

## U.K. deportation of Myanmar critic halted

*by UPI*

LONDON -- British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has halted deportation proceedings against a Myanmar refugee, The Independent reported Thursday. Lay Naing, 34, his wife and 18-month-old daughter fled to Britain last year, but because he didn't file for asylum immediately was ordered deported, the newspaper said. He went on to lose three appeals before the issue came up in Parliament. Naing had been jailed and beaten in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, for distributing literature criticizing the ruling military junta. Naing received the news in a letter from Brown, who said his intervention was on humanitarian grounds. "The government has strongly and repeatedly condemned the recent violent suppression of peaceful protests across the country," Brown wrote. "We are horrified by the reports of ongoing persecution targets at all those who took part in the demonstrations."

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