

Myanmar Media Newsletter

Issue – 10, August 2019

Myanmar Journalists Attended Global Summit On Media Freedom

A delegation of Myanmar journalists and activists attended an international conference in London in the second week of July to highlight the importance of media freedom worldwide. The event aimed to improve the safety of journalists, and ease state restrictions on freedom of expression across the globe. Nine delegates from Myanmar attended the summit, including journalists, publishers and civil society representatives. They shared their experience of past and present conditions in Myanmar, and explored solutions for overcoming current challenges.



Photo Credit:
Mizzima

Detained Journalist Says He's Being Targeted for Covering Labour Dispute



Photo Credit: The
Irrawaddy

Khun Zaw Oo, a reporter for Democratic Voice of Burma based in Lashio, was detained and charged with operating a car without a license in northern Shan State. He claims he is actually being targeted because he reported on a group of amusement park workers who complained of not being paid.

On 22 July, workers at the Gold Luck Water Park in the town complained to local media that they had not been paid. He and Ma Myat Moe Thu, a reporter from the Myanmar Times, went to interview U Ye Naing, the owner of the company, hoping to get his side of the story. U Ye Naing called several local government departments, including the Traffic Police, asking them to take action against Khun Zaw Oo for driving without a license.

Myanmar Journalist Swe Win One Of The Winners Of The Ramon Magsaysay Award

Ko Swe Win joins a campaigner who tackles youth suicide in South Korea, an Indian journalist and a human rights activist as winners of Asia's equivalent of the Nobel Prize, the Ramon Magsaysay Award.

Ko Swe Win, 41, is the editor of Myanmar Now, an independent online news service known for its well-researched, in-depth articles on the country's under-reported human rights and social justice issues, the award foundation said. The editor spent seven years in prison as a young man for taking part in student protests against the ruling military junta.



Photo Credit: Mizzima



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Court Rejects Monk's Lawsuit Against US Embassy Over Buddha Image

A court in Kamayut Township on 1 August rejected a lawsuit filed against the US Ambassador to Myanmar and two others by a nationalist for allegedly defaming Buddhism.

Nationalist monk U Parmaukha filed the lawsuit against US Ambassador Scott Marciel, the artist who painted the picture and the person who posted the picture on the official Facebook page of the US Embassy in Yangon. The image was of a painting done for an environmentally themed art exhibition which the embassy hosted in July.



Photo Credit:
The Irrawaddy

Myanmar Publishers and Booksellers Association Raises the issue of Copyright Protection



Photo Credit:
Frontier Myanmar

The Myanmar Publishers and Booksellers Association has again raised the issue of copyright protection. In a statement released on 18 July, the association announced it is seeking the removal of electronic versions of books that have been illegally posted on websites. The announcement listed 182 e-books that had been posted on websites without the permission of the writers or publishers, which are ready to be downloaded for a fee or free of charge.

The association warned that if the files were not removed from the websites, it would seek prosecutions for breaches of copyright, including under the provisions of the Copyright Law enacted in May 2019 to replace the 1914 Copyright Act.