

## MYANMAR (former Burma)

### Christians

#### **Pastor Dom Dawng Nawng LATT**

**Age:** 65

**Date and place of arrest:** On 24<sup>th</sup> December 2016

**Place of residence:** Shan state

**Charges:** For helping journalists cover the Burma military's 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November bombing of the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church building. They are also accused of recruiting and spying for the ethnic armed groups such as the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), which is fighting government forces in northern Shan state, eastern Burma, and for being informers and spreading false news on behalf of the armed insurgents.

**Statement of the defendant:** He denies the charges

**Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code:** Unlawful Association Act Articles 17/1 (whoever is a member of an unlawful association, or takes part in meetings of any such association, or contributes or receives or solicits any contribution for the purpose of any such association or in any way assists the operations of any such association, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term [which shall no be less than two years and more than three years and shall also be liable to fine]) and 17/2 (whoever manages or assists in the management of an unlawful association, or promotes or assists in promoting a meeting of any such association, or of any members thereof as such members, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term [which shall no be less than three years and more than five years and shall also be liable to fine]).

**Other information:** He is an assistant pastor, and was arrested alongside Pastor La Jawa Gam HSENG, and they are from the Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) in Muse Town, Shan state. They spoke to journalists about the bombing of the Catholic church on behalf of the Catholic Church. They witnessed the bombing, took pictures and helped journalists to take photographs.

*Source:* <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/01/two-assistant-pastors-burma-charged-unlawful-association/>

#### **Pastor La Jawa Gam HSENG**

**Age:** 35

**Date and place of arrest:** On 24<sup>th</sup> December 2016

**Place of residence:** Shan state

**Charges:** For helping journalists cover the Burma military's 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> November bombing of the St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church building. They are also accused of recruiting and spying for

the ethnic armed groups such as the Kachin Independence Army (KIA), which is fighting government forces in northern Shan state, eastern Burma, and for being informers and spreading false news on behalf of the armed insurgents.

**Statement of the defendant:** He denies the charges

**Article of the criminal/civil/administrative code:** Unlawful Association Act Articles 17/1 (whoever is a member of an unlawful association, or takes part in meetings of any such association, or contributes or receives or solicits any contribution for the purpose of any such association or in any way assists the operations of any such association, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term [which shall no be less than two years and more than three years and shall also be liable to fine]) and 17/2 (whoever manages or assists in the management of an unlawful association, or promotes or assists in promoting a meeting of any such association, or of any members thereof as such members, shall be punished with imprisonment for a term [which shall no be less than three years and more than five years and shall also be liable to fine]).

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