



**Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)**

နိုင်ငံရေးအကျဉ်းသားများကူညီစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအသင်း (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ)

## **Monthly Chronology of Burma's Political Prisoners for December, 2013**



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နိုင်ငံရေးအကျဉ်းသားများ ကူညီစောင့်ရှောက်ရေးအသင်း (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ)

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### **SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT SITUATION**

Early December saw the release of 41 political prisoners. The December 30 Presidential Pardon Order Number-51/2013 brought the release of a further 16 political prisoners, bringing the total for December to 59. 3 people were indicted and arrested and 9 were indicted throughout this month with 15 people were sentenced with 9 being imprisoned. There remain around 136 people still awaiting trial for their political activities. The release of all those facing trial under Section 18 of The Peaceful Assembly Act, 505 (b) of the Penal Code and the other areas of law within the Pardon still left at least roughly 33 political prisoners incarcerated inside Burma, despite government assertions to the contrary.

### **MONTH IN REVIEW**

The Presidential Pardon on December 30 saw charges dropped for around 100 defendants and an estimated 16 political prisoners were released on December 31, 2013. This round of releases follows the earlier amnesty for 41 political prisoners. The removal of charges made under the Section 18 and 505 (b) laws has reduced the number of people awaiting trial. Prisoner releases have however still come under section 401 conditional releases, and the laws used to arrest peaceful activists still remain in place.

The Review Committee for the Release of Remaining Political Prisoners still maintains there are political detainees inside Burma, and their role will continue into the new year as the list of activists still in prison is verified.

### **DETENTIONS**

U SeinHla, lawyer and former political prisoner was arrested on December 3, 2013. SeinHla has been intricately involved in protests against the Great Wall Company owner U Tin Maung for illegal logging and land confiscations. As U SeinHla believes U Thar Aye, Sagaing Division Prime Minister was acting in the interest of U Tin Maung, he submitted a request to the former to stage a demonstration against the owner of the Great Wall Company which was rejected. He was summoned to appear before Htee-Chaing court on November 28, 2013 but through his aide, Ko Nay Win sent a letter to account for his absence. The letter was dismissed and a warrant was issued, resulting in him being arrested on December 3, 2013. He was released on a 6 million

kyat bail on the following day. (December 3, 2013 Cartoonist Harjule's Facebook), (December 4, 2013 Cartoonist Harjule's Facebook)

Residents from Taungdwingyi, Magwe division staged a protest December 2, 2013 demanding that a petrol station perceived as a major risk to the town, be relocated. In 1981 the town was severely damaged by a fire which erupted at the same petrol station. Protest leader, KyawTunOo explained that the town since its recovery has grown in population and in businesses and other establishment in the vicinity. The station was inspected by a district-level inquiry team, which as of yet despite promises to the contrary, has failed to release its findings. Pyae Moe, was charged by local police for staging a solo demonstration on 7 November. ([December 3, 2013 DVB](#))

Adding to charges under Section 505 (b) filed against DawNawOhnHla on December 6, 2013, she was charged on December 10, 2013 under Article 296 of the Penal Code for disturbing a religious assembly. The Shwedagon Pagoda Board filed the charge, reportedly in relation to her organizing weekly prayer sessions back in 2007, calling for the release of Aung San SuuKy. The 7-year delay in her charges are a testimony to the authorities arbitrarily increasing charges against DawNawOhnHla. ([December 11, 2013 Irrawaddy](#)), ([December 10, 2013 DVB](#))

Nine activists who participated in protests at the Letpadaung copper mine site in December 2012 were charged under Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law on December 2, 2013 at Myingyun District court. KoNyanMyint Than, KoZaw Lin Aung, Ko Moe Set, KoPhyoNgweAung (aka) Nyi Lay, Ko Thaw ZinOo, Ko Thant Zin are former or current members and chairs of the All Burma Federation of Students Union, whilst one activist, KoAungMyint Han, is former All Burma Students' Democratic Front. Information about the political affiliation of the latter two activists KoPaingMyoAung (aka) PaingPaing and KoAungKyawHtwe was not available. Despite being sued in 2012, the activists were not summoned to court until late November this year. (November 29, 2013 AAPP Facebook)

