

I am writing this to express my grave concern on former child soldier Aung Ko Htwe who is serving two years in connection with a media interview he gave about his experiences in the Myanmar military. He faces a further three years in prison after he protested his conviction. He should be immediately and unconditionally released.

Please immediately and unconditionally release Ko Aung Htwe, drop remaining charges against him and quash all convictions for which he is imprisoned, as he is being punished solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights. He should be ensured that, pending his release, Ko Aung Htwe is held in conditions which meet international standards, and that he has regular access to family, lawyers of his choosing, and any medical treatment he requires. I would suggest that you repeal or amend all laws – including Section 505(b) of the Penal Code – which criminalize or impose arbitrary or sweeping restrictions on the human right to freedom of expression, and bring Myanmar legislation into line with international human rights law and standards.

Your attention on this matter would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,