

20 May 2017

To-Academic Council

St Clements University

Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree award proposal for Nay Myo Zin, a prominent Human Rights & Democracy Activists of Myanmar

Dear Sirs,

I would like to make a proposal for Nay Myo Zin, a prominent Human Rights & Democracy Activist of Myanmar to be awarded Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree of St Clements University.

Nay Myo Zin is one of the well known & influential democracy activists of Myanmar at the current time due to rural development, education and disaster management & reliefs services voluntarily provided by Welfare Evolvement and Development Organization led by him to needy people of Myanmar.

Nay Myo Zin was a former military officer at the rank of captain but defected from military due to depression by the military government.

The followings are the record of Ex captain Nay Myo Zin's efforts in Myanmar Democracy movement.

Nay Myo Zin's efforts in Myanmar Democracy movement.

(1) 10 years in prison under Electronics Act

Former Officer Sentenced 10 Years on Military Critical Email Report by Te Te: "Former Military Officer sentenced to 10 years in prison under Electronics Act "; for assistance with multimedia elements, contact the OSC Customer Center at (800) 205-8615 or OSCinfo@rccb.osis.gov. - Mizzima News
Saturday August 27, 2011 16:42:40 GMT

New Delhi (Mizzima)--The day after the UN human rights envoy left Burma, a special court inside Insein Prison in Rangoon sentenced Nay Myo Zin, a leading volunteer in a blood donation group and a former military officer, to 10 years in prison for possession of an e-mail critical of the military.

Captions read: "Nay Myo Zin, a former Burmese army captain and an active volunteer in blood donor group, receives 10-year prison sentence. Photo: Youth Network for People. " (Mizzima News, 27 Aug .)

The verdict was reached after a nearly four-month trial, and Nay Myo Zin's family was not allowed to attend Friday's one-hour closed hearing. Rangoon North District Judge Khin Maung announced the verdict, saying an article insulting the army was found in Nay Myo Zin's e-mail account, according to defence attorney Hla Myo Myint. Because of a lower back

injury sustained during a fall in the prison, Nay Myo Zin appeared at the hearing in a wheelchair.

According to lawyer Hla Myo Myint, Nay Myo Zin told the judge: "It is totally unfair that the court sentenced a young man who loyally did good things for the country to 10 years in prison. So, I will not make appeal." On the other hand, Nay Myo Zin's lawyers, who are members of the National League for Democracy, said they wanted to file an appeal.

"The prosecution could not show clearly that the authorities got the documents from him (Nay Myo Zin). We argued that the seizures of his documents and computer were not done according to the law," Hla Myo Myint said.

Nay Myo Zin's e-mail contained critical comments on the army by Major Aung Lin Htut and NLD central executive committee member Win Tin, which were given to exile media. The comments said that the minds of today's soldiers were in turmoil, according to sources. Other details were not known. Nay Myo Zin, 35, resigned from the army as a captain in 2005, after serving nearly 10 years. He is not a member of any political party. He was an active volunteer in a blood donation group before he was arrested. Because of his lower back injury, he was sent from Insein Prison to an orthopaedic hospital in Kyimyindine Township in Rangoon Region one week ago. Nay Myo Zin, the owner of an Internet cafe, was arrested at his home in South Dagon Township by special police on April 2. Two weeks later, authorities seized his mobile phone and a computer in his home. Nay Myo Zin was arrested without an arrest warrant, and he was detained for more than three weeks without being taken before a magistrate.