Leader of the protests for the return of confiscated farmlands at Mei-Chang-Kan, U Sein Than who was charged under Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law on November 26, 2013 and subsequently sentenced to 3 months with hard labor at ThingangyunTsp court, received another 6 months sentence under Section 18 on December 9, 2013 at KyauktadaTsp court. U SeinThan was among 41 political prisoners who were released on December 11, 2013. ([December 11, 2013 RFA](#)), ([December 9, 2013 RFA Burmese](#)), (December 6, 2013 AAPP Facebook)

A former political prisoner and member of Myanmar Social Development Network, Ko Nay MyoZin has been re-arrested and charged under Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law for holding a talk show without obtaining the mandatory prior approval. Zin was released under parole in Oaut-Kazun-Taw village, PantanawTsp on November 13, 2013 but following his court hearing on December 12, 2013 was put under arrest again. Chairman of Irrawaddy Division Union of Fishermen and Farmers and a PantanawTsp resident, U Thein Win said that constituents in Irrawaddy Division, and supporters of U San Sint, a former Irrawaddy Division Regional speaker, had objected to him stepping down from office to take up a position as Minister of Religious Affairs. Seemingly the talk show hosted by Ko Nay MyoZin addressed this issue. ([December 12, 2013 RFA Burmese](#))

A new charge under Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law has been brought against Ko De Nyein Lin, a political prisoner who was released under the presidential amnesty given on December 11, 2013. Lin participated in a demonstration in front of the Chinese Embassy, Yangon against a crackdown on monks at a protest camp near the Letpadaung Taung Copper Mine Project in December 2012. Alongside 5 other protest leaders he was sentenced in November 2013, to one month imprisonment under Section 18 in 3 different township courts. De Nyein Lin was summoned to appear before the Dagon Tsp court on December 16, 2013. ([December 13, 2013 RFA Burmese](#))

A few hours after being released under a presidential amnesty on December 10, 2013 U Thein San, KoHtinKyaw was re-arrested under Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law as well as an additional charge of sedition under Section 505 (b). HtinKyaw's wife said he was strong-armed by the judge at North OkkalapaTsp to apply for bail for the latter charge, however was sent back to detention as he was denied posting bail without the presence of his three co-defendants. Aye Thein, another activist released during the December 10 amnesty was immediately rearrested and charged with sedition and for municipal by-law offences. Both political prisoners are highly active dissidents who on previous occasions have been charged and detained under arbitrary laws including Section 18 and Section 505 of the Penal Code. ([December 13, 2013 DVB](#)), ([December 11, 2013 Mizzima](#))

The leaders who protested against the electricity rise on November 8 2013, were indicted under Section 18 by PabedanTsp on December 20, 2013. Four protest leaders including KoTheinAungMyint, a member of Myanmar Democracy Current Force (MDCF), were sentenced to one month imprisonment or 10, 000 Kyat in fine under Section 18 at PabendanTspcourt. KoTheinAungMyint stated that their defend lawyer U Robert San Aung paid 40,000 Kyat fine for his four clients. ([December 20, 2013 RFA Burmese](#))

On 26 December, authorities in Yamethintownship issued arrest warrants for five protest leaders who are now being charged for sedition under Article 505(b). The warrants were issued a week earlier after a clash between the police miners of the MoehtiMoemi gold mine, which resulted in nine casualties. Two policemen were also injured during the clash. The protesters are facing severe food shortages as the police were blocking sympathizers and supporters who were bringing in supplies. ([December 30, 2013 DVB](#))

## INCARCERATIONS

Two activists, Yan NaingHtun and Aung Min Naing, who led a march to protest the renewal of Burmese army offensives against the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), were sentenced to seven months in prison under the highly-contested article 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Act for participating in unauthorized demonstration. The 800-mile march from Rangoon to Laiza, northern Kachin state afforded the two activists with charges filed in seven different townships. Hlaingtsp court ordered the two to either pay a fine of 70,000 kyat or to serve a month in prison for each consecutive charge. Yan NaingHtun and Aung Min Naing

refused to pay the fine, maintaining that their actions were not illegal. ([December 5, 2013 DVB](#))

