



Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)

နိုင်ငံရေးအကျဉ်းသားများ ကူညီစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအသင်း (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ)

E-mail: info@aappb.org, info.aappburma@gmail.com Website: www.aappb.org

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HUMAN RIGHTS LECTURES

Human Rights Lectures in Shan State

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) continued to deliver human rights lectures throughout Burma in April. A total of seven lectures were delivered in April in Yat Sauk Township and In Taw Township in Southern Shan State. Five lectures were delivered in Yat Sauk Township: one to children who learn Dhamma at the Aung Myay Tharsi Monastery, one in the community, two to participants in two villages, and one to youth who attend a Red Cross training. In In Taw Township; one lecture was delivered to the community and one to the villagers from three villages.

Thant Zin from Human Rights Documentation Network (HRDN), Village heads, In Taw Township's administrator, section leaders, and the Red Cross chief in Yat Sauk Township helped AAPP in organizing these lectures. The major theme of these lectures was protection and prevention of human rights abuses against children and civilians, and to promote compliance of the law. At first, AAPP members introduced AAPP and its current activities and then delivered basic human rights awareness information, and other rights and duties as prescribed under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), and The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

These lectures were delivered by AAPP members U Wanna Nwe, U Kyaw Oo and AAPP's Mental Health Assistance Program (MHAP) trainers Ko Htin Aung, Ma Khin Nyein Chan Soe, Ko Maung Maung Naing, Daw Nan Tin Tin Mya. These lectures were attended by over 700 people including children, youth and farmers from Yay Pu village, who were sentenced to one month

imprisonment for confiscated lands disputes. At the end of each presentation, AAPP distributed UDHR pamphlets to raise awareness amongst the participants.

In addition, a human rights lecture was delivered in Ma Kyee Kone Village in Pulaw Township in Tenasserim Division by the Prevention and Promotion of Human Rights Group (Human Rights Defenders Group). This training took place after the group completed Human Rights and Transitional Justice Training provided by AAPP. AAPP provided them with materials to help them train their communities. This group provided posters and leaflets relevant to the participants.



Human Rights Lecture in In Taw Township

TRANSITIONAL TRAININGS

JUSTICE

Human Rights, Human Rights Documentation and Transitional Justice Training in Mon State and Sagaing Division

As a part of the series of regular trainings on transitional justice, AAPP held two 11-day training on transitional justice. The training from

April 1 to April 11 was organized in Bilin Township, Mon State. There were 26 participants in the training including members from the NLD, Civil Society Network., students and locals. Participants were Burmese, Karen and Mon. The training was administered by Action Committee for Democracy Development (ACDD) Human Rights Trainer Zun Pang and Documentation and Transitional Justice Trainer Ko Sai Myint Thu.

AAPP provided training in Kalay Township in Sagaing Division from April 20 to April 30. The Training was administered by AAPP’s Human Rights Trainer Than Hlaing and Documentation and Transitional Justice Trainer Ko Kyaw Oo. The training was attended by 27 participants, including Priests, Fathers, Sisters from Saint Peter, Saint Paul and Saint Mary churches, and various individuals from the local community. Participants were Chin, Burmese and Karen.

Both the regions are facing human rights violations. In Bilin Township, there are incidents of corruption, and of land confiscation. In Kalay Township, there is a lack of adequate resources for healthcare and education, cases of domestic violence, and discrimination, human trafficking, restriction on freedom of movement, and land confiscation.

These activities serve as a capacity-building measure for these actors, carried out with the aim of encouraging and informing their participation in the democratic setup.

ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING

Meeting with The Richardson Center

On April 10, 2017, Consultant Mindy Walker from The Richardson Center met with Ko Bo Kyi at 10.30am at AAPP’s Rangoon office. They spoke about the current political situation in Burma and about AAPP’s activities.

Discussion with the US Embassy

On April 27, 2017, James Hallock from the US Embassy visited AAPP’s Rangoon office. AAPP’s Joint Secretary Ko Bo Kyi and Head of Documentation and Foreign Affairs Ko Zaw Moe attended and discussed the issue of political prisoners.



