

I am writing to you to express my grave concern regarding four human rights activists who have been arbitrarily arrested and detained after participating in a peaceful demonstration against the shooting to death of a protester the week before. They are Daw Naw Ohn Hla, Daw Sein Htwe, U Nay Myo Zin and Ko Tin Htut Paing. Along with protesters Daw San San Win, Daw Mya Nyunt, and Ko Thant Zin, the four have been charged by Yangon's Dagon Township Court with protesting without permission under Article 18 of the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law. They have also been charged with a series of offences under the Penal Code.

I am therefore calling on you to immediately and unconditionally release these four activists and to drop the charges against them and Daw San San Win, Daw Mya Nyunt and Ko Thant Zin.

I am also urging you to ensure that, pending their unconditional release, the four are not tortured or otherwise ill-treated; that they have regular access to family members and lawyers of their choosing; that they are not transferred to remote prisons; and are provided with any medical treatment which they may require.

At the same time I am asking you to conduct a prompt, thorough, impartial and effective investigation into the killing of Khin Win and other allegations that police used excessive force against the Letpadaung protesters and bring those responsible for human rights violations to justice in trials which meet international standards of fairness, without recourse to the death penalty.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,