

UNSUNG HEROINES: THE WOMEN OF MYANMAR

INTRODUCTION

Women in Myanmar have been subjected to a wide range of human rights violations, including political imprisonment, torture and rape, forced labour, and forcible relocation, all at the hands of the military authorities. At the same time women have played an active role in the political and economic life of the country. It is the women who manage the family finances and work alongside their male relatives on family farms and in small businesses. Women have been at the forefront of the pro-democracy movement which began in 1988, many of whom were also students or female leaders within opposition political parties.

The situation of women in Myanmar was raised most recently in April 2000 at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and in January 2000 by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the expert body which monitors States parties' compliance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.¹ CEDAW considered the initial report by the Government of Myanmar on measures taken to implement the provisions of the Convention at its Twenty-second session in New York. Prior to its consideration, Amnesty International made a submission to the Committee, which outlined the organization's concerns in regards to the State Peace and Development Council's (SPDC, Myanmar's military government) compliance with the provisions of the Convention.

Rice farmers c. Chris Robinson

During the military's violent suppression of the mass pro-democracy movement in 1988, women in Myanmar were arrested, tortured, and killed by the security forces. The 1988 protest demonstrations had been launched by university students, many of whom were women. Between March and September 1988 hundreds of women were among the thousands shot dead when the security forces opened fire at mostly peaceful demonstrators in Yangon (Rangoon) and other towns throughout the country. In the aftermath of the military crackdown, dozens of women were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment for their peaceful political activities.

In the years before the 1988 mass uprising, women belonging to various ethnic minorities, who live mostly in the areas surrounding the central Burman plain, were subjected to arbitrary detention and torture by the military. According to the SPDC Myanmar is made up of "135 national races" which includes approximately two-thirds majority ethnic Burman and one-third ethnic minorities. Many ethnic minority groups have engaged in armed struggle for

¹ In July 1997 the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC, Myanmar's military government) became a State Party to the Convention.

autonomy or independence from the central Burman authorities for over fifty years. As a result, the *tatmadaw*, or Myanmar armed forces, have launched intensive counter-insurgency campaigns against these armed groups, but it is the civilians, mostly women and children, who suffer the majority of casualties.

After 1988 the *tatmadaw* adopted a policy of seeking cease-fires with various ethnic minority armed opposition groups. The *tatmadaw* also stepped up its military campaigns against those groups refusing to agree cease-fires, resulting in their loss of territory to the central authorities. At the same time the army more than doubled in size, and increased its presence throughout most of Myanmar's seven divisions and seven states. Beginning in the early 1990's the military embarked on a series of infrastructure projects which used forced civilian labour, including ethnic minority women and teenaged girls. When the *tatmadaw* began massive forcible relocation programs in 1996 as part of its counter-insurgency campaigns, tens of thousands of women belonging to ethnic minorities were forcibly relocated from their traditional lands by the military without compensation. In many cases families were forced into relocation sites with little water, health care, food or other facilities.

Ethnic minority women and women belonging to the majority Burman group all share the common struggle to feed their families and educate their children in a country with high inflation rates and low wages. The price of rice and other staples has increased dramatically in the last two years. The government fixed the official exchange rate of Myanmar's currency, the *kyat*, at six per one US dollar, but the unofficial rate is over 300. In addition because of poor nutrition and health care facilities, women in Myanmar suffer from a high rate of maternal mortality and their children suffer from an extremely high rate of moderate malnutrition and preventable diseases.²

Wives and mothers of the hundreds of male political prisoners in Myanmar must often support their families in the absence of their husbands and sons. They have an additional burden of providing their imprisoned male relatives with supplementary food and medicine, as diet and medical care in Myanmar's prisons are extremely inadequate. Women with imprisoned family members and those whose male relatives have fled to other countries have also been extensively interrogated and watched by Military Intelligence personnel.

Due to continuing poor economic conditions in Myanmar, women from all ethnic groups often become migrant workers in Thailand, India, Bangladesh, and China. Many of these women are lured or trapped into prostitution where they are at a high risk of HIV infection. Many Burmese sex workers are in Thailand, which has become a regional centre for trafficking in women and children. Many Burmese female migrant workers have lost their jobs in Thailand

²Juan Aguilar Leon, United Nations Children's Fund representative in Myanmar, in the *International Herald Tribune*, 9 February 2000.

since the 1997 economic crisis besetting Asia. Beginning in November 1999, thousands of them were arrested by Thai security forces in a massive crackdown on all migrant workers. These women, some of whom had a well-founded fear of persecution in Myanmar, were pushed over the Thai-Myanmar border to face an insecure future.

The SPDC does not permit any independent local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to operate in Myanmar today, although there are several international aid NGOs as well as United Nations programs such as the UN Development Program (UNDP) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). As such there are no Myanmar women's organizations besides those formed by the SPDC, which are sometimes referred to as Government Organized NGOs or GONGOS. Among the GONGOS are the Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (MMCWA), led by Dr. Khin Win Shwe, wife of Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, SPDC First Secretary. The Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association (MWEA) was also established under the sponsorship of the SPDC in February 1995 and the Myanmar Women Sports Federation (MWSF) was founded in 1991.

POLITICAL IMPRISONMENT OF WOMEN

Amnesty International has details of the imprisonment of at least 61 women for political reasons.³ After the security forces' harsh repression of the pro-democracy movement in 1988, the newly-formed military government made some concessions, including granting permission to form independent political parties and the promise of elections in May 1990. Several women rose to leadership positions, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, General Secretary of the National League for Democracy (NLD, which won the 1990 general elections but has never been allowed to convene parliament). Beginning in 1989 Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other women activists were arrested for their peaceful political activities. Elections were held in May 1990, and 15 women belonging to the NLD were elected out of a total 485 members of parliament.

Women teachers taking part in 1988 demonstrations
against military rule. c. private

³ Please see the attached appendix for a list of 61 women political prisoners known to Amnesty International.

Daw San San Nwe, c. private

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest in July 1995⁴, and other female prisoners of conscience have also been freed, including Ma Thida, a doctor and writer released in February 1999 and Daw Cho Cho Kyaw Nyein, who was released in 1992. However many others have subsequently been imprisoned. Daw San San Nwe, a journalist and well-known writer, was arrested in August 1994 with her daughter Ma Myat Mo Mo Tun. She was sentenced later that year to ten years' imprisonment. According to the SPDC, she and her daughter were arrested for passing on information to foreign journalists and diplomats. A widow with seven children, Daw San San Nwe is currently in Insein Prison, and suffers from high blood pressure, heart problems, and paralysis on the right side of her body.

After Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's release and the increased activity of the NLD in 1995, NLD members, including leaders of its women's groups, have been routinely arrested in a series of crackdowns by the SPDC. In addition Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and other women who are politically active or who have been imprisoned, are under routine surveillance by Military Intelligence personnel.

But it is not only NLD members who have been arrested. Several young female student activists were arrested and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment after mostly-peaceful student demonstrations in Yangon in December 1996. Ma Yi Yi Htun, a computer science student, and Ma Nilar Thein, a student at Yangon University, were both arrested that month in connection with the demonstrations, which called for improved educational standards and permission to form a student union. Ma Yi Yi Htun, a veteran student leader from 1988, was sentenced to 14 years' imprisonment and is believed to be held at Tharawaddy Prison. Ma Nilar Thein was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment and is thought to be held in Insein Prison. Amnesty International believes that both Ma Nilar Thein and Ma Yi Yi Htun are possible prisoners of conscience, arrested for their peaceful political activities.

NLD Weekend addresses in Yangon in June 1996. Many people were sentenced to terms of imprisonment for attending these meetings or possessing copies of recordings of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speeches. c. private

⁴ She was never tried, and was held under the administrative detention provisions of the 1975 State Protection Law.

In September 1998 after the NLD announced that it would convene parliament, the SPDC arrested hundreds of NLD leaders. Amnesty International recently interviewed a former female prisoner of conscience who as part of that group was held with dozens of other women at a detention centre without charge or trial for eight months. Having already served a five year sentence for her non-violent political activities in the early 1990s, she fled Myanmar in December 1999 for fear of a third arrest.

At least 80 people were arrested in the months before a civil disobedience campaign planned by exiled dissidents for 9 September 1999. Known as the “9/9/99” movement, little or no activity actually occurred on that day. Several of those arrested were women, including Daw Tin Win Yee, Daw Khin Kyi Kyi, and Daw Tin Aye, three sisters who were arrested in Zegyo Market in Mandalay, Myanmar’s second city. The three were reportedly arrested for wearing yellow t-shirts with pictures of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the front.⁵ They were later sentenced to five years’ imprisonment at the Special Court in Mandalay Prison under Section 5e of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act, for “spreading false information”. According to reports they were not allowed legal counsel or permitted to defend themselves during the trial.

Conditions of detention and imprisonment

For the past 11 years Amnesty International has been reporting instances of torture and ill-treatment in Myanmar’s prisons and detention centres. In addition conditions in custody fall far short of international standards applying to anyone who has been deprived of their liberty.⁶ Conditions amounting to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of prisoners include lack of proper sanitation, medical care, and diet. Political prisoners are most at risk of torture during the initial phases of detention, when they are generally held in one of the Military Intelligence (MI) headquarters and interrogated for prolonged periods. However, after they have been sentenced, prisoners are often tortured for breaking arbitrary prison regulations.⁷

According to the Myanmar Government’s report on measures it has taken to implement the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, “*Women prisoners are protected by special laws and the Jail Manual. They are entitled to health care and certain privileges....For female prisoners with hard labour,*

⁵Yellow is the colour of the NLD and other opposition groups in Myanmar.

⁶ Please refer to the *Body of Principles for the Protection of All Persons under Any Form of Detention or Imprisonment* and the *Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners*.

⁷Please see *Myanmar: conditions in prisons and labour camps*, 22 September 1995, AI Index ASA 16/22/95

the work load is assigned according to the physical health status...”.⁸ However, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women expressed “...its concern about the situation of women in custody, especially with regard to their being subject to sexual violence.”⁹

During the initial phases of detention, usually in one of the MI headquarters, women are particularly vulnerable to ill-treatment during interrogation by male MI personnel. For example a young female student activist told Amnesty International that she was held incommunicado in 1991 for four months in an MI centre and subjected to sexual humiliation and beatings with a rubber stick which she said was used in order not to leave marks. She was also deprived of sleep during her three day interrogation and later contracted typhoid fever, yet received almost no medical care.

In May 1999 the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) announced that it had begun to visit prisons in Myanmar. In March 2000 the ICRC also began visiting labour camps, where convicted criminals have been held in extremely poor conditions. In addition the ICRC has reported that they have been able to visit prisoners held in government guesthouses, where NLD members have been detained without charge or trial since the party’s announcement in September 1998 that they would convene parliament unilaterally. However to Amnesty International’s knowledge, the ICRC has not yet visited MI detention centres, which increases fears about ill-treatment and torture there.

Individual cases of women prisoners of conscience

Over the last 11 years Amnesty International has adopted several women prisoners of conscience¹⁰ who have been arrested solely for their peaceful political opposition activities. These women are typically NLD members or young political activists who have peacefully protested against the SPDC’s severe repression and its failure to transfer power to the NLD. In addition almost all of them suffer from serious medical problems, which often become worse due to lack of proper treatment while they are in custody and continuing harsh conditions of

⁸The Union of Myanmar, *Report on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, March 1999.

⁹Article 34, CEDAW/C/2000/I/CRP.3/Add.2, 28 January 2000.

¹⁰A prisoner of conscience is anyone who has been deprived of their liberty or otherwise physically restricted solely for the non-violent expression of their peaceful political, religious or other conscientiously held beliefs or because of their ethnic origin, nationality, sex, colour, language, social origin, economic, birth or other status.

imprisonment. Amnesty International calls for the immediate and unconditional release of all female prisoners of conscience, including those whose cases are discussed below.

Ma Khin Khin Leh

Ma Khin Khin Leh, in her early 30s, was arrested in July 1999 along with 18 others, in Bago, central Myanmar. She is a teacher who graduated from university with a history degree. Her husband, Kyaw Wunna, is a political activist and member of *Ba Ka Tha*, the All Burma Federation of Student Unions, which has taken a leading role in peaceful political opposition activities for the past twelve years. Kyaw Wunna and other pro-democracy activists in Bago were planning a peaceful march on 19 July, Martyrs' Day, the 52nd anniversary of the assassination of independence hero General Aung San. General Aung San, who fought for independence from the British, was the father of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Ma Khin Khin Leh, Kyaw Wunna and Thaint Wunna Khin, their daughter. c. private

Between 16 and 18 July, pamphlets were distributed announcing the march and messages were spray-painted on walls in Bago calling for support for the NLD, prices to be lowered, and civil servants' salaries to be raised. When the local Military Intelligence (MI) could not locate Kyaw Wunna, they arrested his three-year-old daughter Thaint Wunna Khin and wife Ma Khin Khin Leh on 19 July. His daughter was released after five days, but Ma Khin Khin Leh and others arrested in subsequent days were taken to MI 3 headquarters in Bago. They were then transferred to Wakteka, which is a new detention centre near Phaungyi, on the road from Yangon to Bago.