At a demonstration at the Chinese Embassy in Rangoon against Chinese mining company Wanbao, altercations between protesters and authorities led to Tin HtutPaing, AungSoe, DawNawOhnHla and a fourth activist setting fire to a Chinese flag. Wanbaorun the highly contested Letpadaung copper mine in a joint venture with a military-backed company. Tin HtutPaing, leader of advocacy group Generation Youth, was detained December 3, 2013, whilst DawNawOhnHla was arrested on the night of December 6, 2013. Both were charged under section 505 (b) of the Penal Code for making a statement or spreading a rumor conducive to public mischief. Tin HtutPaing was also charged under section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Act, whilst AungSoe and the fourth activist were charged with similar offenses. ([December 7, 2013 RFA Burmese](#)), ([December 5, 2013 Irrawaddy](#)), ([December 4, 2013 BBC](#))

Lapai Gun, 52, and Brang Yung, 25, will be serving two-year prison sentences under the 1908 Unlawful Associations Act. In addition, they will also serve five years in prison for the bombing in the capital of Myitkyina, which exploded near a parking lot of an administrative building. They were detained after the bombing alongside two other Kachin men after the explosion. All four have denied links to the KIA. According to their lawyer, the court rejected evidence put forth in their defense. The Kachin detainees will likely remain in prison as the court continues to add extra charges. ([December 20, 2013](#))

TaungooTsp National League for Democracy Party (NLD) member Ko Min Swe, a farmer from Than-Taw Village, U Bo and a resident of MeiktilaTsp, Mandalay Division, DawThandarAung, were condemned prison sentences and fined at ThaziTsp court, Meiktila District. DawThandarAung was sentenced to 3 years and 3 months in prison under Sections 143 of joining unlawful assembly, 505 (b), 505 (c) of statements conducing public mischief and 6 (1) for destroying public properties. Ko Min Swe was sentenced to 2 years and 3 months imprisonment under Sections 143 of joining unlawful assembly, 505 (b) and (c) of statements conducing to public mischief and U Bo was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment under Section 6 (1)/9 of destroying public properties. In addition, they were all sentenced to pay 7500 Kyat fine under Sections 447, 189, and 114. ([December 23, 2013 RFA Burmese](#))

Eleven news reporter NawKhineKhine Aye Cho, also known as Ma Khine, was sentenced to three months imprisonment for allegedly trespassing in Aye Aye Phy's home, defamation and use of abusive language. Aye AyePhyo, who sued Ma Khine after an argument took place while seeking comments on an alleged video piracy matter in October 2013. Contrary to the statement made by the Aye AyePhy, Ma Khine was invited into the house after she identified herself as a journalist. The Eleven news media is conducting an individual investigation into the case. Many local and international press freedom groups agree that the sentence handed down to the journalist for her offense was much too harsh. This case is the first imprisonment of a reporter since President Thein Sein's government took power in 2012. She will be appealing the case. ([December 23, 2013 Irrawaddy](#)), ([December 23, 2013 DVB](#))

A member of Generation Youth (GY), Ko Tin Htut Paing, who protested against Section 18, was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment with hard labor on December 24, 2013, at Latha Tsp court. He marched through SanchaungTsp to KyauktadaTsp on August 27, 2013 and must be indicted in different townships. His co-defendant KoAungSoe was issued a warrant as he is in hiding. ([December 24, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))

## **RELEASES**

On December 11, 2013 41 political prisoners were released from various penitentiaries in Burma. The amnesty coincides with the opening ceremony of the South East Asian Games which Burma is hosting. The latest releases are granted just weeks before the end of the year, by which point President TheinSein has publicly stated that there will no longer be any political prisoners left in the country. In contrast to the series of amnesties that have taken place during TheinSein's time in office, which were conditional releases under Article 401 of the Penal Code, the December 11 was a presidential amnesty granted under Section 204 (a) of the constitution. ([December 11, 2013 DVB](#)), ([December 11, 2013 Irrawaddy](#)), ([December11, 2013 RFA](#))

