

URGENT ACTION

MYANMAR PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE RELEASED

Political activist Htin Kyaw has been released from prison following a Presidential pardon in Myanmar on 17 April.

Htin Kyaw, a political activist and leader of the Movement for Democracy Current Force (MDCF), a community based organization, was released from Insein prison in Yangon, Myanmar's largest city, on 17 April. He was released as part of a Presidential pardon which saw the release of 83 prisoners, including prisoners of conscience Amnesty International has campaigned for.

Htin Kyaw was arrested in Yangon on 5 May 2014 while making a speech and handing out leaflets criticizing the government and calling on members of parliament to resign. He was initially charged with inciting people to commit offences "against the State or against public tranquillity" under Section 505(b) of the Penal Code. He was subsequently charged with committing multiple other "offences" under Section 505(b) and Article 18 of Myanmar's Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law, which criminalizes protesting without permission. In total, he had been sentenced to 13 years and ten months in prison.

While Amnesty International welcomes Htin Kyaw's release, the fact remains that he 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 the seventh update of UA 117/14. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa16/3328/2016/en/>

Name: Htin Kyaw

Gender m/f: m

Further information on UA: 117/14 Index: ASA 16/3872/2016 Issue date: 20 April 2016

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