



## Amnesty International Lethbridge Action Circle

NEWS  
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### **Lethbridge Citizens Rally for the Release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Other Prisoners of Conscience in Burma**

LETHBRIDGE –Lethbridge citizens are concerned about the monks and other prisoners of conscience in Burma. The Buddhist monk U Gambira headed the All-Burma Monks Alliance (ABMA), formed to support the peaceful demonstrations last August. He was arrested in November and has since been sentenced to life imprisonment. Several thousand people were arrested since the protests, led by Buddhist monks last year. The authorities in Burma raided monasteries, arrested monks and imposed a curfew. Amnesty International estimates there are still around 700 people in detention since this crackdown.

Human rights violations in Myanmar are widespread and systematic. They include the use of child soldiers and forced labour. Laws criminalize peaceful expression of peaceful dissent. Most senior opposition figures are detained, the most prominent being Aung San Suu Kyi, the Nobel Peace laureate and leader of the main opposition party, the National League for Democracy, who has been under house arrest for 12 years.

Despite various international initiatives and developments since the crackdown, the human rights situation remains unchanged. The people of Myanmar continue to live under a climate of fear. In order to lift that climate of fear, Amnesty International is calling upon the Myanmar authorities, among other things:

- to immediately and unconditionally release all prisoners of conscience and all those arrested for their peaceful participation in the demonstrations, including U Gambira who recently had honorary citizenship conferred upon him by a town in Switzerland;
- to cease torturing and ill-treating prisoners;
- to account for all those killed and ‘disappeared’ during the protests;
- and to provide the UN Special Rapporteur with a full list of those detained and arrested since the crackdown.

Amnesty International is also calling for a comprehensive, mandatory, international arms embargo on Myanmar. It is unacceptable that countries continue to supply Myanmar with arms that can be used to repress its people.

For more information, or to schedule an interview, contact Mary at 403-327-8196.

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