Ko Bo Kyi and Ko Zaw Moe in their meeting with the US Embassy

Meeting at the Upper House of Parliament

On April 5, Chairman of the Upper House of Parliament Mann Win Khin Than met with the Czech Republic Ambassador H.E Mr Jaroslav Dolecek at the Upper House of Parliament in Naypyidaw. AAPP’s Joint Secretary Ko Bo Kyi, Upper House Vice Chairman Aye Thar Aung, and other Upper House Officers attended the meeting.



Meeting with Czech Republic Ambassador Jaroslav Dolecek

Discussion with the CEELI Institute in the Czech Republic

On April 27, AAPP Secretary Ko Tate Naing, attended a discussion in the Czech Republic on the human rights situation in Burma. This discussion was organized by the Burma Center in Prague and the CEELI Institute, and was supported by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Ko Tate Naing (pictured third from the left) participating in the discussion at the CEELI Institute in Prague, Czech Republic.

MENTAL HEALTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (MHAP)

In April, AAPP’s MHAP team Common Elements Treatment Approach (CETA) counselors visited a Youth Training Center named ‘Hnget Awe San’ (a juvenile prison) and gave counseling to clients. In charge of the center is Kyaw Oo. He arranged the necessities for recruitment and provided a private space for counseling. Five AAPP counselors are active in the center providing counseling services for ten clients every Monday. Further, Four counselors provide CETA counseling for eight clients at the Women Development Center and two counselors provide counselling for four clients at the Women Vocational Training Center every weekend.

GENERAL ACTIVITIES

AAPP Attends the 60th Anniversary of the European Union

On April 3, Joint Secretary Ko Bo Kyi and Chief Clinical Supervisor Ko Kyaw Soe Win attend the 60th anniversary of the founding of the European Union.

U Win Tin Blue Shirt Day

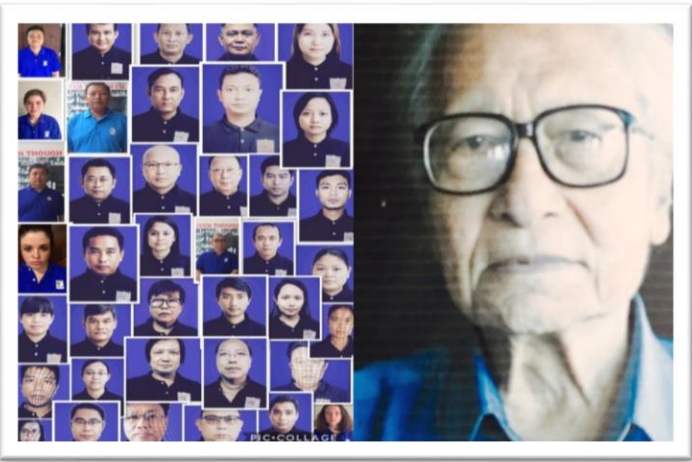
On the occasion of the third anniversary of the death of U Win Tin – April 21, 24 organisations (including AAPP) for the immediate release of all

individuals detained or imprisoned on fabricated, politically motivated charges, and for the establishment of an independent and effective prisoner review mechanism to bring about an end to arbitrary arrests and detentions in Burma.

U Win Tin, who served nearly 20 years in jail as a prisoner of conscience, famously pledged to wear a blue shirt, the same color shirt he had to wear in prison, until all political prisoners in the country were released. On 21st April, people around the world will be wearing a blue shirt or blue clothing in solidarity with U Win Tin’s call, which is unfortunately still relevant today. AAPP staff participated by standing in solidarity with U Win Tin and wearing a blue shirt, posting a group photo on social media.



AAPP Staff in Rangoon wear Blue Shirts on the 3rd Anniversary of the death of U Win Tin.



AAPP stand in solidarity with U Win Tin by wearing blue shirts on April 21, 2017.