



**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



PAING PHYO MIN, MYANMAR

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**LOCKED UP  
FOR SLAMMING  
THE MILITARY  
WITH POETRY**

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# PAING PHYO MIN, MYANMAR

Paing Phyo Min (aka De Yay) loves singing, playing the guitar and Taylor Swift. The 22-year-old student leader is also a member of the Peacock Generation, a poetry troupe dedicated to Thangyat – a traditional version of slam poetry. Fusing verse with comedy and music, Thangyat is usually performed in April during Myanmar’s New Year Water Festival.

In April and May 2019, Paing Phyo Min and other Peacock Generation members were arrested after performing Thangyat dressed as soldiers. They made fun of the military, saying it couldn’t take criticism, was desperate to hang on to power, and was bankrupting the country while its generals accumulated wealth.



Paing Phyo Min was convicted and sentenced to six years in prison. The charges against him include “incitement”, that is, encouraging military officers to abandon their duties; and “online defamation” for sharing photographs and videos of their performances online. A shared image of a dog in military uniform seemed particularly upsetting to authorities.

“We have been performing Thangyat every year since 2013,” says Paing Phyo Min. “We have been directly communicating with the public, expressing... what is wrong in our society... including criticisms of the government. But in 2019, the military targeted us. They are undermining Myanmar’s democratic transition. We may be imprisoned, but we will not be deterred from speaking our minds.”

Support Paing Phyo Min.

**Tell Myanmar to release him immediately and unconditionally.**

## WRITE TO MYANMAR’S STATE COUNSELLOR

Tell her to immediately release Paing Phyo Min and other members of the Peacock Generation.

**H.E. Aung San Suu Kyi**

State Counsellor

Ministry of the State Counsellor Office

Office No. 20, Nay Pyi Taw

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

**Twitter:** @MyanmarSC

**Salutation:** Your Excellency

## STAND WITH PAING PHYO MIN

Send him your messages of friendship and hope to help lift his spirits in prison.

**President of the Student Union**

Dagon University Students’

Union Office

Theater (1), Cherry Street,

Dagon University

North Dagon Township, Yangon

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

11422

December 2020

Index: ASA 16/2577/2020 English

Cover photograph: © Private

Script development: © David Hunter

Back page image: © Amnesty International