



FREE BURMA'S POLITICAL PRISONERS NOW!

U Gambira



"I have watched a new generation of activists join to issue an unequivocal call for freedom. And I have watched as many in the police and military, sickened at what they were forced to do to their countrymen, give so many of us quiet help."

U Gambira, speaking from his hiding place before his family and friends were arrested in Oct. 2007

On October 15 2006, when Min Ko Naing and other 88 Generation members were arrested, he issued a statement calling for their release. At the time he was leader of the Young Monks Union of Rangoon. U Gambira also attempted to stage a religious boycott, in which monks refuse to take alms from the military junta. A religious boycott is deeply symbolic and has powerful connotations. U Gambira has been interested in politics and social justice for much of his life. His father and brother are both members of the National League for Democracy. U Gambira is an avid scholar and has a thirst for knowledge. During the lead up to the Saffron revolution U Gambira's contacts outside of Burma were sending him information on the EU, UN and ILO. He wrote articles for the New York Times, while in hiding after the Saffron Revolution. He was arrested on 4 November 2007 and sentenced to 68 years in prison. U Gambira is currently detained in Khamti prison, which is very far from his family. They must travel four days in order to visit him. When U Gambira was first transferred there, in January 2009, he walked through the airport with the prison guards and shouted "Down with the military regime!!" He was never afraid during the Saffron Revolution because friends say that he was so confident in the movement and that the uprising would be successful. U Gambira and three of his friends made a pact that they would never leave the movement. He was also committed to staying in Burma and not fleeing to Thailand. Many Burmese people see him as the "Hero Monk" who was the main organizer behind the Saffron Revolution.

Name:	U Gambira
Age:	29 (as of June 2008)
Organisation:	All Burma Monks' Alliance (ABMA)
Role:	Co-founder and leader
Current Sentence:	68 Years
Detained:	Khamti Prison, Sagaing Division

About U Gambira

U Gambira is a very energetic and active person. During the Saffron Revolution in September 2007, U Gambira was constantly on the phone. He was communicating with people all over Burma and the world while he organized massive demonstrations throughout Burma. U Gambira and 5 other monks founded the All Burma Monks Alliance in August 2007, after the arrest of the 88 Generation leaders. He saw that it was necessary for the clergy of Burma to take a more active and leading role. However, this is not the beginning of U Gambira's political activism.

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888,888 Signatures for Burma