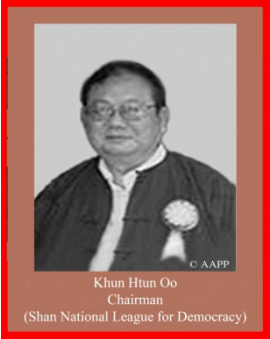


# Political Prisoner Profile

<b>AAPP CASE NO.:</b>	0055			
<b>NAME OF POLITICAL PRISONER:</b>	U Khun Tun Oo			
<b>GENDER:</b>	Male	<b>Ethnicity:</b>	Shan	
<b>DATE OF BIRTH:</b>	11 September 1943	<b>Age:</b>	65	
<b>RELIGION:</b>				
<b>PARENTS NAME:</b>	U Sao Kyar Zon and Daw Si Swe Joun			
<b>EDUCATION:</b>	Law at Rangoon University			
<b>OCCUPATION:</b>	Member of Parliament in His Paw, Constituency (1), Shan state, member of the Committee Representing People's Parliament (CRPP), chairman of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD)			
<b>LAST ADDRESS:</b>	Hsipaw Township, Shan State			
<b>ARREST DATE:</b>	9 February 2005		<b>PHOTO DATE:</b>	
<b>SECTION OF LAW:</b>	Section 122/1, 124(A), 17/1, 17/20, 24(A)			
<b>SENTENCING HISTORY:</b>	Sentenced to 93 years			
<b>COURT HEARING:</b>	Insein prison special court			
<b>NAME OF PRISON:</b>	Putao-O prison in northern Kachin State			
<b>RELEASE DATE:</b>				
<b>IMMEDIATE HEALTH CONCERNS:</b>				
<p><b>U Khun Tun Oo</b> has swollen legs due to lack of exercise and medical treatment, according to Sai Lake, Shan National League for Democracy spokesperson. He has not received proper medical attention. His family is allowed to visit him once a month, but recently said, "There is scarcely any plane that flies to Putao even though we are allowed to send him some medicine." (<a href="#">Shan Herald News Agency 10 July 2009</a>)</p> <p><b>U Khun Tun Oo</b> is also suffering from a stiff neck and is unable to move around in his cell much because it is so small and narrow. He is reportedly taking medicines for his neck, and this is relieving some of the pain. However, he needs to take four bottles of medicine per month, and each bottle costs 30,000 Kyats (\$30). He appears mentally fit. (AAPP source, 23062009)</p> <p>On 7 April 2009, it was reported that <b>U Khun Tun Oo's</b> diabetes was deteriorating.</p> <p>In January 2008 it was reported that <b>U Khun Tun Oo</b> was suffering from high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease and prostate problems. (<i>burmadigest 23012008</i>)</p>				
<b>CURRENT STATUS SUMMARY:</b>				
<p><b>U Khun Htun Oo</b> is currently being held in Putao-O Prison in Kachin state in the north of Burma where conditions are said to be very harsh.</p> <p>On March 24 2009 the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention criticized the ruling junta, specifically in relation to <b>U Khun Tun Oo's</b> detention. (<i>shanheraldagency24032009</i>)</p> <p>On 21 February 2009 Thet Wai, the chairperson for San Chaung township National League for Democracy (NLD), just released from Insein prison as part of the general amnesty, expressed his frustration at the limited number of political prisoners released including <b>U Khun Tun Oo</b>. "The international community will be in despair like us because they are demanding the release of all political prisoners including Daw Suu, Khun Tun Oo, U Tin Oo, Min Ko Naing and the monks if we are to solve</p>				

the political problems of Burma,” he explained. “International leaders will see that the junta has no serious intention to release political prisoners.” (DVB23022009)

On 1 January 2009, the NLD Executive Committee held a meeting and released a special statement, calling for the release of **U Khun Tun Oo** as well as Aung San Su Kyi, U Tin Oo, monks, Min Ko Naing and all other political prisoners. It was signed by *NLD* Chairperson U Aung Shwe, and other ethnic leaders. (bp01012009)