The Asian Human Rights Commission issued a statement in late April saying that Burmese authorities had violated his rights as a citizen according to the 2008 Constitution. The South Dagon BG blood donation group said that when recent meetings between pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi and government officials were underway, they questioned why higher officials appeared to hold one set of views and lower officials another. Nyi Nyi, a leader of the blood donation group, said, "The inferior officials are spoiling the things that the superior officials do." The Electronics Act, which is often used to prosecute people for human rights activities, was imposed in 2004 under the former junta led by Senior-General Than Shwe. Under the Electronics Act, a person who undermines state security, community peace and tranquility or national solidarity can be sentenced from seven to of 15 years in prison. (Description of Source: New Delhi Mizzima News in English -- Website of Mizzima News Group, an independent, non-profit news agency established by Burmese journalists in exile in August 1998. Carries Burma-related news and issues; URL: <http://www.mizzima.com>)

(2) **Ordered to serve six years of a sentence**

Authorities in Burma have thrown a pardoned political prisoner who has been critical of the nation's police back in jail in the first case of its kind in the country, activists and family members said Wednesday.

Social campaigner Nay Myo Zin was ordered to serve six years of a sentence he got for a conviction in 2011, raising concerns among the country's thousands of ex-political prisoners over their ability to freely engage in democracy, the activists said.

He was freed in January 2012 as part of reformist President Thein Sein's mass amnesty, a year after he was jailed for 10 years under the draconian Electronics Transactions Act in 2011.

He was released under a provision of the law which gives the president powers to "remit the whole or part of the punishment to which he has been sentenced" at any time.

"The case of Nay Myo Zin sends a strong message to thousands of released political prisoners who have similarly been released under Article 401 (1): 'You are not free,'" the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) said in a statement.

"His sentence greatly harms the human rights of released political prisoners and their ability to openly and freely engage in democracy and the national reconciliation process," said AAPP (B) Secretary Tate Naing.

Tun Kyi, another member of the AAPP (B), called for the abolition of Article 401.

(3) Charge due to defamation on police while backing a demonstration by farmers calling for the return of confiscated land in Pantanaw township in Ayeeyarwady division.

Nay Myo Zin was arrested in January 2013 on charges he defamed the police while backing a demonstration by farmers calling for the return of confiscated land in Pantanaw township in Ayeeyarwady division.

He was fined 20,000 kyat (U.S. \$22) or three months in jail for accusing police officers of being corrupt.

Nay Myo Zin opted to go to prison rather than pay what he called an "unjust" fine, saying the defamation charges were baseless.

A group of farmers, however, paid the fine.

But just before he was freed, a district administrator came into Maubin prison on Tuesday and read an order by Home Affairs Minister Ko Ko stating that he has to serve six years in jail from the previous sentence of 2011, his younger brother, Khin Maung Htwe, told RFA's Burmese Service.

Nay Myo Zin told his brother that "it is very unfair to sentence him like this" at a time when Thein Sein is implementing political and other reforms after decades of harsh military rule.

"He asked us to make an appeal as soon as possible. We will discuss his case with some

lawyers and will try for an appeal," Khin Maung Htwe said.

(3) **Petition**

Farmers plan to send a petition to Thein Sein demanding Nay Myo Zin's freedom.

"It shows that we still have unfair laws for people in Burma, and it is like stopping people who are helping in the country's development," said Thein Win, chairman of the Development Union for Fishermen and Farmers in Pantanaw township.

"What he did is not reflective of the charges he faces. That's why we, the union and local farmers, will sign a petition demanding his freedom, and those signatures will be sent to the president."

Jimmy Kyaw Min Yu of the 88 Generation Student Group said that ordering political prisoners who have been given amnesty to serve their remaining sentences is a "regressive step" and raises doubts about the government's reform program.

"We shouldn't be very optimistic about this as all ex-political prisoners could be in jail again, at any time," he said.

(4) **Statement of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar 16 January 2015**
(By Patriot Patrick)

Democratic space

Following my first visit I noted that the opening up of democratic space in Myanmar has been widely acknowledged as one of the significant achievements in Myanmar's reform process. However, I expressed concern that significant challenges remain and highlighted the need for accelerated efforts if such achievements are to be maintained. I noted particular concerns among my interlocutors with article 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Act.