Subsequently Ma Khin Khin Leh was transferred to Insein Prison in Yangon, joining hundreds of other political prisoners. On 3 December she was sentenced to life imprisonment in Insein Special Court under the vaguely-worded provisions of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act and the 1908 Unlawful Associations Act. These two laws are frequently used to imprison people for their peaceful political activities in Myanmar. Moreover trials of political prisoners, including prisoners of conscience, contravene international fair trial standards, such as the right to adequate consultation with a lawyer of one's choice. Although military tribunals were abolished in 1992, the civilian judiciary is not independent from the military authorities. According to former political prisoners recently interviewed by Amnesty International, the judge usually reads out the sentence and the defendants or their lawyers have little or no opportunity to speak in court.

In January 2000 Ma Khin Khin Leh was transferred from Insein Prison to an unknown location. She suffers from an unspecified lung problem and it is not known if she is receiving medical care.

Daw San San

Daw San San, age 70, was arrested on 28 October 1997, and is currently serving a sentence of 25 years' imprisonment in Insein Prison, Yangon, for her peaceful political activities. She is a prominent member of the NLD, a leader in the party's women's group, an elected member of parliament for the NLD, and a former civil servant. Daw San San suffers from hypertension, and is held in solitary confinement.

This is the second time since 1991 that Daw San San has been imprisoned, and at least the third time that she has been deprived of her liberty on account of her peaceful political activities. Daw San San was sentenced by a military tribunal to 25 years' imprisonment on 30 April 1991, reportedly for her participation in discussions about the formation of a parallel government in Mandalay. These discussions took place following the military authorities' refusal to acknowledge the results of elections in which the NLD won the majority of votes, and to hand over power. There is no information about the conditions of her trial, but it is more than probable that the conditions failed to meet internationally agreed standards of fair trial. At the time of her trial military tribunals were still in place to try and sentence political prisoners. Martial law decrees providing for military tribunals in 1989 denied the right to judicial appeal, and the right to recall witnesses.

Daw San San was released under the provisions of a 1992 decree which provided for the release of political prisoners not affecting "national security". As a condition of her release it is believed that she was required to sign a commitment not to undertake any political activities. In July 1996 she was again arrested with hundreds of other NLD members in an attempt by authorities to stop a planned party congress taking place, and released after a short period in custody.

Daw San San was re-arrested on 28 October 1997 with six other prominent NLD members, following an attempt by Daw San San and other NLD officials to hold a meeting with local members and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The meeting in Mayangone Township, a suburb of Yangon, was scheduled to take place to discuss the restructuring of the local branch of the party's youth wing. Security forces stopped the meeting from proceeding by setting up barricades preventing supporters from entering the building, and detaining a number of supporters, including Daw San San. After her arrest Daw San San is thought to have been held incommunicado for at least three months, without access to family, doctors or lawyers. Such conditions of imprisonment contravene international standards regarding people who are deprived of their liberty.

In April 1998 it was made public that Daw San San was serving the rest of the 25-year sentence which had been imposed in 1991. Officials stated that she was arrested in October 1997 for her involvement in anti-government activities, such as “*providing false information to foreign media and taking a lead role in anti-government mass rallies.*” Some sources have commented that Daw San San was imprisoned because she had conducted an interview, critical of the authorities, with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in June 1997. Officials have denied that this was the motivation for her arrest. While it is not clear which exact charges were made against Daw San San, Amnesty International believes that her re-arrest was motivated by her peaceful political activities.

Daw San San was born on 10 January 1930 and graduated from Yangon University in 1954 with a bachelor's degree in biology. Between 1959 to 1988 Daw San San was a civil servant, and worked as assistant Director of the Labour Directorate. When peaceful protests against military rule broke out in 1988, Daw San San played a key role and headed the Labour Directorate's Workers' Union. Because of her leading role in the peaceful demonstrations, she lost her job. Daw San San became one of the founder members of the National League for Democracy, a member of the party's Central Committee, and contested and won the seat of Seikkan, the port area of Yangon.

Moe Kalayar Oo

At the time of her arrest on 20 February 1995, Moe Kalayar Oo was 30 years old and a science student at Yangon University. She was one of more than 50 young people arrested by police and Military Intelligence (MI) officers at the funeral of U Nu in Yangon. U Nu was the first democratically-elected Prime Minister of Myanmar, who died at the age of 87 on 14 February 1995; he was a popular politician who had been held under house arrest between 1989 and 1992 for his opposition to the military government.

During the course of the funeral, some of the young people present delivered a eulogy about U Nu. This reportedly prompted the security forces to make the arrests; two people were believed to have been severely beaten during the arrests. Although some of those arrested on 20 February 1995 were released after a short time in detention, further arrests were made at a later date in connection with the events at the funeral.

On April 28, Moe Kalayar Oo, two other women and six men were sentenced to seven years' imprisonment under section 5J of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act. This section provides for the imprisonment of anyone “*who causes or intends to disrupt the morality or the behaviour of a group of people or the general public, or to disrupt the security or the reconstruction of stability of the Union*”.

Moe Kalayar Oo was initially detained in Insein Prison, Yangon. During the course of her imprisonment there she is reported to have been held in solitary confinement because she complained that she was being denied medication. She is reportedly currently in Thayawaddy Prison, Bago Division. Moe Kalayar Oo is believed to be suffering from suspected osteoporosis and tuberculosis, is in pain and has difficulty walking. Her family lives in Yangon and is unable to visit her.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST ETHNIC MINORITY WOMEN

Beginning in 1989 the Myanmar government adopted a policy of negotiating cease-fires with ethnic minority armed groups; according to the SPDC 17 cease-fires have subsequently been agreed. However the Karen National Union (KNU), the Karenni National Progress Party (KNPP), and the Shan State Army - South (SSA-South) continue to fight against the *tatmadaw* in the Kayin (Karen), Kayah (Karenni) and the Shan States in eastern Myanmar. Karen, Karenni, and Shan women have become victims of the *tatmadaw*'s counter-insurgency strategy, which includes mass forcible relocations, forced labour, and extra-judicial executions. In February 1999 and again in February 2000 Amnesty International interviewed scores of ethnic minority women in Thailand who had fled Myanmar from late 1998 until early 2000. Most of them had been subjected to forcible relocation and forced labour, and many had lost their relatives who were shot dead by the military.

