

# My Will

Dr. Thiha Tin Tun

*Translated by Astraia Eugene*

\



Center for Southeast  
Asian Studies  
**University of Wisconsin-  
Madison**

## Justice in Translation 6/2021 | December 2021

*This translation is published under a Creative Commons BY-NC-ND license, which means users may copy and distribute the material in any medium or format in unadapted form only, for noncommercial purposes only, and only so long as attribution is given to the creator.*



**Justice in Translation** is an open-access web publication series that publishes translations from Southeast Asian languages to English that is a project of the Justice in Southeast Asia Lab (JSEALab). The JSEALab is part of a five-year initiative on Social Justice in Southeast Asia at the University of Wisconsin-Madison generously funded by the Henry Luce Foundation and located in the Center for Southeast Asian Studies and the Human Rights Program. A combination of intensive exchange between faculty and graduate students and public-facing events aim to foster significant collaboration between academics and practitioners, reflecting both the recognition that a growing number of MAs and PhDs in Southeast Asian Studies are choosing to pursue professional careers outside the university and that there is a need for academic work to be directly responsive to ongoing social justice crises in the region.

*For more information:*

<https://seasia.wisc.edu/sjsea-project/jsealab/>

 @jsealab

 @jsealab

# **Translator's Introduction: Background of the Spring Revolution**

Astraia Eugene

The military seized control on 1 February 2021 in Myanmar following the landslide victory of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party in the 8 November 2020 general election. The coup took place just before a new session of parliament began. The military detained elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi, President Win Myint and members of the NLD party.

Since then, people from all walks of life have engaged in massive protests over the coup despite significant suppression, including killings and detentions on a daily basis. The Spring Revolution is the largest uprising of its kind in Myanmar since the Saffron Revolution in 2007, in which thousands of Buddhist monks rose up against the military regime. One popular non-violent movement among professionals in both the public and private sector is the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM). People share what they have with the CDMers through a range of support, including financing, job creation, training, psychosocial support and so on. Every day, Burmese communities together with other diverse national races in different corners of the country have been fighting for justice and democracy to root out the military regime from Myanmar land.

As of 30 November 2021, the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP) reports that 1299 people have been killed, 10568 people arrested, and 1954 who have evaded arrest.<sup>1</sup> According to Save the Children, by October 2021,

---

<sup>1</sup> AAPP posts daily updates to these numbers to Twitter. See [https://twitter.com/aapp\\_burma](https://twitter.com/aapp_burma).

over 206,000 people (37% are children) have been displaced across the country since the coup.<sup>2</sup>

“My Will” is a farewell letter written by Dr. Thiha Tin Tun to his parents, friends and girlfriend before joining a protest on 27 March 2021. He was an assistant surgeon at Pyin Oo Lwin Hospital in Myanmar who joined the Spring Revolution following the coup d’etat.. He died from gunshot wounds to his head and arms while helping pro-democracy protesters. Like many other fallen heroes, he wrote a letter to those he loved before going to the protest. His mother, who did not cry in front of the crowd, said she is proud of her son. He was one of more than one hundred people killed on the same day, which was recorded as one of the deadliest days of the Spring Revolution.

---

<sup>2</sup> Save the Children, “Myanmar: More than 76,000 children displaced by violence since coup, with pregnant women forced to give birth in forest,” 4 October 2021, <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/myanmar-more-76000-children-displaced-violence-coup-pregnant-women-forced-give-birth-forest>.

# My Will<sup>3</sup>

Dr. Thiha Tin Tun

Things got worse while we were expecting the best. A coup d'état occurred. Our days of living happily with no fear have gone. It is also a time to fight back as much as possible for the things that should never run out. It is not that difficult. Get it or fight for it. Just take down one or two of them with us together. The hand holding the scalpel was already covered in blood.

First of all, I want to tell my mom. If anything happens to me or if I die, I want my mom to be proud of me. Do not be disheartened for very long. Do not grieve for a long time as my downfall was in the pursuit of national sovereignty and the people's power. I also would like to inform my grandmother that your grandson was brave and courageous enough to fight. Please take care of your grandson when we meet again in the next life. Next is for my dad. Though I didn't communicate much with my dad, I will still remember our attachment as father and son.

If fortunate enough, let's meet again. My elder sister and my brother-in-law, please have more children. Keep yourselves strong. May my uncle and his family be peaceful. May Aunty Nyein's family, though only comprised of two family members, be united and peaceful. Please tell U Pauk and Auntygyi to stay healthy. For my friends, I do not have much to say. They will remember our life memories. Probably some may forget those memories. That's all.

My Love. One of the best memories in my life is the chance

---

<sup>3</sup> Originally published in Burmese as “ကျွန်ုပ်၏သတင်းစာ” on 27 March 2021 on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/100009252005827/posts/2844760965842276/?d=n>).

of meeting YOU. I will take this lovely memory to my last breath. I do believe that you will understand me and be proud of me. We have spent so very little time together. If fortunate enough, we will meet again and lead our lives together.

To my comrades who fought together with me, I would like to encourage you to continue your fight with undiminished zeal and only stop our revolution when the people's government returns to power. I'm sorry that I had to go first. May the military dictatorship fall. May the people's power prevail.

## ***About the Author and Translator***

**Dr. Thiha Tin Thun** was an assistant surgeon at Pyin Oo Lwin Hospital in Myanmar. He died due to gunshot wounds sustained on 27 March 2021 while protesting the coup.

**Astraia Eugene** has been in the translation and conference interpretation career for two decades. Most of the translated works are related to a large range of local laws and international conventions as well as law books.