

# URGENT ACTION

## HTIN LIN OO RELEASED AFTER PRESIDENTIAL PARDON

**Writer Htin Lin Oo has been released from prison following a Presidential pardon in Myanmar on 17 April.**

**Htin Lin Oo**, writer and former spokesperson for the National League for Democracy (NLD), was released from Monywa prison in Myanmar's Sagaing Region on 17 April. He was released as part of a Presidential pardon which saw the release of 83 prisoners, including prisoners of conscience Amnesty International has campaigned for.

Htin Lin Oo had been serving a two year prison sentence for "insulting religion" after he gave a speech on 23 October 2014 at a literary event in Chaung-U Township, Sagaing Region, in which he criticized the use of Buddhism to promote discrimination and prejudice. The speech, which lasted about two hours, was heard by approximately 500 people. Soon after the event a 10 minute edited video of the speech appeared on social media, causing outrage among extremist Buddhist nationalist groups. A complaint was filed against Htin Lin Oo at the Chaung-U Township police station, and on 2 June 2015, he was sentenced to two years in prison with hard labour for "insulting religion" under Section 295(a) of the Penal Code.

While Amnesty International welcomes Htin Lin Oo's release, the fact remains that he should never have been arrested and imprisoned in the first place.

**Thank you to all those who sent appeals. No further action is requested from the UA network.**

This is the first update of UA 16/15. Further information: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ASA16/0005/2015/en/>

Name: Htin Lin Oo

Gender m/f: m

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