

I am writing you to express my grave concern regarding five media workers from the Bi Midday Sun newspaper have been sentenced to two years in prison in Myanmar as the paper wrote an article on Aung San Suu Kyi and “have incited people to commit offences “against the State or against the public tranquility”. They are prisoners of conscience, detained solely for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of expression.

I therefore call on you and the other authorities to release **them** and all other prisoners of conscience immediately and unconditionally, and drop charges against all those arrested for the peaceful exercise of their human rights.

I also need to call on the authorities to ensure that these five people are not tortured or ill-treated in detention, that they have access to lawyers of their choosing and to visits from family members, that they are not transferred to prisons far from their relatives and that their conditions of detention meet international standards.

Lastly I would like to urge them to take immediate steps to repeal or else amend legislation, which restricts the right to freedom of expression, in strict compliance with international human rights law and standards.

Your attention on these matters would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,