

FREEDOM
FIGHTERS
PORTRAITS



WHO IS U WIN TIN

Myanmar's **unbreakable voice for
democracy**

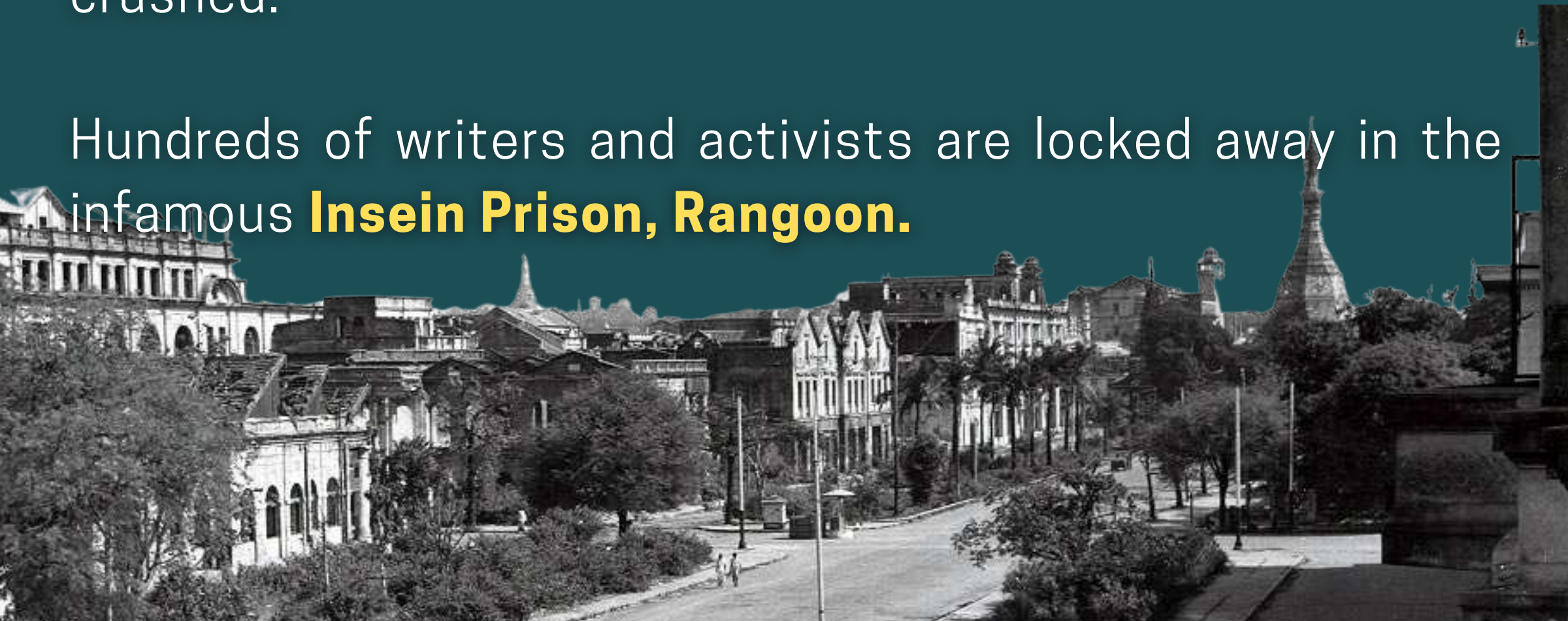


1962, THE MILITARY SEIZES POWER

For decades, the junta rules through censorship, imprisonment, and systematic torture. Independent journalism becomes an act of resistance, and a dangerous one.

In 1988, **a mass pro-democracy** uprising erupts, and is crushed.

Hundreds of writers and activists are locked away in the infamous **Insein Prison, Rangoon.**



A LIFE SPENT FIGHTING

Born in 1930, U Win Tin became one of Myanmar's most respected editors and poets.

In 1988, he participated in the founding of the **National League for Democracy (NLD)** alongside Aung San Suu Kyi.

A year later, he was arrested. **He would spend 19 years in prison, Myanmar's longest-serving political prisoner.**



IMPRISONED FOR THE TRUTH

His crime? **Telling the truth.**

U Win Tin was arrested for sending a report on **torture and prison conditions** to a United Nations special rapporteur.