MyintMyint Aye, KhinMiMiKhine and Thant ZinHtike were released fromPaungde prison in Pegu division on December 24, 2013 after the regional high court upheld their appeal against charges they were facing at a township level court. MyintMyint Aye's health was in seriously condition during the strike. The hunger strike lasted 11 days. ([December 24, 2013 DVB](#))

Burma freed 16 political prisoners on December 31, 2013 and around 100 people saw their charges being dropped. The total number of released in December came to 59 from prison. More are expected to be released in the upcoming weeks. The pardon granted by President TheinSein on December 30<sup>th</sup> included those convicted of a variety of political offenses. Among those being released charges were made under High Treason, 1950 Emergency Provision Act, Section 505(b) related to public mischief and the largely contested law Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law. In addition, the decree halted all ongoing trials and investigations connected with those charges. The amnesty applies to those who have been convicted and those who are facing trial. On the same day, 200 protesters gathered in front of the prison in northern Rangoon to call for the release of all political prisoners as promised by President Thein Sein earlier this year. Presidential spokesman Ye Htut stated the amnesty, along with a separate pardon for five additional inmates jailed under other legislation, meant there are no more political prisoners. However, according to AAPP at least 33 political prisoners still remain behind bars. They have been held under other charges not included in the presidential amnesty. ([December 31, 2013 Irrawaddy](#)), ([December 31, 2013 Irrawaddy](#)), ([December 31, 2013 DVB](#)), ([December 31, 2013 DVB](#)), ([December 31, 2013 MyanmarTimes](#)), ([December 31, 2013 RFA](#))

## CONDITIONS OF DETENTIONS

According to DawNawOhnHla's lawyer Robert Aung, the well-known activist who is currently incarcerated and facing several charges, is subjected to mistreatment in prison. He called into question the actions of the Dagon Tsp police, referring to NawOhnHla's water supply being cut off whilst in custody there and said further that the activist was in poor health. ([December 11, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))

3 protesters, Daw Myint Myint Aye, Daw Khin Mei Mei Khaing and Ko Thant ZinHtet who have been on a hunger strike since December 12, 2013 were reported to be in poor health. Ko Thant Zin Htet has been hospitalized as his condition has worsened and he has been on intravenous drip (IV). His female co-detainees have refused to accept medical treatment although they too are in need of IV treatment, according to Daw Aye Mhe, elder sister of DawKhin Mei Mei Khaing. The latter has previously suffered two strokes and ZinHtet suffers from a lung condition. Family members have made multiple attempts to visit the detainees, most recently on December 16, however according to Daw Aye Mhe, they were denied access to them. Prison authorities told Aye Mhe that the 3 were in good health, but they had broken prison rules and regulations and therefore did not have visiting rights. She was not informed of what specific rules they were in violation of. Their strike lasted 11 days when they were released on December 24, 2013 ([December 19, 2013 Irrawaddy](#)), ([December 15, 2013 RFA Burmese](#)), ([December 12, 2013 DVB](#)), ([December 10, 2013 RFA Burmese](#)), ([December 24, 2013 DVB](#))

Lapai Gun and Brang Yung, the two men detained in relation to the bombing in Myitkyina Township in June 2012 have claimed to have suffered abuse during their detention period. They have been forced to perform sexual acts and humiliating dances by Burma Army's Infantry Battalion No. 37. The court has rejected their accusations of mistreatment. ([December 20, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))

Sixty year old inmate of Monywa prison Daw Nyo died in hospital during her incarceration. Her family members have registered a letter of complaint regarding her death and the case is being investigated. ([December 23, 2013 Mizzima](#))