**U Khun Tun Oo** was awarded the 'Honourary Italian citizen' by Italy on 10 December 2008, according to 'Shan Herald News Agency'. The award given by Monza mayor was received by U Bawdi Zaw Min, an associated director of EU-Burma Bureau on behalf of this ethnic Shan leader. (Mizzima12122008)

#### **CAREER BACKGROUND:**

**U Khun Tun Oo** is the nephew of Prince Sao Kya Hseng of Hsipaw, who disappeared during the military takeover in 1962. (S.H.A.N 18 June 2007) He studied law at Rangoon University for two years and was the personal assistant of the Indonesian Military Attaché from 1967-1977.

**U Khun Tun Oo** was an elected member of the Burmese Parliament and is the most senior political representative of the Shan, the largest of Burma's ethnic minorities. He is also the chairperson of the *Shan Nationalities League for Democracy (SNLD)*, which gained 23 seats (5,268 votes) in the 1990 election. During the elections, his party narrowly beat Aung San Suu Kyi's party in Shan State, Burma's biggest state.

In 1998, eight years after the junta ignored the election results in 1990, SNLD and 3 other ethnic parties worked on a coalition agreement with National League for Democracy (NLD), the biggest party led by Aung San Suu Kyi. They set up Committee Representing the People's Parliament (CRPP). Since that time, authorities started to crack down on **U Khun Htun Oo** and his party.

**U Khun Tun Oo** was one of the first people to encourage the junta to talk to Aung San Suu Kyi. He once said “Two-way talk is important before the tripartite dialogue. When there are reconciliation conditions, we want talks to be tripartite. I hope it will happen.”

In 2004, the SNLD party boycotted a junta-sponsored national convention. It was widely known as a sham convention. Previously, they had stayed in the convention process for eleven years because they wanted to show that they were willing to cooperate with the junta for the sake of the country. As a result of the boycott, the junta watched **U Khun Tun Oo** more carefully to take action against him.

#### **ARREST DETAILS:**

**U Khun Tun Oo** was arrested on 9 February 2005, after he took part in a private meeting of senior political representatives to discuss the authorities' plans for political transition over a meal on 7 February 2005. The authorities arrested the other leaders present at the meal, including Major General Sao Hso Ten, of the Shan Peace Council, and two members of the State Army North ceasefire group. The leaders were denied access to family members, in some cases for up to nine months.

#### **DETAILS OF IMPRISONMENT:**

**U Khun Htun Oo** is currently being held in Puta-O Prison in Kachin state in the north of Burma where conditions are said to be very harsh.

**U Khun Tun Oo** was charged on five counts including defamation against the state which is an offence

carrying the death penalty:

1. Section 122/1 of The Penal Code (1861) which states that whoever commits High Treason within the Union of Burma will be punished with death or transportation for life.
2. Section 124 (A) of The Penal Code (1861) which refers to attempts to excite disaffection towards the Government, established by law for the Union of for the constituent units thereof.
3. Section 17/1 of The Unlawful Associations Act (1908)
4. Section 17/20 of The Unlawful Associations Act (1908)
5. Section 24 (A) of The Printers and Publications Act (1962)

**U Khun Tun Oo** and his colleague were not allowed lawyers of their choice during the court hearings. On 3 November 2005 (*NCGUB01082007*) they all were sentenced to lengthy prison terms; **U Khun Tun Oo** was sentenced to ninety-three years imprisonment. After sentencing, he and the other leaders were sent to different prisons very far from their homes, without official notification to their families.

**U Khun Tun Oo** has reportedly sent a secret message out of the prison. The message was as follows: "We didn't commit any crime. We reaffirm our aim to empower our people to bring peace, justice an equality to the people."

#### ***HONOURABLE AWARDS***

1. 10 December 2008 - **U Khun Tun Oo** was awarded the 'Honorary Italian citizen' by Italy

**\*This profile was prepared by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma) on 6 October 2008 and was updated on 29 April and July 11 2009\***