



Mission

Legal Aid Network is committed to facilitate efforts of grassroots people and activists, civil society organizations, lawyers and legal teams which aim to achieve human rights by establishing a peaceful, free, just and developed society with the underpinnings of genuine principles of the Rule of Law, mainly from legal aspect.

Status of the Organization

Legal Aid Network is an independent organization. It is neither aligned nor is it under the authority of any political organization.

Work Agenda

1. Raising public awareness for the emergence of just laws and a better legal framework, in which individual freedoms and collective rights of ethnic nationality, social strata and community are reflected, on the basis of the international law, international human rights laws and humanitarian laws, and genuine principles of the Rule of Law;
2. Conducting legal analysis and providing legal suggestions in order for the achievement of democratic transition and the right to self-determination of the ethnic nationalities – at maximum, by establishing the Rule of Law or, at minimum, by seeking transitional justice; in addition, for the rectification of criminal justice system;
3. Providing legal aid and assistance to selected victims, facilitation of justice defender lawyers and taking actions on those cases, which would affect structural changes of society;
4. Cooperation with organizations and individuals who have common objectives for the emergence of independent, impartial and efficient judiciary and that of state institutions as well as security forces which would protect human rights, the rights of citizens and those of diverse nationalities; and,
5. Facilitation of efforts for the establishment of genuine principles of the Rule of Law in a way that perpetrators who committed international crimes – but not cooperated for seeking truth as well as for transformation of state institutions so that repeated crimes can be prevented – are indicted in national and international courts.

Location of LAN Office

It is located in a picturesque mountainous area of Kachin land, Burma.

International Advisory Board

Josef Silverstein, Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University, USA.

David Fisher, Professor of International Law, Faculty of Law, Stockholm University,
Sweden.

Dr. Venkat Iyer, Law Commissioner for Northern Ireland, United Kingdom

Suzannah Linton, Professor of International Law, Bangor University, United Kingdom

Simon NM Young, Prof. of Law, Faculty of Law, Hong Kong University, Hong Kong.

Founder of Legal Aid Network

Aung Htoo, a human rights lawyer, is the founder of Legal Aid Network. He was a practicing lawyer in Burma from 1977 to 1988. In 1992, along with his lawyer colleagues, he initiated to form a lawyers' organization – the Burma Lawyers' Council (BLC) – with a group of democratic lawyers who have got to liberated area of Burma. The organization formally came to existence on October 20, 1994. As the General Secretary, he led the organization for a number of work programs such as doing legal analysis, research and documentation, conducting human rights and legal trainings, assisting the drafting of a future federal constitution of Burma, providing legal suggestions, legal aid and assistance, doing international legal advocacy, legal campaign for transitional justice, compilations of legal papers and articles, publications, production of television programs, etc.

He formally resigned from the BLC on 18 February 2012; afterwards, he founded a new organization – Legal Aid Network – on October 30, 2012. His introduction can be observed in the following links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yvoCPdr6rNg&feature=youtu.be>

(English)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bCHTFQ2x9qQ&feature=youtu.be>

(Burmese)

(Belgrade Statement)

“Statement on the Rule of Law in Burma, issued by the lawyers who made the European trip”

The Civil Rights Defenders, seeking to support the legal aid work in Burma, arranged a study tour for 9 lawyers and one human rights activist from Burma, taking two weeks period from June 22 to July 7, 2003 and let us study in Belgrade, the capital of Serbia, which constituted a major part of former Yugoslavia, on the issues relevant to human rights and the rule of law.

Having held meetings with several civil society organizations in Serbia, we contrasted the situations in Burma with Serbia vis-a-vis our previous observations on other countries. Afterwards, we all agreed upon implementing the following work agendas for achievements of human rights, democratic rights, and the right to self-determination of ethnic nationalities, on the basis of the Rule of Law, in Burma:

1. To make the Rule of Law a reality, one of its important genuine principles, that is, every person is equal before the law, shall be practiced in a way that all crimes shall be uncovered and investigated; penalties shall be provided to those who committed crimes; victims shall enjoy the right to file law suits against perpetrators, and also the right to have reparation; and both perpetrators and victims shall have the right to a fair trial;
2. To seek long-lasting peace and sustainable development, the emergence and application of a new Federal Constitution, which is drawn up on the basis of genuine principles of the Rule of Law, shall be encouraged and facilitated;
3. Efforts shall be exerted for the emergence of laws, which protect and promote human rights, such as law on anti-discrimination, law on access to information of public benefit, and law on prohibition of torture, with a special focus;
4. Institutional reform shall be implemented so that the judiciary and other state security forces can become those which protect human rights, civil rights and the rights of ethnic nationalities;
5. The expansion and development of legal aid work shall be carried out for the emergence of civil society organizations which protect human rights mainly by the rule of law, while seeking support of the Media.

For details, please contact the following lawyers:

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