

# Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/burma-dvb-journalists-freelancers-and-13-01-2012,41675.html>

Asia - Burma

Burma

## All DVB journalists, freelancers and blogger freed under amnesty

13 January 2012

Reporters Without Borders and its partner organization, the Burma Media Association, hail the release of a number of journalists and bloggers under an amnesty announced today.

Journalists working for the Burmese exile radio and TV station [Democratic Voice of Burma](#) (DVB) have confirmed that all DVB journalists, including **Hla Hla Win**, **Ngwe Soe Lin**, **Win Maw**, **Sithu Zeya** and his father **U Zeya**, two freelance journalists (**Thant Zin Aung** and **Zaw Thet Htwe**) and the blogger **Nay Phone Latt** are among those who have been released.

"We are pleased to see the government continuing to advance in the right direction and we urge it to release all the other detained journalists and Internet users. Once all the detainees have been freed, we hope the government will also address the need for reforms and the need to end censorship in Burma."

According to *DVB*, today's amnesty was carried out under article 401 (1) of the code of criminal procedure, unlike previous amnesties, which were issued under article 204 de la constitution. This suggested that today's amnesty did not have the approval of the influential National Defence and Security Council, *DVB* said.

The freelance journalist Thant Zin Aung and the blogger [Nay Phone Latt](#) were released from Hpa-an prison in Karen state. As regards the released *DVB* journalists, Win Maw was being held in Kyaukphyu prison in the western state of Arakan, [Hla Hla Win](#) was in Kathar prison in the north of the country, [Sithu Zeya](#) was in Henzada prison in the southwest, [Ngwe Soe Lin](#) was in Lashio prison in the northeast and [U Zeya](#) was in Hsipaw prison in the northeast. The freelance journalist Zaw Thet Htwe was released from Taunggyi prison.

**Myint Hlaing**, a media assistant who had help Hla Hla Win on many occasions and was arrested with her in 2009, was also freed.

After leaving prison today, Sithu Zeya said: "As for the president, I think he's pretty decent as he is [enacting reforms] under a lot of pressure. But also it depends a lot on the men behind him – just one decent person won't make the change happen. We need all-inclusive cooperation from both sides to build a democratic system."

The blogger and comedian [Zarganar](#) was [freed from Myitkyina prison](#) in the northern state of Kachin on 12 October under an earlier "general amnesty." Three other *DVB* journalists were released in late December.

Reporters Without Borders congratulates *DVB*'s "[Free Burma VJ](#)" campaign for the release of all of the *DVB* video-journalists arrested after covering the 2007 Saffron Revolution and the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in 2008.

Reporters Without Borders is still awaiting news about the blogger **Kaung Myat Hlaing** (also known as **Nat Soe**), who has been imprisoned since April 2010, and the following journalists:

\* Detained since 13 October 2009 - [Nyi Nyi Tun](#) - *Kantarawaddy News Journal* \* Detained since 18 June 2009 - **Zaw Tun** - freelance \* Detained since 28 August 2007 - [Win Saing](#) - photo-journalist \* Detained since 24 March 2006 - [U Thaug Sein](#) - freelance photo-journalist \*

Detained since 24 March 2006 - **Ko Moe Htun** - *Dhamah-Yate* \* Detained since February 2004 - **Ne Min** - freelance \* Detained since 17 February 1998 - **Aung Htun** - freelance

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