
GERMANY

President
U Win Myint
President's Office
Office No. 18,
Nay Pyi Taw
MYANMAR

Hamburg, March 22th 2020

Nay Zar Tun, Khin Cho Naing and Myint Zaw

Dear President U Win Myint,

I am very concerned by the sentencing of Nay Zar Tun, Khin Cho Naing and Myint Zaw to between 12 and 18 months in prison on 24 December 2019. They have been imprisoned solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression and peacefully protesting the politically motivated charges against former child soldier Aung Ko Htwe.

I am dismayed that these three activists have been imprisoned for peacefully standing up against injustice. They should have never been charged in the first place, just as Aung Ko Htwe should never have been prosecuted and imprisoned for giving a media interview. I am therefore writing to urge you to:

Immediately and unconditionally release Nay Zar Tun, Khin Cho Naing and Myint Zaw, who have been detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights to freedoms of expression and peaceful assembly;

Repeal or amend all laws that hamper the right to freedom of expression to bring them in line with international human rights law and standards;

Ensure a safe and enabling environment in which it is possible to defend and promote human rights without fear of punishment, reprisal or intimidation.

Yours sincerely,