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Chin National Community - Japan

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NLD Leaders Visit Families of Ethnic Political Prisoners



U Win Tin, center with glasses, senior leader and Tin Oo, right, the deputy leader of the detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's the National League for Democracy, meet the family of Khun Tun Oo, a senior Shan ethnic leader who is still serving 93-year jail sentence, at the house of Khun Tun Oo in Rangoon. (Photo: AP)
By KO HTWE Wednesday, August 4, 2010 (Irrawaddy)

Several leading members of Burma's disbanded National League for Democracy (NLD) recently visited family members of ethnic political prisoners who are serving long prison sentences.

Former NLD executive member Win Tin accompanied by NLD deputy chairman Tin Oo and other executive members met with families members of Hkun Htun Oo, the chairman of the Shan National League for Democracy (SNLD).

They also met with Pu Cin Sian Thang, a spokesman for the United Nationalities Alliance (UNA), a coalition of 12 ethnic parties which contested and won 67 seats in the 1990 election, whose son and nephew are serving prison sentences.

The group also visited the families of Sai Nyunt Lwin, Sai Hla Aung and an Arankan student leader's family.

Hkun Htun Oo was sentenced to 93 years imprisonment; Sai Nyunt Lwin was sentenced to 85 years; and Sai Hla Aung was sentenced to 75 years.

Speaking to *The Irrawaddy* on Wednesday, Win Tin said: "I talked about the NLD policy on ethnic groups. Although the NLD did not register its policy on ethnic groups will not be changed. I respect the qualifications and altruism of ethnic leaders who are now severing prison terms."

In March, the NLD decided not to register as a political party for the 2010 election, saying the election would not be free and fair. The NLD policy on ethnic groups focuses on equality and self-determination.

The group also met with the family member of the 88 Generation Students group and also plan to meet with the family members of activist Htin Kyaw, who was arrested in 2007 shortly after his small group staged a protest in front of Theingyi Market in downtown Rangoon. The group also plans to meet with leaders of monks who participated in the 2007 Saffron Revolution, Win Tin said.

SNLD spokesman Sai Lek told *The Irrawaddy* on Wednesday: “They encourage the families and give presents. Win Tin said that he respected and valued the equality and self-determination of ethnic groups.”

In a recent article in New Straits Times in Malaysia, Win Tin wrote that without a firm plan of action, the 2010 Burmese election will lead nowhere and Asean must take the lead role in facilitating a regionally approved roadmap for democracy.

Meanwhile, the SNLD is using lawyers and UNA members to train youth about voter education in Shan State, according to sources close to the party. The young people are being instructed on the 2008 Constitution with comparisons to the 1947 Constitution.

Trainers are also instructing young people on how to monitor the the government-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party to look for voting irregularities and how to report them to the media, said a source.

(The IRRAWADDY)

NLD leaders and Ethnic leaders at U Khun Htun Oo' home



Phyu Phyu Thein, Dr.May Win Myint, Daw Wai Wai Lwin(Khun Htun Oo's wife), U Win Tin, U Tin Oo, U Shwe Kyuu, Pu Cin Sian Thang, Sai Saw Aung, U Thein Pe, Pu Gin Kam Lian, U Hla Thein,and (Tin Htoo Aung's mother, Sai Hla Aung's wife,Sai Nyunt Lwin's elder brother) and others. (CNC-Japan News and Media contact e mail cncjapanmedia@gmail.com)