Charged with "*anti-government propaganda*", he was sentenced to 21 years in prison. **In 1996, his sentence was extended for the possession of a pen and paper.**



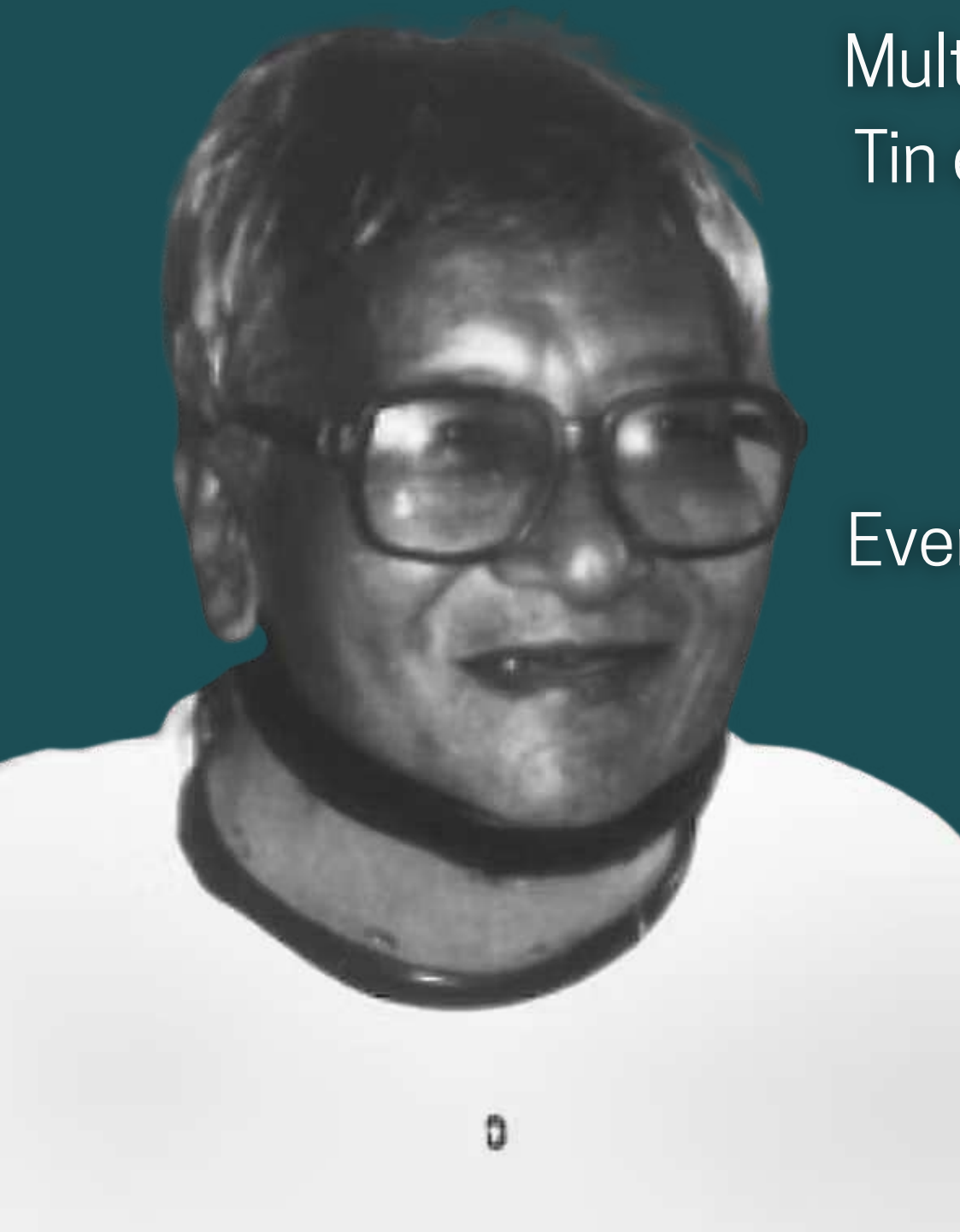
FREEDOM WAS NEVER FOR SALE

He refused to be free on their terms.

Multiple times, the junta offered U Win Tin early release, on the condition that he sign a document renouncing all political activity.

Every time, he declined. **For U Win Tin, a conditional freedom was no freedom at all.**

He chose prison over silence.



