



Please Use Your Liberty to Promote Ours: Burma's Human Rights Crisis

Ko Bo Kyi

Former political prisoner in Burma

Friday, 24 February
2:00 P.M.
238 HRCB

Ko Bo Kyi testified this month before the U.S. Congress regarding the human rights crisis in Burma. Ko Kyi is joint secretary and one of the founders of the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), an organization set up in 2000 by former political prisoners to support political prisoners with food and medicines. AAPP monitors jails and work camps throughout the country, tracks the political prisoners—estimated to be 1,500, and campaigns for their release. They are only one of several Burmese organizations in exile that are promoting political change in Burma. Many of them are based in neighboring countries, mainly in Thailand. Their focus is on international advocacy and lobby activities directed toward democratization and human rights. Ko Kyi authored an essay entitled “What is Torture?” (<http://www.irrawaddy.org/database/2000/vol8.3/torture.html>). In 2001, Amnesty International's Italian section recognized Ko Kyi for his struggle to promote human rights in Burma. He left Burma in 1999, one year following his release, 2 October 1998, from Tharawaddy prison. Ko Kyi spent seven years (1990–93, 1994–1998) in the infamous Insein jail and Mandalay and Tharawaddy prisons for his political activities. He became involved in politics during the 1988 uprising in Burma and is a former executive committee member of the All Burma Federation of Student Unions (ABFSU).