As a result of human rights violations against Karen, Karenni, and Shan ethnic minorities over the last 16 years, hundreds of thousands of civilians have fled into neighbouring Thailand to seek refuge. Currently there are some 110,000 Karen and Karenni refugees in camps on the Thai-Myanmar border. Women and children account for 67% of the camp population. Women in refugee camps are separated from their traditional homelands where the majority of them had been subsistence farmers. Shan refugees, also numbering around 100,000, are not permitted by the Thai authorities to reside in camps. In order to support themselves Shan women must find low-paying jobs in the agricultural or manufacturing sectors, and are vulnerable to being lured into prostitution.

In January 2000 the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women stated: "*The Committee is concerned about human rights violations of women, in particular by military personnel*". The Committee also said:

*"The Committee notes with concern that, although Myanmar has 135 ethnic groups, there is little information in its report about how the human rights of women in all ethnic groups are guaranteed, protected, and promoted."*¹¹

Forced labour of ethnic minority women

¹¹CEDAW/C/2000/I/CRP.3/Add.2, 28 January 2000, paragraphs 27 and 25 respectively.

Unpaid forced labour of civilians by the military in Myanmar is common and well-documented. There are generally two types of such labour: forced portering, when civilians are forced to carry heavy supplies for the army over rough terrain for days or weeks at a time; and forced labour on infrastructure projects, including roads and military barracks. Myanmar became a party to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No 29 in 1955 and has been subject to scrutiny by the ILO for several years. In March 2000 The ILO's Governing Body invoked for the first time in its history Article 33 of its Constitution, recommending that the June 2000 International Labour Conference "*take such action as it may deem wise and expedient to secure compliance*" by Myanmar with the recommendations of the July 1998 ILO Commission of Inquiry.

Alleged forced labour, c. Chris Robinson

For at least the past eight years ethnic minority women, most of whom live in rural areas of the seven states bordering the central Burman plain, are routinely taken for forced labour duties, including building roads and military barracks. Because their husbands are often trying to farm or to work as day labourers, women frequently go in their place, as each family must "donate" at least one of its members for forced labour. Teenaged girls are also often taken for forced labour duties because both parents are busy working. If their husbands are not available, women are taken as porters for troops who are patrolling the mountainous countryside and made to carry heavy loads of equipment and ammunition. Women who are unmarried or widowed often porter on a regular basis. These women are effectively prisoners of the army until they either escape or are released.

Since 1992 Amnesty International has documented hundreds of cases of unpaid forced labour by women for the military, including road construction, building military bases, cleaning barracks, forced portering, and even cultivating crops for the *tatmadaw*. Compelling women to carry heavy loads over long periods or to work shortly after giving birth or during pregnancy puts their health and safety at risk. In addition during road construction and other forced labour duties women break stones or carry wood for long periods in the hot sun with no food, water, or medical care provided. Amnesty International believes that such conditions during forced labour constitute cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. CEDAW stated during its January 2000 session that "*The Committee considers forced labour of women to be a contemporary form of slavery and a denial of their rights.*"¹²

One Baptist Karen woman who fled to Thailand after her house was burned in January 1999 reported that she had to perform forced labour duties continuously, even 10 days after she had given birth. She was never paid for her work nor given any water or food by the military. Her duties included road construction, cutting bamboo, and building military camps. A 20-year-

¹² CEDAW/C/2000/I/CRP.3/Add.2, 28 January 2000, paragraph 23.

old unmarried Baptist Karenni woman who had been forcibly relocated to Nwa La Boe in Kayah State said that she had to perform forced labour regularly during 1998. Since the middle of that year she worked on a road renovation and extension project from Taungyi in the Shan State to Loikaw in the Kayah State. She described her experiences:

“It was tiresome to carry stone to the work site...I was personally beaten with a stick when I took a rest in the afternoon. I could no longer work as I was so exhausted and took a rest. Soldiers found out and beat me with a stick. It was very harsh and painful.”

A 22-year-old Shan woman told Amnesty International that she was forced to carry clothes and food for the military in December 1999 for seven days in Murngton township. When she slowed down because of the heavy weight of her burden, she was kicked on the legs and buttocks and threatened with a knife by soldiers. Another young Shan woman had to perform forced labour duties for the military on a regular basis and cited it as the main reason she fled to Thailand in February 2000. She was forced to split rocks twice a month, once for six days at a time. Most recently in February 2000 she was forced by the military to clear up after a fire in the market, which also destroyed her house.

A 26-year-old Karen Muslim woman was forced into porter duties in May 1998 because her husband had been so badly beaten by the *tatmadaw* during mid 1997 that his skull had been fractured. He could no longer work and she had to support the family. During her portering duties she was forced to carry rice and was not allowed to rest, but finally escaped after four days. She told Amnesty International that she saw a 60-year-old woman kicked by soldiers and left behind because she was no longer able to walk and had fallen down on the path.

Even teenaged girls are forced into labour duties by the military. Amnesty International has received reliable reports of forced labour of girl children in the Mon, Kachin, Shan, Kayin (Karen) and Kayah (Karenni) States, particularly on road construction. A 15-year-old Karenni girl told Amnesty International that after she was forced by the military to move to the Nwa La Bo relocation centre in Loikaw township at age 13, she could no longer attend school and was forced to work for the military without compensation of any kind. She was forced more times than she could count to cut grass and carry heavy stones for road-building. An orphan who was living with her aunt and uncle, she said she would like to go to school again. A 16-year-old Karenni girl from Loikaw township also reported that she was forced repeatedly to build fences and barracks in a military outpost near Paw Tha He village.

Forcible relocation of ethnic minority women

Since early 1996 hundreds of thousands of Shan, Karen, and Karenni civilians have been forcibly relocated from their ancestral villages by the *tatmadaw* in an effort to break up any alleged links with the three armed ethnic minority groups still fighting against the Burmese army. Most of these civilians were women and children. Many of them went to government-designated relocation sites, where there was little or no food, sanitation, medical care, or way of earning a

living. Others fled into the forest where they tried to survive in hiding; still others escaped to Thailand to seek refuge in camps on the border.

Amnesty International is concerned by the widespread practice of forcible relocations, which appeared to be carried out solely on account of the ethnic origin or perceived political beliefs of those who are relocated. Although Myanmar is a party to international humanitarian treaties, including the Geneva Conventions, it has failed to abide by its provisions. Under international humanitarian law forcible relocation of civilians is only allowed for their own safety or for valid military reasons. If forced relocation occurs for a legitimate reason under international law, the security forces involved are obliged to ensure an orderly evacuation, humane conditions in transit and adequate alternative accommodation. Article 17 of Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 states:

“The displacement of the civilian population shall not be ordered for reasons related to the conflict unless the security of the civilians involved or imperative military reasons so demand. Should such displacements have to be carried out, all possible measures shall be taken in order that the civilian population may be received under satisfactory conditions of shelter, hygiene, health, safety and nutrition.”

