

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**SHINE
A LIGHT
50 YEARS**

Myanmar, Unlock the Prison Doors! Free All Prisoners of Conscience in Myanmar!

Ethnic Karenni political activists **Khun Bedu**, **Khun Kawrio**, and **Khun Dee De** were given lengthy jail terms for their peaceful political activism some time during 2008 or 2009. They were among the leaders of Karenni youth groups opposed to a new constitution produced by the military government. All three have been tortured and otherwise ill-treated.

A leading member of the youth activist group Generation Wave, **Zayar Thaw** was sentenced to six years' imprisonment after Generation Wave protested the mass arrests of people who had taken part in peaceful anti-government demonstrations in August and September 2007. Generation Wave mobilizes students and young people to peacefully protest against the military government through poster campaigns and distributing anti-government leaflets and banned video recordings. The authorities charged Zayar Thaw under a vaguely worded law whose sweeping provisions can be interpreted as making it illegal to set up any kind of organization. He was beaten during interrogation.

Labor activist **Su Su Nway**, who is a member of the main opposition party National League for Democracy (NLD), is serving a sentence of eight years and six months in a remote prison, far from her family, for taking part in anti-government protests. Su Su Nway was convicted under various security laws that the authorities routinely use to punish peaceful political dissent. Since her imprisonment, Su Su Nway has been subjected to inhumane living conditions and is now reportedly very ill and being denied medical treatment.

Veteran pro-democracy movement leader **Min Ko Naing** was sentenced on 11 November 2008 to 65 years' imprisonment for his role in the major anti-government protests of August and September 2007. With him are 22 members of the 88 Generation Students group, each of whom has also received a 65-year sentence for their part in the 2007 protests. The 88 Generation Students group was co-founded by Min Ko Naing in 2005 to renew the pro-democracy activities of those who took part in the mass uprising against military rule in 1988. Min Ko Naing is a prisoner of conscience. He is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

Activists **Htay Kywe**, **Mie Mie** and **Zaw Htet Ko Ko** were arrested in the hunt for the people behind the major anti-government protests that began in August 2007, which were brought to an end by a violent crackdown by the authorities in late September. They are members of the 88 Generation Students group. They are at risk of torture. In 2008 Zaw Htet Ko Ko was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment while Mie Mie and Htay Kywe were sentenced to 65 years and still face further charges.

Student activists **Myo Min Zaw** and **Ko Aye Aung** were arrested on 12 September 1998 for distributing leaflets and organizing student demonstrations in Myanmar's biggest city of Yangon. Both men were leading members of the banned All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU). Myo Min Zaw and Ko Aye Aung are serving sentences totaling 52 years and 59 years respectively. They were reportedly tortured during interrogation. Both men are prisoners of conscience detained solely for the non-violent expression of their beliefs.

Popular comedian, actor and director **Zarganar**, an outspoken critic of Myanmar's military government, was sentenced on 21 November 2008 to 45 years' imprisonment by a special court in Yangon's Insein Prison. His sentence was later reduced to 35 years. He was arrested for his public criticism of the government's response to the humanitarian crisis that emerged in the wake of Cyclone Nargis, which hit Myanmar in May 2008. He still faces other charges for which he could receive further sentences.

U Khun Htun Oo is one of the most senior political representatives of the Shan, the largest of Myanmar's ethnic minorities. He is serving a 93-year prison sentence for taking part in a discussion of the military government's plans for transition to democracy. He is being held in Puta-O Prison in the northern state of Kachin. He was arrested on 9 February 2005 and sentenced on 3 November later that year. He is a prisoner of conscience.

Buddhist monk and activist **U Gambira** was arrested on 4 November 2007 in the search for the organizers of the major anti-government demonstrations that began in August 2007. The authorities brought the protests to an end with a violent crackdown in late September 2007. U Gambira is currently faces at least nine charges for his role in the demonstrations of August and September 2007. He has received a 68 year sentence on some of those charges while some remain pending. The laws he has been charged under include three security laws that have been used arbitrarily to criminalize peaceful political dissent.

Pro-democracy activist **U Ohn Than** is serving a life sentence for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression. He was jailed after a trial that was grossly unfair. U Ohn Than is well known for his solo protests, which he has carried out despite repeated reprisals from the authorities. He has previously spent at least 14 years in prison for exercising his right to freedom of expression.