



FREEDOM NOW

1750 K St. NW, Ste. 350 • Washington DC 20006 • 202 223-3733 • info@freedom-now.org • www.freedom-now.org

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
February 10, 2010

Contact: Beth Schwanke
+1 (202) 617-0744
bschwanke@freedom-now.org

BURMESE JUNTA UNJUSTLY CONVICTS AMERICAN POLITICAL PRISONER NYI NYI AUNG

Today, a Burmese court found American Nyi Nyi Aung guilty on false charges and sentenced him to 5 years in a Burmese prison, including hard labor. The judge commuted the sentence to 3 years. Nyi Nyi was found guilty of forging a national identity card; failing to declare currencies at customs; and failing to renounce his Burmese citizenship.

Freedom Now President Jared Genser stated: “Nyi Nyi Aung has been illegally and unjustly convicted on sham charges because of his tireless advocacy for democracy and human rights in Burma. We call on President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton to make Nyi Nyi’s release a priority in the U.S. government’s relations with Burma.”

Nyi Nyi was arrested at the Rangoon airport on September 3, 2009, attempting to visit his mother, also an imprisoned democracy activist, who has cancer and is being denied medical treatment. Since his detention, the junta has tortured Nyi Nyi, denied him consular access, denied him access to his lawyers, and denied him a public trial. These are extraordinary violations of international and Burmese domestic law.

Upon hearing the news, Wa Wa Kyaw, Nyi Nyi’s fiancé who lives in Maryland stated, “All of Burma knows that these are bogus charges. The junta is looking to stifle Nyi Nyi just as they have the 2,100 other political prisoners in Burma. I can only hope that the Government of the United States won’t let Burma illegally imprison its own citizen.”

Nyi Nyi Aung suffers severe violations of his human rights and faces 3 years in Burmese prison on trumped-up charges, motivated to silence his activism.

###

Honorary Co-Chairs

The Honorable
Václav Havel

The Most Reverend
Desmond M. Tutu

Board of Directors

President
Jared Genser

Chair
Jeremy Zucker

Treasurer
Daniel Silverberg

Secretary
Haylie Iseman

Hillary Coyne Brill
Glenn Kaminsky
Micheline Mendelsohn

Board of Advisors

Prof. Karima Bennouna
Rutgers University
School of Law (Newark)

Prof. Jerome A. Cohen
New York University
Law School

Irwin Cotler MP
Parliament of Canada

Harry C. McPherson
DLA Piper US LLP

Nuala Mole
AIRE Centre

Prof. A.W. Brian Simpson
Michigan Law School

Prof. Christopher
McCrudden
Oxford University

The Honorable
Patricia M. Wald

Executive Director

Maran Turner