

URGENT ACTION

FIVE MYANMAR MEDIA WORKERS RELEASED

Five media workers from the *Unity* journal were released from prison on 17 April following a Presidential pardon in Myanmar.

Unity journalists **Lu Maw Naing, Yarzar Oo, Paing Thet Kyaw, Sithu Soe** and the newspaper's chief executive officer **Tint San** were released from Pakokku prison in Myanmar's Magway Region on 17 April. They were released as part of a Presidential pardon which saw the release of 83 prisoners, including prisoners of conscience Amnesty International has campaigned for.

The five men had been arrested between 31 January and 1 February 2014 after the *Unity* newspaper published an article on 25 January 2014 about an alleged secret chemical weapons factory in Pauk Township, Pakokku District in Magway Region. They were all charged with "disclosing State secrets, trespassing on the restricted area of the factory, taking photographs and the act of abetting" under Article 3(1) A/9 of Myanmar's Official Secrets Act. On 10 July 2014 the Pakokku District Court sentenced them each to 10 years' imprisonment with hard labour, which on appeal was later reduced to seven years with hard labour.

While Amnesty International welcomes the five media workers' release, the fact remains that they should never have been arrested and imprisoned in the first place.

Thank you to all those who sent appeals. No further action is requested from the UA network.

This is third update of UA 82/14. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ASA16/023/2014/en/>

Names: Lu Maw Naing, Yarzar Oo, Paing Thet Kyaw, Sithu Soe and Tint San

Gender m/f: all m

Further information on UA: 82/14 Index: ASA 16/3865/2016 Issue date: 19 April 2016

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