RELEASED, STILL FIGHTING

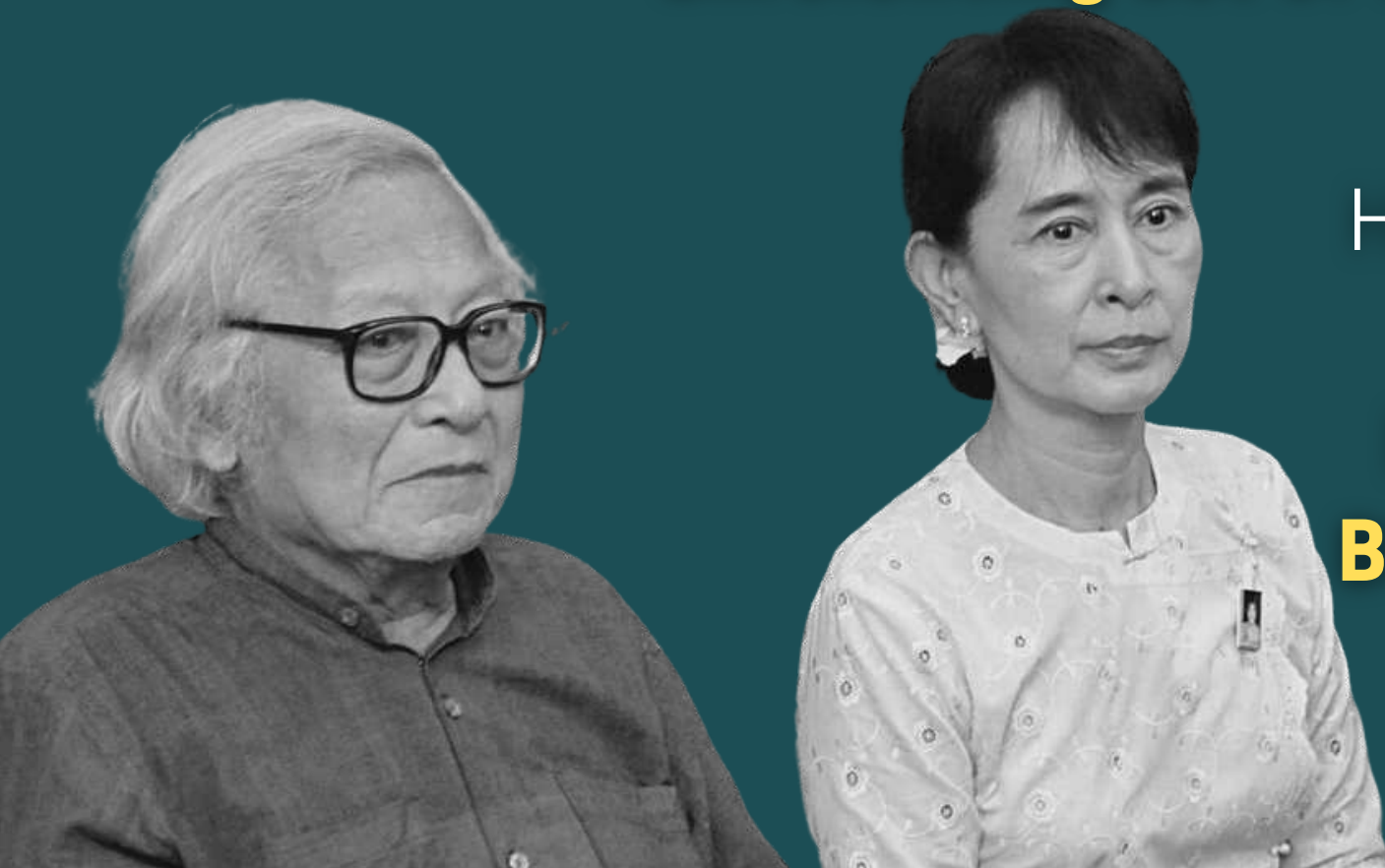
After his release in 2008, he never stopped.

U Win Tin immediately returned to activism and to the NLD, mentored young activists, and **demanding the release of all remaining political prisoners.**

Every single day, **he wore his blue prison shirt: an unrelenting act of solidarity** that inspired **Blue Shirt Day.**

He wore it until his death on **April 21st, 2014.**

Every year on that date, **Blue Shirt Day** keeps his memory alive.



*“The dictators can only detain **our bodies,**
not our souls.”*

U Win Tin

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