

# URGENT ACTION



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*Note: Please write on behalf of these persons even though you may not have received the original UA when issued on September 11, 2009. Thanks!*

24 September 2009

Further information on UA 242/09 (11 September 2009) – Fear of torture

**MYANMAR**

**Kyaw Zaw Lwin (m), Human Rights Activist**

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Trusted sources have reported to Amnesty international that male activist Kyaw Zaw Lwin was tortured and suffered other ill-treatment while in detention in Insein Prison, Yangon, Myanmar's main city. He was arrested in Yangon on 3 September. He has been denied medical treatment for the injuries he sustained from the torture he endured during interrogation. There are grave concerns about his health.

The torture and ill-treatment that Kyaw Zaw Lwin suffered in detention included beating and kicking. He was deprived of food for seven days and moved between different interrogation centres. He was not allowed to sleep at night and was kept awake during interrogation by the authorities. Details of the charges against him are not known.

The state newspaper New Light of Myanmar reported on 24 September that Kyaw Zaw Lwin had entered Myanmar to "create unrests within the country". The newspaper reported details of the activities that Kyaw Zaw Lwin and other Burmese pro-democracy exiles allegedly undertook in collaboration with "internal anti-government elements" in Myanmar.



Kyaw Zaw Lwin, a US citizen, received consular access for the first time on 22 September.

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Amnesty International has received additional information about Kyaw Zaw Lwin since issuing the initial Urgent Action. Kyaw Zaw Lwin has identified himself as an independent activist. While he has been involved with the work of pro-democracy groups and campaigns, he is not affiliated with any single group. Much of Kyaw Zaw Lwin's work with pro-democracy groups has been undertaken because several of his relatives are political prisoners. His mother San San Tin and cousin Nwe Hnin Yi (aka Noe Noe), as well as Thet Thet Aung, who has now been confirmed as his cousin, are all currently serving prison sentences for their part in the anti-government demonstrations in September 2007.

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**Amnesty International's mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination, within the context of its work to promote all human rights.**

A government amnesty on 17 September announced the release of 7,114 prisoners on 'humanitarian grounds'. Only 127 of those released were political prisoners. Political dissidents and pro-democracy campaigners continue to be harassed and detained in Myanmar.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send appeals to arrive as quickly as possible:**

- Express concern at reports that Kyaw Zaw Lin was tortured and suffered other ill-treatment while in detention;
- Urging the authorities to immediately provide Kyaw Zaw Lin access to any medical treatment he may require, and that this continues until he is released;
- Calling on the authorities to release Kyaw Zaw Lin immediately and unconditionally as soon as he has received the urgent medical treatment he needs;
- Demand that the authorities guarantee that Kyaw Zaw Lwin is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated while he remains in custody and that he has access to his family and legal counsel.

**APPEALS TO:**

**Minister for Home Affairs**

Maung Oo  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Office No. 10  
Naypyitaw, UNION OF MYANMAR

**Fax: 011 95 67 412 439**

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**Minister of Information**

Brigadier-General Kyaw Hsan  
Ministry of Information  
Bldg. (7), Naypyitaw,  
UNION OF MYANMAR

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**Minister of Foreign Affairs**

Nyan Win  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Naypyitaw, UNION OF MYANMAR

**Salutation: Dear Minister**

**COPIES TO:**

Ambassador Linn Myaing  
Embassy of the Union of Myanmar  
2300 S St. NW  
Washington DC 20008

**Fax: 1 202 332 4351**

**Email: [info@mewashingtondc.com](mailto:info@mewashingtondc.com)**

**PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY.**

**Check with the AIUSA Urgent Action office if sending appeals after 16 October 2009.**