

Amnesty Southend Group

The Unity Five, Burma action 11th February 2016



Lu Maw Naing, Yarzar Oo, Paing Thet Kyaw, Sithu Soe – reporters for the Unity newspaper – and Tint San, its chief executive officer have been sentenced to seven years imprisonment for ‘disclosing state secrets’. They are prisoners of conscience, held for their legitimate work as journalists.

On 25 January 2014 Unity published an article about an alleged secret weapons factory in Pauk Township in Magwe region. The article reported that the factory was built in 2009 on land confiscated from farmers and that former army chief Than Shwe had visited it that same year. The government denied the allegations and the authorities seized copies of Unity around the country and arrested the five journalists. With most of its staff in prison, the newspaper was forced to close. The sentencing of the five has had an intimidating effect on journalists working in Burma.

APPEAL

Call for the immediate and unconditional release of the Unity media workers. Urge the authorities to ensure that they are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated, and that prison conditions and the treatment of prisoners meet international standards, including those in the UN Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners.

Ye Htut
Minister of Information
Office of the Ministry of Information
Office No 7
Naypyitaw
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Salutation: Dear Minister

His Excellency Kyaw Zwar Minn
Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
19A Charles Street
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Salutation: Your Excellency