Refugee on Thai border, c. Aung Myo Min

The vast majority of displaced women were subsistence rice farmers who worked with their husbands and older children cultivating the land and tending livestock. After being removed their land and deprived their livelihood some women earned a living by collecting wild vegetables and selling them or by other forms of day labour. However many others had no means of survival and since 1996 scores of women have died in relocation sites and in the jungle of preventable and treatable diseases including dysentery, malaria, and malnutrition. Their children have been particularly vulnerable to disease and many women lost several children while hiding in the jungle or forced into insalubrious relocation sites.

Karen refugee in Thailand, c. Chris Robinson

One 24-year-old Karen Christian woman with two children interviewed by Amnesty International had fled from the Kayin State after her village was burned down by the *tatmadaw* in 1996 and had lived in temporary shelters in the jungle for over two years. She described the conditions in hiding:

“It was so miserable to live in the jungle. Both of my kids got sick a lot - malaria and chicken pox. Food was scarce - rice and chilies only, no

protein. I was afraid of troops - terrified. I didn't experience sexual harassment but it would have happened if I had been detained...My younger child was born in the jungle and the older one was born one day after our village was burned...One of my legs was broken when I fell down fleeing from the military in 1997. I had no medication, just traditional herbal medicine and massage. Now I have a deformity and it is difficult to walk."

A Karenni widow fled from Shadaw relocation centre in the Kayah State in January 1999 after the *tatmadaw* forced her from her village in mid 1996. In Shadaw she was forced to carry stones and cut grass 30 times in 1998 and was never paid or given food by the military. She took her husband, who was suffering from diarrhoea, to the Shadaw clinic, but because he was given no medicine or treatment, he died in 1998. Another Karenni woman who hid in the jungle rather than go to a relocation centre described her life there:

"Life in the hiding place was full of miseries. The Burmese gave all miseries to us and I don't understand why they did this. We did not do anything against them, and we just lived our traditional and simple lives. We were dying while we were hiding and not having any food."

The vast majority of forcible relocations occurred in the central-southern Shan State. In the last four years over 300,000 people have been moved off their rice farms into towns where they have experienced great difficulties in earning a living. One 35-year-old unmarried Shan woman who had been forcibly relocated from her farming village to Kunhing town struggled for almost three years to survive before fleeing to Thailand in February 1999. She eked out a living collecting wild vegetables and selling them, but reported that the military even taxed these small earnings. Other women told similar stories of trying to survive by day labour and selling the last of their possessions, or sneaking back to their land to cultivate rice, at risk of being caught by the military.

Rape and extrajudicial executions of ethnic minority women

The Myanmar armed forces have deprived women belonging to members of ethnic minorities of their right to life and have subjected them to torture, including rape, in the context of counter-insurgency activities against armed opposition groups. Over the last ten years Amnesty International has reported cases of rape and extrajudicial executions by the *tatmadaw* of Karen, Shan, Ahka, Mon and Rohingya ethnic minority women. In 1991 and 1992 during the *tatmadaw*'s campaign of repression against the Rohingyas, a Muslim ethnic minority group who live in the Rakhine State, Rohingya women were raped frequently by the military, who attacked

them after they had taken their husbands as porters. Rohingyas also reported the rapes and murders of their female relatives, including teenaged girls.¹³

More recently a Karen Buddhist woman described the reported rape and murder of her 12-year-old niece, Naw Po Thu, in October 1998. She was taken with two other people to act as guides for SPDC troops based in the town of Myawaddy in the Kayin State. She was allegedly raped by a major and managed to escape, but was captured and raped again and then shot dead. Two eye-witnesses, one unidentified soldier and one village boy, told her aunt about the rapes. The next day she saw her niece's body which villagers had retrieved and brought back to the village pagoda. She said that a gunshot wound from a handgun had entered the body at the vagina and exited at the chin. The major gave the girl's family compensation for her death, which consisted of one sack of rice, one measure of sugar, one tin of condensed milk, and 100 *kyat*.¹⁴

With regard to violence against women in Myanmar, Article 6 of the resolution adopted by the UN Commission on Human Rights at its Fifty-sixth session on 12 April 2000, deplores:

“(d) The continuing violations of the human rights of women, in particular forced labour, trafficking, sexual violence and exploitation, often committed by military personnel, and especially directed towards women who are returning refugees, internally displaced or belong to ethnic minorities or the political opposition.”

¹³Some 250,000 Rohingyas fled to Bangladesh; at the time of writing some 20,000 remain while the others have been repatriated to the Rakhine State. However in the last three years thousands of other Rohingyas, some of whom are asylum-seekers, have fled into Bangladesh and attempted to survive by day labour. Please see *UNION OF MYANMAR (BURMA), Human rights violations against Muslims in the Rakhine (Arakan) State*, Amnesty International Index Number ASA 16/06/92, May 1992.

¹⁴Burmese currency unit. Six *kyats* are worth one US dollar by the official SPDC exchange rate; the unofficial exchange rate is over 300 *kyat* to the dollar.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Amnesty International makes the following recommendations to the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), in order to improve the human rights situation of all women in Myanmar:

1. Release all women prisoners of conscience immediately and unconditionally.
2. Ensure that any female deprived of her liberty is not subjected to torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, including all forms of sexual abuse.
3. Review and revise all detention procedures to ensure that measures are taken to prevent torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, and that women in custody receive medical exams and proper care by qualified doctors.
4. Ensure that there is judicial supervision of all forms of detention.
5. Abolish the practice of unpaid forced labour and portering, and abide by ILO Convention No 29 on the grounds that it constitutes cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.
6. Abolish forcible relocations on ethnic grounds and abide by Article 17 of Protocol II Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, which stipulates that civilians should be relocated only for their own security or for imperative military reasons.
7. Ensure that the right to life is protected and that the circumstances of all deaths in custody are investigated.
8. Ensure that those found responsible for human rights violations against women be brought to justice.
9. Provide human rights and gender-sensitive training for all military personnel, police, and prison staff.
10. Ratify the Optional Protocol of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly on 15 October 1999. The Optional Protocol provides for individuals or groups to submit communications to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

WOMEN POLITICAL PRISONERS IN MYANMAR

Amnesty International May 2000

The following is a list of female prisoners reportedly detained in Myanmar and believed by Amnesty International to be prisoners of conscience or possible prisoners of conscience. Amnesty International urges authorities in Myanmar to immediately and unconditionally release all those imprisoned for their peaceful exercise of the rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly and to make public information on all detainees.

