2014 for his involvement in anti-land grab protests in Mandalay. In response to his arrest, student activists and monks in Letpadaung kidnapped three Wanabo Mining employees (one Burmese and two Chinese nationals) who had been working on the Letpadaung copper mine project. Eventually the hostages were released.

2013:

April 25: At 9am, police and firefighters arrived at the scene and allegedly began assaulting the farmers who were working on the fields in protest against the Letpadaung Copper Mine in Salingyi Township, Sagaing Region. The police claimed that they had warned the villagers to stop their activities on the land. They were told that they were prohibited from accessing the land as declared under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Reportedly, at least ten people were injured in the crackdown. At least one individual sustained a gunshot wound. The police later claimed that the villagers started throwing petrol bombs and stones at the police, which purportedly prompted the crackdown, but activists and villagers at the scene have denied this claim. Aung Soe was arbitrarily detained without an arrest warrant alongside Maung San and Soe Thu during the protest on April 25, 2013. It has been reported that Aung Soe was beaten during his arrest.

2012:

December 2: Arrested at a rally outside of the Chinese Embassy in Rangoon in opposition to the Letpadaung Copper Mine.

DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:

2014: Remains incarcerated as of writing.

2013:

Aung Soe's arrest and subsequent detention was illegal and an infraction of his basic human rights. After the arrest was made without a warrant, the police sent them to detention in an unknown location for over 30 days. Family members were not given any information about their whereabouts, location of detention or trial date. Police officers and prison authorities at the Salingyi Township Police Station and Monywa Prison denied that the three were being held there, and refused to disclose further information as to their location. In early June, the family members finally learned that they were being sentenced in a court proceeding behind closed doors at Shwebo Township Court. In addition, the three were denied legal representation and due process of law. On June 1, the district court of Shwebo sentenced U Aung Soe to 18 months in prison under 3 counts of Section 188 of the Penal Code, which allows for a maximum 6 months imprisonment for disobeying an order promulgated by a public servant. On July 8, 2013, the three human rights defenders were handed additional sentences. Aung Soe was charged with 5 additional counts, including allegedly breaching Section 144 (joining an unlawful assembly with a deadly weapon), 295 (intent to insult a religion by destroying, defiling, or damaging a place of

worship or sacred object), 295(a) (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religion or religious beliefs), 333 (voluntarily causing grievous hurt to deter public servant from his duty),) and 505(b)(causing public mischief) of the Penal Code of Burma.

Throughout the process, Aung Soe was subject to arbitrary legal proceedings. The three human rights defenders were made to stand trial every few days. For example, on June 24, their hearing was cut short (to approximately three minutes) due to “security reasons” whereby the defendants were made to return to their prison cells in Shwebo Prison. In addition, there were no defense lawyers present for the entirety of their court hearings. Lawyer Aung Thurein Tun made repeated attempts to gain power of attorney but was denied access to his clients. When he was finally able to meet with the three in prison to gain power of attorney, they agreed to allow him to attend the next hearings to defend the three. When he showed up at court for the hearing on July 8, Aung Thurein Tun learned that the three had already been sentenced.

In addition, when lawyer Aung Thurein Tun visited the three in prison, one prison official, two prison wardens, and two plain-clothes authorities photographed him. A total of eight photos were taken of the lawyer. Aung Thurein Tun asked for the names of the plain-clothes authorities but they refused to reveal that information. All five authorities were present during the conversation between the lawyer and the clients. The authorities recorded the conversation. All this contravenes the principle of lawyer-client conversation confidentiality.

***Profile prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) on August 27, 2015*.**