

## **Free Saw Lin Htet, Arbitrarily detained by the Tatmadaw**

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Human Rights and Justice Centre is gravely concerned to learn that **on 23 March 2021**, 37-year-old **Saw Lin Htet**, a son, father, husband, Myanmar citizen, and currently a graduate student at the Asia-Pacific campus of the **Global Campus of Human Rights** was arbitrarily arrested and detained by the Tatmadaw while driving with his daughter.

He has been imprisoned for more than 12 days now, along with thousands of other civilians throughout the country. Like many of them, he has been charged under Article 505 of Myanmar's Penal Code, a broad law against fake news and criticism of the military or government which is being used by the military junta to target the thousands of pro-democracy protesters, activists, scholars, and students in Myanmar.

Saw Lin's family has been denied access to visit him. The conditions in which he has been held are unknown, which is particularly worrying as he is under medication for Tuberculosis. It is also in our understanding that he is being detained in the Taungkalay Prison in Hpa An, Kayin State and is set to stand on trial **on Monday, 6 April** without legal representation, a clear violation of international human rights law. If declared guilty, Saw Lin Htet could face up to 3 years in prison.

As fellow students and colleagues of Saw Lin, we, in light of his arbitrary arrest and conditions under which he is being detained, therefore demand his immediate release. We also urge the international community to stand in solidarity with the people of Myanmar and join us in our plea for Saw Lin's case and that of thousands of others arbitrarily detained by the Tatmadaw.

### **Signed:**

Human Rights and Justice Centre

**To learn more Saw Lin Htet's campaign, please reach out to:**

- Email: [freesawlin@protonmail.com](mailto:freesawlin@protonmail.com)
- Twitter: #FreeSawLin, @FreeSawLinHtet, <https://twitter.com/FreeSawLinHtet>
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