To Amnesty International's knowledge, all prisoners have been sentenced in trials which fall short of international standards of fairness, and many have been denied legal counsel. The majority of prisoners have been sentenced under vaguely worded security legislation, including the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act (EPA), Sections 5 [j] and [e], and the 1908 Unlawful Associations Act (UAA), Sections 17/1 and 17/2. Amnesty International is concerned that they subject rights and freedoms to greater restrictions than are strictly necessary to meet requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare, and that they have been applied arbitrarily and indiscriminately to suppress dissent. Amnesty International is also calling for the revocation or amendment of all such legislation to bring it into line with international standards.

The organization is further concerned by reports that a number of prisoners below have been held incommunicado and tortured, and is calling on Myanmar authorities to institute a full, independent investigation of these allegations and for those found responsible to be brought to justice.

1	Daw San San Nwe	journalist and writer. National League for Democracy (NLD)	10 1950 EPA, 5 [e] ¹⁵ ; UAA, 17/1	00/08/94	<p>She was sentenced for allegedly sending documents to the United Nations and opposition groups in exile, and for speaking to diplomats and journalists "to cause misunderstanding of the government". She has reportedly suffered from bad health. was previously detained between July 1989 and April 1990 for her peaceful political activities as an NLD member. Her daughter, Ma Myat Myo Myo Tun, is also detained.</p> <p>AI considers her to be a prisoner of conscience.</p>	Insein Prison Yangon Division
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¹⁵Section 5 [e] of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act allows authorities to imprison up to seven years, or fine, or both, anyone who “causes or intends to spread false news, knowing beforehand that it is untrue”

2	Ma Myat Mo Mo Tun dob not known	not known, from Yankin township, Yangon	7 1950 EPA, section 5 [e]	00/08/94	She was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment for allegedly recording defamatory letters and documents on computer disc and making contacts with illegal political groups. Authorities also alleged that she sent antigovernment articles to "Khit Pyaing" Journal published by the expatriate group. She was sentenced at the same time as her mother under legislation that criminalizes the dissemination of “false” information. AI considers her to be a prisoner of conscience.	Insein Prison, Yangon
3	Moe Kalayar Oo dob c. 1968	former student (Yangon University, mathematics)	7 1950 EPA section 5 [j] ¹⁶	20/02/95	<p>She was arrested for reading an eulogy at the funeral of U Nu, former Prime Minister. A total of 11 persons were sentenced for their participation in the funeral, under charges of trying to form a political movement.</p> <p>AI considers her to be a prisoner of conscience .</p> <p>She is believed to be in a poor state of health.</p>	Tharawaddy Prison, Bago Division

¹⁶Section 5 [j] of the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act allows authorities to imprison for up to seven years and/or fine anyone who “causes or intends to disrupt the morality or the behaviour of a group of people or the general public, or to disrupt the security and stability of the Union.”

4	Cho Nwe Oo dob c.1969	former student (Yangon University, Burmese) from Kamaryut, Yangon	7 1950 EPA section 5 [j]	20/02/95	As above. AI considers her to be a prisoner of conscience.	Tharawaddy Prison, Bago Division
5	Aye Aye Moe dob c. 1969	student (Yangon University, Philosophy) from Kyauktada, Yangon	7 1950 EPA section 5 [j]	20/02/95	As above	Tharawaddy Prison, Bago Division
6	Daw Khin Mar Kyi	NLD: from Monywa, Sagaing Division.	7 122/2 of Myanmar Penal code	04/06/96	She was arrested at the time of a widescale crackdown on NLD supporters, and charged with attempting to open a branch office of the NLD in Monywa, and with distributing "antigovernment" materials within Myanmar. AI considers her to be a prisoner of conscience.	Mandalay Prison, Mandalay

7	Daw Aye Aye Win	NLD: from Tharketa, Thingangyun	7 1950 EPA section 5 [j]	30/06/96	<p>She was arrested during a crackdown on NLD members and supporters in June 1996, following large public attendance at weekend speeches made by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Yangon. It is reported that Daw Aye Aye Win was arrested on account of her peaceful support of the NLD: at the time of her arrest audio cassettes of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speeches and various NLD written materials were confiscated from her house.</p> <p>AI believes her to be a prisoner of conscience.</p>	Insein Prison, Yangon
8	Daw Thein Kywe	NLD: from Ahlone, Yangon	7 1950 EPA section 5 [j]	12/08/96	<p>It is believed that she was arrested on account of her attendance at NLD weekend meetings. At the time of her arrest two cassettes of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speeches were confiscated from her house and other NLD materials.</p> <p>AI considers her to be a prisoner of conscience</p>	Insein Prison Yangon

9	Daw Khin Soe Win	not known, from Monywa, Sagaing Division	7 Section 122/2 of the Myanmar Penal Code	00/06/96	She was accused of fostering contacts with expatriate groups, who the government alleged were inciting riots in Myanmar. It is believed that she was arrested for possessing written material of a political nature.	Mandalay Prison, Mandalay
10	Daw Khin Khin Kyu aka Daw Khin Aye Kyu, dob c. 1952	photographer, NLD member from Pazundaung, Yangon	10	20/09/96	<p>Daw Khin Aye Kyu, was sentenced with her brother under charges of distributing videotapes that have not been vetted by a censor, and for possessing imported video-copying equipment without official permission. Under Myanmar law, any videotape deemed commercial must be approved by a censor. She took photographs for the National League for Democracy. She was reportedly beaten in detention.</p> <p>AI considers her to be a prisoner of conscience.</p>	Insein Prison, Yangon

11	Ma Khin Mar Yi	NLD Youth member from Sanchaung, Yangon	7 1950 EPA section 5 [j]	06/12/96	It is believed that she has been imprisoned in connection with student demonstrations that took place in Yangon in December 1996. Students had demonstrated in Yangon and Mandalay in protest at the alleged beating in custody of three students by police officers. They also called for permission to form a student union, the release of student political prisoners and improvement in educational standards.	Insein Prison, Yangon Division
12	Ma Thi Thi Aung	student, NLD Youth, from Sanchaung, Yangon	7 1950 EPA section 5 [j]	03/12/96	As above	Tharawaddy Prison, Bago Division
13	Ma Nilar Thein aka Ma Ni	student, NLD Youth from Kamaryut, Yangon	10 1950 EPA section 5 [j]	00/12/96	As above	Tharawaddy Prison, Bago Division
14	Pyone Pyone Aye	worker from Mingala Taungnyunt, Yangon	14 1950 EPA Section 5 [j] UAA 17/1	00/12/96	As above She was charged with collaboration with the underground by using a photocopier. Her husband is also detained.	Insein Prison, Yangon