## DEMONSTRATIONS AND RELATED RESTRICTIONS ON POLITICAL AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Protesters at the Michaungkan site who had carried out a 17-day long sit-down demonstration, and defied a military ultimatum to disband on December 9, agreed on the morning of December 12, 2013 to suspend the protest for a period of 3 months, as the parliamentary Farmland Investigation Commission pledged to look into their case and to bring it before parliament. Swan Arshin, a pro-government group over the weekend of December 6th to 8th, attacked the demonstrators. However, the protesters remained on-site. ([December 12, 2013 DVB](#)), ([December 11, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))

Authorities fenced in more than 300 acres of farmland at the Latpadaung copper mine area, leaving over 50 villagers from Monywa, Sagaing division devastated. Farmers have been protesting since the resumption of mining activities in October this year resulting in several clashes between protesters and police trying to quell the demonstrations. The Latpadaung Investigation Committee, led by Aung San Suu Kyi, recommended that the mining company compensate the villagers with 1900 acres of farmland elsewhere, yet such steps have not been realized. Yi Yi Win, a Sete villager, said that his bean and sesame crops were bulldozed, soil was dumped on the land and a type of acid was spread across it. ([December 13, 2013 DVB](#))

Civil society groups are reporting that their efforts to educate the population on an international transparency standard which governs the extraction of natural resources are facing impediments from local government officials. A lack of knowledge of EITI among the general population lead to vulnerability to exploitation by companies with interest in acquiring land. ([December 16, 2013 Irrawaddy](#)), ([July 12, 2012 DVB](#))

## **RESTRICTIONS ON FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS**

No reports of restrictions on former political prisoners in December.

## **AAPP IN THE MEDIA**

The Joint Secretary of Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma), AAPP-B, Ko Bo Kyi commented on the Section 18 in regards to activists who have recently been arrested under the this particular law, "I viewed that the permission does not need for the peaceful assembly. We (AAPP) denounced the request to gain permission for the peaceful protest. However, the protester should inform a few days in advanced for the security reason/to organize the security plan." ([December 13, 2013 RFA Burmese](#))

Talky, a spokesman in AAPP Rangoon office commented on the recent developments. "We welcome the government's release of the prisoners of conscience...But we still need to wait one more week for the release of the remaining political prisoners, who were convicted in criminal cases....We hope HtinKyaw and NawOhnHla will also be released soon." In addition, Bo Kyi, Joint Secretary of AAPP who is a leading member of the Political Prisoners Scrutinizing Committee, welcomed the presidential pardon. He added, "However, several steps need to be taken to maintain a level of zero political prisoners. There must be rule of law and more political freedom to maintain that level." ([December 31, 2013 Irrawaddy](#)), ([December 31, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))

The Assistance Association for Political Prisoners-Burma (AAPP-B) will be holding an event on January 2, 2014 to honor the political activists who died behind bars. The event, which will be held at the Royal Rose Hall in Rangoon, aims to provide moral and financial support to the families of political prisoners. According to AAPP data, 166 political prisoners have died in



custody since 1988. 54 of the unsung heroes will be commemorated for the first time at the event. ([December 31, 2013 DVB](#))

## **KEY INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS**

The National League for Democracy (NLD) released a statement on December 2, 2013 reiterating their request from late November this year for a quadripartite conference on constitutional reform between the president, parliament, the military and the NLD. In their statement the NLD chastised the government for refusing to meet, claiming that postponing multi-party discussions was intentional and showed the Thein Sein-led government's reluctance to real reform. Ye Htut, spokesman for the president, responded to NLD's critique saying discussions should be postponed until a parliamentary Joint-Committee for Reviewing the Constitution announce their findings, which are set to be released by December 31. ([December 2, 2013 DVB](#))

During the first weekend of December, President TheinSein met with representatives from several civil society organizations (CSOs) in a forum allowing the groups to openly voice their grievances. The activists decried the persistent lack of cooperation that they faced at all levels of government in their work. The CSO representatives further noted that the rule of law and the use of arbitrary sections of the law severely hampered their ability to work with the government. TheinSein said he welcomed the activists' input, but called on the groups to refrain from taking an argumentative approach. ([December 2, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))

