


Political Prisoner Profile

AAPP CASE NO.:	0050			
NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:	Kyaw Min Yu @ Jimmy			
GENDER:	Male	Ethnicity:	Shan (Inther)	
DATE OF BIRTH:	13 February 1969	Age:	39	
RELIGION:	Buddhist			
PARENTS NAME:	U Tin Yu and Daw Ahmar Nyunt			
EDUCATION:	Third year (Physics) in Rangoon University			
OCCUPATION:	Leader of 88 Generation Students Group and Former Political Prisoner			
LAST ADDRESS:	Yankin Township, Rangoon			
ARREST DATE:	22 August 2007		PHOTO DATE:	
SECTION OF LAW:	Penal Code 5/96			
SENTENCING HISTORY:	Under trial			
COURT HEARING:	Insein prison			
NAME OF PRISON:	Insein Prison			
RELEASE DATE:				
IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:				
CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:	Kyaw Min Yu is currently detained in Insein Prison, Cell Block No.1. He has been there since 14th February 2008.			
CAREER BACKGROUND:	<p>Kyaw Min Yu is the second son of three siblings. When he was young, he studied from primary to middle school at a state school in Shan State. In 1985 he passed high school exam (No. 2) at the state high school in Ka Ma Yut Township. In 1986, he attended Rangoon University (Hlaing Campus), majoring in Physics.</p> <p>He participated in the March and June 1988 student movement as a student leader, following the death of Phone Maw (a student at the Rangoon Institute of Technology), and the arrests of many other students in previous movements. During the August 1988 uprising he led many campaigns, and after the uprising he became a member of the new central committee of the DPNS (Democratic Party for a New Society). At the same time he took the responsibility of being an organizer for DPNS.</p> <p>Kyaw Min Yu was arrested in late 1989/early 1990. When he was first arrested SLORC charged him under section 10 (a) and, after 6 months detention, he was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment with hard labor under section 3 (b), 'inciting a state of unrest'. The sentence was commuted to ten years in 1993.</p> <p>Kyaw Min Yu was DPNS representative in the 'Organization To Protect The Rights Of Prisoners' within Insein prison. He initiated the sending of human rights reports to the United Nations, signing his name on the letter. On a Christmas greeting sent to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, he wrote alongside his signature, 'I would like to greet you with genuine democracy'. Similarly, he helped put together an internal news bulletin in prison, for which he contributed an article entitled 'False News From Burma'.</p> <p>Throughout his prison term he was tortured on many occasions. One example of this was September 18th 1990; many political prisoners held a hunger strike in order to be allowed to read political books and he participated in this struggle. Due to this, on September 25th 1990, he was beaten very severely.</p>			

In 1991 a delegation from Amnesty International came to inspect Insein Prison. At that time Kyaw Min Yu and some political prisoners tried to speak to the delegation about the dire situation of political prisoners, using connections outside the prison. In 1994 he was moved from Insein to Tharyawaddy prison. In 1995 he was taken from Tharyawaddy prison back to Insein prison by Military Intelligence and warders, in handcuffs using a public bus. After arriving back at Insein prison, on March 28th 1996 judge Kyaw Tun from the Northern District Court added another 12 years to his sentence, with hard labour, in Insein prison special court, due to his contact with the United Nations and his previous activities. After the extension of his sentence, he was sent back to Tharyawaddy prison again, with two security guards again using a public bus.

He should have been released long before he was, as he received two sentence reductions under the SPDC's prison policy. Although already having served his prison term, he was only released from Tharyawaddy prison on 6th July 2005.

Jimmy was very active in the White Sunday Campaign led by the 88 Generation students starting from mid-2006, then the signature campaign, following the arrest of 5 of the top leaders of the group in September 2006. The signature campaign gathered 535,580 signatures in protest of the student leader's arrest. He went on to help organize the Open Heart Campaign of letter writing to the junta, expressing the people's suffering from January 2007.

In August 2007 following a overnight fuel price hike by the regime he went out onto the streets together with other members of 88 Generation and opposition groups, leading students and members of the general public in peaceful walking protests against the regime's economic mismanagement and the failing standards of living and society. His wife, Nilar Thein, another leading member of the 88 Generation Students Group also led and took part in the protests. All of these campaigns were carried out in cooperation with, and supported by many other opposition organizations.

ARREST DETAILS:

On 21st-22nd August 2007 Jimmy was arrested in a late-night/ early morning raid on his home, as were many other leaders and prominent members of the 88 Generation Students Group, including Min Ko Naing, Pyone Cho, Min Zeya, Mya Aye, Ko Ko Gyi, Ko Zeya, Kyaw Kyaw Htwe, Arnt Bwe Kyaw, Panneik Tun, Zaw Zaw Min, Thet Zaw and Nyan Lin Tun. They were all taken to the Kyaikkssan Ground Detention Centre in Tamwe Township, Rangoon. Their mobile phones were confiscated and their houses were searched without a warrant. These arrests came two days after the above activists led more than 400 people in a protest against a sudden hike in fuel prices in Rangoon.

Jimmy left behind him a four month old daughter and wife, Nilar Thein, also a Former Political Prisoner and leader of the 88 Generation Student Group. In the days following his arrest, Nilar, in a truly courageous act, stood in his place leading the protests. She has so far avoided arrest, but due to having to live in hiding has not yet been reunited with her daughter.

DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:

Kyaw Min Yu was charged with 1962 Printers and Publishers Act 17 (20) at Insein prison court on 23 January 2008. On 2 March 2008, the charge was changed from 17 (20) to charges under the Penal Code 5/96. He is still awaiting sentence.

This profile was prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) on 7 August 2008