15	Ma Thida	student	7 1950 EPA section 5 [j]	00/12/96	as above	Tharawaddy Prison Bago Division
16	Ma Thin Thin Aye	student from Dagon University. From North Okalappa, Yangon	7 1950 EPA section 5 [j]	00/12/96	as above	Tharawaddy Prison, Bago Division
17	Ma Cho	NLD Youth from Sanchaung Township, Yangon	7 1950 EPA section 5 [j]	06/12/96	as above	not known
18	Ma Yee Yee Htun dob 1967	Democratic Party for a New Society, (DPNS) from Kyauktada, Yangon, student (Yangon Arts and Sciences University)	14 1950 EPA Section 5 [j] 17/1 of UAA	00/12/96	As above.	Tharawaddy Prison, Bago Division
19	Ai Shwe Zin Nyut	student from Insein Township, Yangon	7	00/12/96	As above	Tharawaddy Prison, Bago Division
20	Ma Lay Lay Mon	student (Dagon University), from North Dagon, Yangon	7	00/12/96	As above	Myaungmya Prison, Ayeyarwaddy Division

21	Hnin Hnin Hmwe dob c. 1970	student from Tharketa, Yangon	7 1950 EPA Section 5 [j]	00/12/96	As above. She was previously imprisoned for three years after being detained in 1989 for her peaceful political activities for the DPNS. She was reportedly seriously tortured in Insein Prison in September 1990 after prison authorities cracked down on prisoners who supported a hunger strike for better conditions for political prisoners in the prison.	Tharawaddy Prison, Bago Division
22	Daw Tin/Khin Yi	NLD Township organizational committee member from Wakema, Ayeyarwady Division	10 1950 EPA section 5 [j]	13/12/96	She was reportedly arrested for taking a prominent part in the funeral of the NLD township organizational committee.	Myaungmya Prison, Ayeyarwady Division
23	Kalayar	NLD Youth member from Tamwe, Yangon	7 1950 EPA section 5 [j]	00/00/97	No further information available	Insein Prison Yangon
24	Ma Thida Win dob c. 1969	Tutor, Mandalay University, from Monywa	7; 1950 EPA, Section 5 [j]	00/00/97	She is believed to suffer from partial paralysis	Tharawaddy Prison, Bago Division
25	Cho Mar aka Daw Cho Cho Mar	NLD Youth member from Kamaryut, Yangon	7 1950 EPA section 5 [j]	00/00/97	No further information available	Insein Prison, Yangon

26	Kyu Kyu San	NLD Youth member from Sanchaung Yangon	7 1950 EPA section 5 [j]	00/00/97	No further information available	Insein Prison, Yangon
27	Daw San San Win dob 25/12/45	Supreme Court lawyer; NLD MP elect for Ahlone, Yangon	20	00/00/97	No further information available. She was previously imprisoned between 1990 and 1992 under charges of high treason on account of her alleged participation in discussions about the formation of a parallel government, after military authorities failed to recognize election results.	Insein Prison, Yangon
28	Daw Ni dob c. 1937	villager from West Pathein township, Ayeyarwady Division	not known	06/01/97	She was reportedly imprisoned after being unable to provide labour or money when requested by authorities to to participate in the building of a road.	Pathein Prison, Ayeyarwady Division
29	Daw Khin Ma Than aka Nge Ma Ma Than	NLD from Yangon	10 1950 EPA Section 5 [j] UAA 17/1	00/06/97	She was sentenced with her brother and husband, allegedly in connection with a video of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaking about Karen refugees that was smuggled out of Myanmar. AI considers her to be a prisoner of conscience.	Insein Prison, Yangon Division

30	Daw May Win Myint dob 08/03/50	former medical doctor, NLD MP elect, Mayangone 2, Yangon Division, and NLD divisional organizer	6 1950 EPA, section 5 [j]	28/10/97	Daw May Win Myint was sentenced after an attempt by the NLD to hold a meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and NLD Youth in Mayangone township. She is reported to have been deprived of drinking water and to have been mishandled during interrogation. AI considers her to be a prisoner of conscience.	Insein Prison, Yangon
31	Ma Win Win Htay	NLD Youth member from Kyauktada, Yangon Division	6 1950 EPA, section 5 [j]	28/10/97	As above. She was not given access to lawyers or family members before her trial. AI considers her to be a prisoner of conscience.	Insein Prison, Yangon
32	Daw Saw Hlaing	from Henzada township, Ayeyarwady Division	7	31/10/97	She is reported to have been sentenced to seven years' imprisonment with hard labour for allowing an NLD MP-elect to stay in her house without registering as a visitor. It is believed that her sentence is politically motivated.	Not known

33	Daw San San dob 10/01/30	NLD MP elect, Seikkan, Yangon, Deputy Divisional Organizer, NLD Women's group member, former civil servant and marine biologist	25	00/11/97	<p>She is reported to have been arrested after authorities prevented an NLD meeting in Mayangone taking place. Officials stated that she was arrested for her involvement in anti-government activities, such as <i>"providing false information to foreign media and taking a lead role in anti-government mass rallies."</i></p> <p>Daw San San had reportedly conducted an interview on an internationally broadcast radio program, during which she was critical of the authorities. Authorities reportedly tried to force her to promise to end political activities, and when she would not comply she was made to serve the rest of a previous prison term of 25 years' imprisonment. She had been released from prison in 1992, after serving one year of a 25 year sentence for participating in discussions about the formation of a parallel government. Her release was conditional on not being involved in politics. AI considers her to be a prisoner of conscience.</p>	Insein Prison Yangon
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34	Su Su Win aka Ma Su Su	All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU), from Mingalataungnyunt, Yangon	7 1950 EPA section 5 [j]	00/02/98	Su Su Win was reportedly sentenced without legal representation at a trial with 40 co-defendants, who were charged with planning to bomb embassies in Yangon, and to assassinate SPDC leaders. She is reported to have been charged on account of her alleged involvement in the preparation of a written history of the student movement in Myanmar.	Insein Prison, Yangon
35	Khin Moe Aye	ABFSU from Kyauktada, Yangon	7 1950 EPA, section 5 [j]	00/01/98	As above	Insein Prison, Yangon
36	Khin Mi Mi Khine	NLD Youth member, Thingangyun, Yangon	7 1950 EPA, section 5 [j]	00/00/98	no further information	Insein Prison, Yangon
37	Daw Lae Lae, aka Lait Lait, dob 1971	thought to be NLD associated, Mayangone Yangon	10	00/00/98	Daw Lae Lae is thought to have been arrested in connection with NLD calls to convene parliament in September 1998.	Shwebo Prison, Sagaing Division

