



FREE BURMA'S POLITICAL PRISONERS NOW!

Htay Win Aung aka Pyone Cho



Name:	Pyone Cho
Age:	42 in 2008
Organisation:	88 Generation Students group
Role:	Leader
Previous Prison Term:	More than 14 years
Current Sentence:	65 years & 6 months
Detained:	Kawthaung Prison, Tenasserim Division, nearly 800 miles from Rangoon

"My son was in prison for over a decade and now he is in again – that is very painful for us."

U Win Maung, father of Pyone Cho, August 2008.

About Pyone Cho

Pyone Cho has already been to prison several times for his pro-democracy work. But despite having spent more than 14 years in prison, Pyone Cho is a funny guy. While he was in prison he was affectionately known as 'joker', as he was always teasing his friends and making them laugh. Although

he likes to make his friends laugh, he is also a quiet and calm person who prefers to stay in the background. He has special responsibility for human rights as a leader of the 88 Generation Students group. Pyone Cho was released in 2004 and got straight back to his work, even though he had already given up many years of his life for the struggle for democracy. Together with Min Ko Naing, Ko Ko Gyi and Htay Kywe, he helped form the 88 Generation Students group in September 2005. A year later he and his friends were arrested again, this time for the 'White Sunday' campaign. Every Sunday they organized at least 100 people to wear white clothes (like the prisoner uniform) and visited the families of political prisoners, to support them and encourage them to stay strong. While he was in detention, his brother Thet Win Aung – also a political prisoner – died in prison. Sadly Pyone Cho was not allowed to go to his funeral. He was released again in January 2007 and got married in April that year. He invited 22 of his friends to go with him on his honeymoon, as he knew that few of them would get another chance to go to the beach. Aung Kyaw Oo, who spent 8 years in prison with Pyone Cho, said, "Ko Pyone Cho is a very kind and generous man. It was good to have him in prison with me because he is so funny." Pyone Cho was arrested again on 22 August 2007 and was recently sentenced to more than 65 years in prison.

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