



FREEDOM NOW

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FREEDOM NOW DEMANDS RELEASE OF AMERICAN NYI NYI AUNG FROM BURMESE JUNTA

*Files Petition to United Nations to Obtain Judgment That His Ongoing Detention Is In
Violation of International Law*

Today, Freedom Now filed an urgent action petition with the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention on behalf of American Nyi Nyi Aung. Nyi Nyi has been illegally held by the Burmese junta as a political prisoner since September 3, 2009.

Freedom Now President Jared Genser said, “We are deeply concerned about Nyi Nyi’s health and welfare both because his three-year sentence includes hard labor and because the junta has arbitrarily and permanently denied him family visits; the primary way prisoners in Burma receive food, vitamins, and medicine.”

On Wednesday, February 10, 2010, Nyi Nyi was convicted on false charges and sentenced to three years imprisonment, with hard labor. He was subsequently transferred from Insein Prison in Rangoon to Prome (or Pyay) Prison to begin serving his sentence. Freedom Now believes this transfer was instigated to prevent information regarding Nyi Nyi’s treatment from leaking to the media and to prevent the U.S. Embassy from having regular access to Nyi Nyi.

Wa Wa Kyaw, Nyi Nyi Aung’s Maryland-based fiancé, stated, “I hope that the United Nations will help the junta to see that they cannot continue to imprison people for their political actions.”

Nyi Nyi Aung is one of at least 2,100 political prisoners in Burma.

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