



Human Rights Defenders Forum Joins Aung Hmaing San's Call for the Release of All Political Prisoners in Myanmar

By: Human Rights Defenders Forum Steering Committee

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It has been five days since student leader Aung Hmaing San began a hunger strike in Thayarwaddy prison, calling for the release of all the political prisoners across Myanmar. Aung Hmaing San was arrested alongside many other students and supporters when police brutally cracked down on their protest camp in Lapadan Township, Bago Region. More than 70 individuals were arrested, charged and sent to prison in early 2015 for their roles in protests against the National Education Law. According to Assistance Association for Political Prisoners – Burma and Amnesty International, there are nearly 100 political prisoners currently in Myanmar with hundreds more awaiting trial. Just in the past weeks, we have witnessed another series of arrests of human rights defenders for peaceful activities, including Chaw Sandi Tun, Patrick Kum Jaa Lee, Khin Khin Kyaw, Htin Kyaw, Zaw Lu Soe, and numerous others.

While Human Rights Defenders Forum (HRDF) is concerned for Aung Hmaing San's health, we stand with him in his call for the release of all political prisoners, who are currently detained for their peaceful activism and for exercising their rights to freedom of opinion and expression, assembly and association. Prison authorities must ensure that Aung Hmaing San has full access to information and healthcare without restriction. HRDF condemns all forms of continuing oppression and persecution against peaceful activists and human rights defenders. HRDF, therefore, calls on the government to immediately and unconditionally release Aung Hmaing San and all other political prisoners and detainees and drop all pending charges against human rights defenders who are facing trials simply for exercising their human rights.

Human Rights Defenders Forum Steering Committee is comprised of committed Myanmar and international individuals and organizations working for protection of human rights defenders in Myanmar.

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This statement is also endorsed by the following organizations

1. Action Committee for Democracy and Development
2. National Youth Congress
3. Yangon Youth Network
4. Equality Myanmar
5. Human Rights Educators Network
6. Pandita Development Institute
7. Green Trust Pyin Oo Lwin
8. Smile Education and Development Foundation
9. Generation Wave
10. Forum for Democracy in Burma
11. Genuine People Servant
12. Women Peace Network-Arakan
13. Civil Rights Defenders
14. Burma Partnership
15. Peace Machine
16. Independent Youth For Change
17. ပန်းပျိုးလက်လှူငယ်စင်တာ
18. Golden Generation
19. MasterPeace Myanmar Club
20. ကဗျာချစ်သူများအသင်း
21. MYAO Youth Action Group
22. ချင်းစာပေနှင့် ယဉ်ကျေးမှု
23. သာကီနွယ်ဖွားဓမ္မလူငယ်များကွန်ယက်
24. Precious Hands
25. Peace Cultivation Network (Youth Department)
26. ရှမ်းလူငယ် (ရန်ကုန်)
27. Giving Hands (Bago)
28. Simple to Smart
29. ကိုးကန့် လူမှုဖွံ့ဖြိုးရေး အသင်း
30. ရန်ကုန် လိုင်ဇာ ငြိမ်းချမ်းရေး လမ်းလျှောက်အဖွဲ့

31. အဖြူရောင် တွဲလက်များ
32. ဂရုဏာရောင်စဉ်တန်းများ
33. Light House Network
34. Renovator Youth Network
35. Heart to Heart
36. Millenium Light Development Organization
37. Humanatralion Cycle
38. New History Organization
39. Myanmar Youth Social and Education Local Focus(MYSELF)
40. မျိုးဂုဏ်မြင့် လူငယ်များ