38	Ma Tin Mar Ni	former Democratic Party for a New Society (DPNS): a student political group.	7 1950 EPA, section 5 [j]	00/07/98	She was arrested in a crackdown on opposition activists and students, after student demonstrations and the National League for Democracy's call for the convening of parliament in September 1998. Student demonstrations called for the convening of parliament and the release of student political prisoners arrested for demonstrating in 1996. They also protested the relocation of the university campus to smaller campuses in remote places and the fact that students were required to take exams after a 7 day crash course covering the last two years' curriculum, during which period universities had been closed.	Mandalay Prison, Mandalay Division
39	Ma Ohn Mar	as above	7 1950 EPA, Section 5 [j]	00/07/98	as above	Mandalay Prison, Mandalay Division

40	Ma Mya Sabae Moe dob c. 1975	student from Hlaing college	7, 14 or 21 1950 EPA, Section 5 [j] UAA 17/1	00/09/98	As above. She was also detained after student demonstrations in Yangon in December 1996	Shwebo Prison Sagaing Division or Mandalay Prison Mandalay Division
41	Ma Kyi Kyi Win dob c. 1963	student and NLD Youth member, Kyimindine, Yangon	7 or 14 1950 EPA, Section 5 [j]	00/09/98	As above. She was also detained after student demonstrations in Yangon in December 1996.	Mandalay Prison, Mandalay
42	Ma Hnin Mya Aung	NLD	7 1950 EPA, Section 5 [j]	00/09/98	As above	Insein Prison, Yangon Division
43	Ma Chan Mya Aung	NLD	7 1950 EPA, Section 5 [j]	00/09/98	As above	Insein Prison, Yangon Division
44	Ma Kyi Kyi Mar	NLD Youth from Sanchaung, Yangon	7 1950 EPA, Section 5 [j]	00/09/98	As above	Insein Prison Yangon

45	Daw Aye Myint Than	NLD, from Thingangyun, Yangon	7 1950 EPA, Section 5 [j]	00/09/98	As above. It is believed that she was sent to Insein for her peaceful political activities as a member of the NLD, and for possessing NLD materials. Her daughter, Hnin May Aung, is also in detention.	Myaungmya Prison, Ayeyarwady Division
46	Hnin May Aung	student from Thingangyun, Yangon	42 1950 EPA Section 5 [j], 17/1 of UAA	00/00/98	As above	Mandalay Prison or Myingyan Prison, Mandalay Division
47	Ma Khin Cho Myint aka Zulu	Student (Yangon University, Physics) from Kamaryut, Yangon	7 or 10 1950 EPA, Section 5 [j]	00/09/98	As above She was reportedly tortured in detention	Mawlamyine Prison, Mon State
48	Aye Aye Swe	student from Kyimindine, Yangon	10 1950 EPA, Section 5 [j]	00/09/98	As above	Patheingyi Prison, Ayeyarwady Division
49	Ma Zin Mar Aung	NLD Youth from North Okalappa Yangon Division	7 1950 EPA, Section 5 [j]	00/09/98	As above	Mandalay Prison, Mandalay
50	Ma Cho Mar Twe	NLD from Kamaryut, Yangon	7 1950 EPA, Section 5 [j]	28/09/98	As above	Insein Prison, Yangon Division

51	Swe Swe Win	student	10 1950 EPA, Section 5 [j]	00/09/98	As above	Insein Prison, Yangon Division
52	Aye Aye Moe	from Thingangyun, Yangon	10 or 8 1950 EPA, Section 5 [j]	00/09/98	As above	Insein Prison, Yangon Division
53	Mar Mar Oo	Student, Mandalay	7; 1950 EPA 5j	00/12/98	She is believed to have been previously detained for three years between 1989 and 1992.	Insein Prison, Yangon
54	Ma Kyi Kyi Khin dob c. 1966	former ABFSU	7; 1950 EPA 5[j]	00/00/98	She was previously detained for eighteen months in 1990 in connection with her peaceful activities for the ABFSU.	Pathein Prison, Ayeyarwady Division

55	Dr Daw Shwe Bo dob c. 1950	former medical doctor, NLD member from Bago Division	life 1950 EPA, section 5 [j]; UAA, Section 17/1	00/07/99	She was arrested allegedly in connection with a march that had been planned to commemorate the assassination of General Aung San and reportedly to support the National League for Democracy, the lowering of food prices and revision of civil servants' salaries. She was sentenced in a special trial in Insein Prison under charges of association with the All Burma Students Democratic Front. She was formerly a township medical officer, but was reportedly required to resign after becoming a member of the National League for Democracy.	Not known
56	Ma Thida Htwe dob c. 1971	teacher	life or 35 years 1950 EPA, section 5 [j]; UAA, Section 17/1 and 17/2	23/07/99	As above	Not known

57	Ma Khin Khin Leh dob 1966	teacher	life	00/07/99 1950 EPA, section 5 [j]; UAA, Section 17/1	As above. She was arrested allegedly in connection with her husband's activities at the above mentioned march. Her three year old daughter was arrested at the same time, and was held in custody for up to five days. She is believed to be suffering from lung disease, and was reportedly tortured during interrogation.	Not known
58	Daw Aye Than aka Ama Gyi	trader from Thathone township, Mon State,	25	28/07/99	Authorities reportedly charged her with distributing within Myanmar pro-democracy information published by opposition groups. Her three sisters were also sentenced to one year's imprisonment after authorities alleged that they had withheld information about the time that Daw Aye Than had visited their houses. They have reportedly been released.	Not known

59	Daw Tin Win Kyi	from Zegya Market, Mandalay	5 1950 EPA, Section 5 [e]	08/09/99	Daw Tin Win Kyi and her two sisters Daw Tin Tin Aye and Daw Khin Kyi were arrested for wearing t-shirts with yellow stickers of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. They were arrested on the day before 9 September, on which opposition student groups had called for a popular uprising against military authorities. It is believed that they were denied legal counsel at the time of their trial.	Mandalay Prison, Mandalay Division
60	Daw Tin Tin Aye	from Zegya Market, Mandalay	5 1950 EPA, Section 5 [e]	08/09/99	as above	Mandalay Prison, Mandalay Division
61	Daw Khin Kyi Kyi	from Mandalay, Mandalay Division	5 1950 EPA, Section 5 [e]	00/09/99	as above	Mandalay Prison, Mandalay Division