The International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) launched a report on December 3, 2013 and reviewed conditions for lawyers in Burma and outlined recommendations for areas of concern. Though overall independence for lawyers has increased, prior conditions for lawyers were very poor, leaving scope for vast improvement. Among the challenges cited are state surveillance, harassment, corruption and the low standards of legal education in the country. ICJ discussed their main recommendations with Thein Sein's legal as well as other prominent state representatives. ICJ further urged reform of the Myanmar Bar Council, which currently lacks independence. ([December 3, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))

December 2, 2013 marked International Human Rights Day. Activists from Burma said that whilst the human rights situation had somewhat improved since the days of brutal military rule, human rights violations continued to mark the country. Bo Bo Han, who served 15 years for his role in organizing the protest in 1991, referring to the continuing limited freedom of expression and association in the country, said that as long as Article 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Procession Law existed, full human rights could not be achieved. ([December 10, 2013 Irrawaddy](#))

Activists from the Union of Fishermen and Farmers and Myanmar Social Development Network (MSDN) have been leading a campaign to abolish or amend Section 18 of the Peaceful Assembly

and Procession Law. Since December 14, the activists have collected more than 30,000 signatures in Irrawaddy Division.[\(December 15, RFA Burmese\)](#)

On December 21, 2013, the verification committee and the government minister group had a meeting at Myanmar Peace Center (MPC). The Committee are still facing difficulties in deciding the list of remaining political prisoners, due in some part to a number having connections with the army. A large number of the remaining list are related with ethnic armed groups. [\(December 22, 2013 DVB\)](#)

The parliamentary Joint-Committee for Reviewing the Constitution (JCRC) announced that it will meet January 7, 2013 to review and discuss the proposals and recommendations for amending the 2008 constitution. The JCRC has received more than 400 letters from political parties, organizations, and individuals, containing 2, 512 suggestions, of which almost 600 outlined amendments to articles in the first chapter of the constitution. National League for Democracy (NLD) has prepared about 150 points or clauses that it will present as suggested amendments to the 2008 constitution. Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) will discuss the proposals to amend about 80 clauses in the 2008 Constitution, including clause 59(f), which sees denotes qualifications for the President and Vice-Presidents' positions. USDP has said it supports a constitutional amendment that could allow opposition leader Aung San SuuKyì to become president if her British-born children receive Myanmar citizenship. [\(December 27, 2013 DVB\)](#), [\(December 31, 2013 RFA\)](#), [\(December 18, 2013 DVB\)](#), [\(December 30, 2013\)](#)

## CONCLUSION/ANALYSIS

The end of 2013 saw the release of a further 59 political prisoners, along with the commutation of jail sentences and the cancellation of all ongoing trials under Section 18, 505(b) and Emergency Act as well as several other sections of law. The use of laws such as Section 18 to imprison peaceful activists continues to violate international human rights standard of freedom, assembly and association. The Presidential Pardon on December 30 and the freedom of political activists on December 31 do not mean these laws will cease to be used to persecute political activists. Burma must strengthen the Rule of Law and its mechanisms in order to move forward with the development of free democratic society in year 2014. Without these substantial changes being made, 2014 will be the year a new generation of political prisoners are incarcerated inside Burma's prisons.

There still at least 33 political prisoners in prisons across Burma. President Thein Sein made a promise to the people of Burma to release all political prisoners by the end of the year 2013. Those released under the presidential amnesties must be guaranteed the right to be reintegrated into post-prison life without further harassment and fear of arbitrary arrests.

AAPP (B) will continue to ask the president and the government of Burma to immediately release all political prisoners with official recognition of their political status and issue an order to revoke the conditions imposed by Article 401 (1). There are still a high number of political

activists awaiting trial. We urge the government to continue taking positive steps towards national reconciliation and remove these charges against peaceful political activists. Firm action must be taken to ensure the year 2014 does not become the year a new generation of political prisoners are sealed within the prisons of Burma for their attempts to achieve democratic and political freedom.

