

I am writing to you to express my grave concern on political activist Ko Wai Lu who has received a one-year prison sentence for providing support to peaceful protesters who were calling on the authorities to resolve their land dispute in Myanmar.

I am therefore calling on the Myanmar authorities to immediately release Ko Wai Lu and all members of the Michaungkan community detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

I am also urging them to ensure that, pending his release, Ko Wai Lu is not tortured or otherwise ill-treated; that he is not transferred to a remote prison; that he has regular access to family members and lawyers of his choosing; and is provided with any medical treatment which he may require.

I lastly need to call on them to repeal or else amend all laws which unlawfully restrict the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, to comply with international human rights law and standards.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,