

I am writing to express my grave concern on two media workers who have been detained and charged with “online defamation” in connection with a satirical article mocking the Myanmar Army. They each face up to three years’ imprisonment if found guilty and convicted. They are prisoners of conscience who must be immediately and unconditionally released.

I am calling on the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Kyaw Min Swe and all other prisoners of conscience, as they have been detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression.

Please ensure that, pending their release, Kyaw Min Swe and Kyaw Zwar Naing are provided with adequate medical care; have effective access to their family and a lawyer of their choice without delay; and are protected from torture and other ill-treatment while in detention.

I should also urge you to amend the 2013 Telecommunications Law to ensure that it complies with international human rights law and standards, and in particular, ensure that none of its provisions allow criminal sanctions for defamation.

Sincerely,