**Links/sources:**

**December 31<sup>st</sup>**

[Protesters Gather at Insein Prison After Presidential Pardon \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Burma Pardons Political Offenders \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Seven political prisoners released \(DVB\)](#)

[Vigil to be held for deceased political prisoners \(DVB\)](#)

[Burmese president pardons all remaining political prisoners \(DVB\)](#)

[Myanmar declares 'no more political prisoners' \(Myanmar Times\)](#)

[Myanmar Political Prisoners Freed in Amnesty \(RFA\)](#)

[USDP Backs Amendment Allowing SuuKyi to Be President \(RFA\)](#)

[British ambassador defends Burmese military training \(DVB\)](#)

**December 30<sup>th</sup>**

[Five gold mine protestors to be charged with sedition \(DVB\)](#)

[USDP discuss 'crucial clauses' of constitution \(DVB\)](#)

**December 27<sup>th</sup>**

[150 constitutional clauses should be amended, says NLD \(DVB\)](#)

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**

[Activist called for section 18 to be abolished, sentenced to 3 months \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Hunger strikers released from prison \(DVB\)](#)

**December 23<sup>rd</sup>**

[Prison Term for Reporter Leads to Outcry Over Media Freedom \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[The land right activists, gave assistance to farmers, sentenced \(RFA Burmese\)](#)

**December 20<sup>th</sup>**

[Two Kachin Sentenced to Five More Years in Prison for Alleged Bomb Plot \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Peaceful protesters, against rising electricity charges, condemned \(RFA\)](#)

**December 19<sup>th</sup>**

[Hunger Strike Raises Health Concerns for Detained Activists \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

**December 18<sup>th</sup>**

[Constitution review meeting set for 7 January \(DVB\)](#)

## **December 16<sup>th</sup>**

[EITI Awareness Hindered by Local Officials, NGO Claims \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

## **December 15<sup>th</sup>**

[Three quarters of new land concessions unused: ministry \(MM Times\)](#)

## **December 13<sup>th</sup>**

[More land fenced off at Latpadaung, locals devastated \(DVB\)](#)

[Ministry Urges Press Council to Take Action Against Journal \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Ethnic Rebels' Conference Postponed \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

## **December 12<sup>th</sup>**

[Land grab activist vows to go on hunger strike \(DVB\)](#)

[Michaungkan protesters agree to close rally camp for three months \(DVB\)](#)

## **December 11<sup>th</sup>**

[Pardoned prisoners re-arrested within hours, says activist group \(Mizzima\)](#)

[Burma Releases 41 More Political Prisoners \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Myanmar Frees Dozens of Political Prisoners \(RFA\)](#)

[Forty-one political prisoners released \(DVB\)](#)

[Burma Activist NawOhnHla Faces 'Religious Disturbance' Complaint \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Burma Protest Camp Defiant in Face of Ultimatums \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

## **December 10<sup>th</sup>**

[On Human Rights Day, Activists Say More Work to Do \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[NawOhnHla charged on religious offences from 2007 \(DVB\)](#)

[DawMyintMyint Aye announces plan to go on hunger strike in prison \(RFA Burmese\)](#)

## **December 9<sup>th</sup>**

[The Verification Committee of the Remaining Political Prisoners are preparing to verify cases relating to offences against the army \(Mizzima Burmese\)](#)

## **December 7<sup>th</sup>**

[Protester DawNawOhnHla rearrested after setting fire to a flag \(RFA Burmese\)](#)

## **December 5<sup>th</sup>**

[Peace marchers sentenced to 7 months \(DVB\)](#)

[Myanmar Activist Detained for Burning Chinese Flag \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

## **December 4<sup>th</sup>**

[Protester arrested for flag burning \(BBC Burmese\)](#)

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

[Reforming Burma Moves Up Global Corruption Rankings \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Burma Lawyers See Greater Freedom, but Still Far to Go \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Magwe residents fuming over petrol risks \(DVB\)](#)

**December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

[CSOs Urge TheinSein to Open Up Political Space in Burma \(Irrawaddy\)](#)

[Govt rejection of quadripartite meeting 'unacceptable': NLD \(DVB\)](#)

**July 12<sup>th</sup>**

[Burma set to join transparency initiative \(DVB\)](#)

**Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma)**

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