

U Myat Ko  
Secretary of the Myanmar Human Rights Committee  
c/o Minister of Home Affairs  
Office No 10  
Ministries Zone  
Naypyitaw,  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar



ကို ဒေါ: ဒောင်  
အမှန်တရားအတွက်အပြစ်ဒဏ်  
ခံရသောအကျဉ်းသား

February 2012

Dear Secretary,

Thank you for reading this letter - which arrives at an auspicious time for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The recent, and substantial number of, prisoner releases really do point to a new era for Myanmar. However, despite these very positive signs I remain very concerned about one prisoner in particular: **Ko Aye Aung**.

**Ko Aye Aung** was last heard of in Kalay Prison but has not featured in any of the lists of recent releases. I am therefore very concerned to know about his current circumstances. I trust that you have access to accurate and up to date information about his condition and full knowledge of the legal circumstances of his case.

**Ko Aye Aung is** a student of physics who was arrested in Yangon in September 1998. You should know that he has committed no crime by international standards, nor has he ever threatened violence against anyone. He is reported to have been tortured, contrary to Articles 330 and 331 of the Penal Code of Myanmar. For over thirteen years now he has been in Kale prison in Sagaing Division, nearly six hundred miles away from his family and friends. I understand that he is suffering from malaria and typhoid and is in need of medical attention. I have also heard that he has been denied access to religious books. These conditions amount to a severe restriction of his human rights and are in conflict with Myanmar's own codes for the treatment of prisoners, and contrary to the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. (Myanmar is, of course, one of the first signatories of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - so it is highly relevant to your country and its standing in international affairs).

If you were truly to live by the principles of international law, and the Buddhist principles of peace and justice, then you would ensure that **Ko Aye Aung** receives the medical treatment he urgently needs. Please will you also ensure that he has access to appropriate legal advice and is allowed visits from family and friends. He should, of course, be moved from Kalay to Yangon to be close to family and friends. I am sure that, once you have reviewed his case, you will see that he should not be in prison at all and should be allowed to return to his studies at university.

I look forward to your response to this long-standing and distressing case of unjustified imprisonment. I trust you will do all you can to uphold the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, especially because Myanmar was one of the first countries in the world to sign the Declaration in 1947.

Yours sincerely and respectfully,