These concerns remain and there are signs that the situation may have even worsened. I was informed that since my visit there have been ongoing arrests and prosecutions of people exercising their rights to peaceful assembly and association, including in relation to land confiscation, environmental degradation and constitutional reform. Protestors are being charged and sentenced under article 18 and under the Penal Code, and it appears that numbers of arrests are increasing. At the end of 2014, official figures were that 27 political prisoners remained in prison. However, I consider that the 78 farmers charged with trespassing during land protests have also been arrested for politically motivated reasons. I was informed that hundreds of persons charged with political offences are currently awaiting trial, including the several persons already arrested this year during protests. The numbers remain unreasonably high, and I am unable to say that progress has been made in this area.

I met with prisoners that are serving sentences under section 18, including U Sein Than who was arrested immediately after my last visit on his way to the United Nations office to provide me with additional documents concerning allegations of land grabbing. I also met with Naw

Ohn Hla and **U Nay Myo Zin** who had been arrested following protests outside the Chinese Embassy concerning the Leptadaung incident last month. As a parent, I have been particularly touched by the case of U Brawn Shawng, the father of Ja Seng Ing, facing charges brought by the military for allegedly providing false information. His case was brought after he wrote to the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission calling for an investigation into the shooting of his 14 year old daughter in Kachin State during fighting between the military and the Kachin Independence Army in 2012. During the two years of court proceedings against him, an official inquiry into the death of his daughter has still not been initiated.

At the end of 2014 the previously constituted Prisoner Review Committee was discontinued and replaced by the 28 member Prisoners of Conscience Affairs Committee, including some but not all of the previous NGO members. The previous committee only met three times during 2014 and did not issue public reports. I encourage the Government to ensure that this new Committee is effective and constructive and works to bring about the release of all persons detained for political reasons.

Nay Myo Zin's efforts in Myanmar Welfare Evolvement and Development Tasks for the people of Myanmar

Nay Myo Zin is a founder member and secretary of Welfare Evolvement and Development Organization registered as social development organization with Myanmar Government.

His organization is actively doing the following tasks

- Building public buildings, schools , bridges, clinics etc for poor people by organization funds and manpower
- Operating schools for poor students and nursing homes for old people.
- Drilling water wells for poor people in rural areas
- Disaster relief works in the rural areas which suffer flooding and storms.
- Organizing vocational training to poor youths

The followings are photo evidences.



Nay Myo Zin with poor children for them he built the school and recruits teachers



Nay Myo Zin at people rally to support Daw Aung San Suu Kyi



Nay Myo Zin at Public Library which he organized for village



Nay Myo Zin with farmers to fight for land confiscations



Nay Myo Zin at rural water supply project



Nay Myo Zin at rural water supply project



Nay Myo Zin at new school opening ceremony for the school that he built for the students in village



The students for whom Nay Myo Zin built the school.

The construction process of the schools that Nay Myo Zin's organization built









Nay Myo Zin donates the money in flood relief to representatives of affected areas

I attach the A BRIEF BIOGRAPHY OF NAY MYO ZIN & record of his continuing Humanities works for Myanmar as above.

Although Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has been awarded several honorary doctorates by many World famous universities, Nay Myo Zin who has sacrificed his life and career for Humanities & freedom of Myanmar and who practically supported Daw Aung San Suu Kyi by having done a lot of humanitarian works that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wanted to do for the poor people of Myanmar has not been awarded with such honorary doctorate and if St Clements University can do it in coming Singapore Convocation, St Clements University will become the first university that honours the true democracy activists of Myanmar in the aspect of Humanities works and Myanmar people (Except those who support the military) will fully recognize St Clements University in Myanmar.

In my message contacts with Nay Myo Zin, he expressed his willingness to receive Doctor of Humanities.

Nay Myo Zin also wants to attend the Rural Development Training and I expects that such training may be available at St Clements Institute Cambodia.

Regards,



Dr Kyaw Naing

International Academic Councillor