

U.S. Department of Justice
Executive Office for Immigration Review

I-589, Application for Asylum and for Withholding of Removal

Applicant: May Thu Cho

Submission Date: 2024-04-25T16:14:37UTC

Do you also want to apply for withholding of removal under the Convention Against Torture?: Yes
Part A.I. Information About You
1. Alien Registration Number(s) (A-Number) (if any): 2. U.S. Social Security Number (if any): 3. USCIS Online Account Number (if any):
4. Complete Last Name: Cho 5. First Name: May Thu 6. Middle Name:
7. What other names have you used (include maiden name and aliases)?
8. Residence in the U.S. (where you physically reside) Street Number and Name: 58-59 1A 44th Ave Apt. Number: City: Woodside State: NY ZIP Code: 11377 Telephone Number: 929-622-8178
9. Mailing Address in the U.S. (if different than the address in Item Number 8) In Care of (if applicable): Telephone Number: 646-698-2775 Street Number and Name: 6034 BOOTH ST Apt. Number: City: ELMHURST State: NY ZIP Code: 11373-5526
10. Gender (Male, Female): Female 11. Marital Status (Single, Married, Divorced, Widowed): single 12. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy): 10-01-2000 13. City and Country of Birth: City: YANGON Country: MMR 14. Present Nationality (Citizenship): MMR 15. Nationality at Birth: MMR 16. Race, Ethnic, or Tribal Group: BURMESE 17. Religion: BUDDISM
18.a. I have never been in Immigration Court proceedings.: Yes 18.b. I am now in Immigration Court proceedings: 18.c. I am not now in Immigration Court proceedings, but I have been in the past:

19.a. When did you last leave your country? (mm/dd/yyyy): 01-28-2024

Last Left Your Country Other:

19.b. What is your current I-94 Number, if any?: 745828629A3

19.c. List each entry into the U.S. beginning with your most recent entry. List date (mm/dd/yyyy), place, and your status for each entry. (Attach additional sheets as needed.)

Most Recent Entry Record:

Date of Entry: 01-28-2024

Place of Entry: NYC

Other Place of Entry:

Status: F1

Date Status Expires: 01-15-2025

Previous Entry Record(s):

20. What country issued your last passport or travel document?: MMR

21. Passport/Travel Document Number: MG694775

22. Expiration Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 10-25-2027

23. What is your native language (include dialect, if applicable)?: BUR

24. Are you fluent in English?: Yes

25. What other languages do you speak fluently?

Part A.II. Information About Your Spouse and Children

Your spouse

1. Alien Registration Number (A-Number) (if any):

2. Passport/ID Card Number (if any):

3. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy):

4. U.S. Social Security Number (if any):

5. Complete Last Name:

6. First Name:

7. Middle Name:

8. Other names used (include maiden name and aliases)

9. Date of Marriage (mm/dd/yyyy):

10. Place of Marriage:

11. City and Country of Birth:

City:

Country:

12. Nationality (Citizenship):

13. Race, Ethnic, or Tribal Group:

14. Gender (Male,Female):

15. Is this person in the U.S.? "Yes " (Complete Blocks 16 to 24). "No" (Specify location) :

Spouse Location:

16. Place of last entry into the U.S.:

Other Place of Last Entry:

17. Date of last entry into the U.S. (mm/dd/yyyy):

18. I-94 Number (if any):

19. Status when last admitted (Visa type, if any):

20. What is your spouse's current status?:

21. What is the expiration date of his/her authorized stay, if any? (mm/dd/yyyy):

22. Is your spouse in Immigration Court proceedings?:
23. If previously in the U.S., date of previous arrival (mm/dd/yyyy):
24. If in the U.S., is your spouse to be included in this application?:

Your Children. List all of your children, regardless of age, location, or marital status.

I have children: No

Total number of children:

Part A.III. Information About Your Background

1. List your last address where you lived before coming to the United States. If this is not the country where you fear persecution, also list the last address in the country where you fear persecution. (List Address, City/Town, Department, Province, or State and Country.)

Number and Street, Line 1 (Provide if Available): No.412 Thama Seikta 2nd ST

Number and Street, Line 2 (Provide if Available):

City/Town: Daw Bon TOWNSHIP

Department, Province, or State: YANGON

State:

Zip Code:

Postal Code: 11241

Country: MMR

Dates: From (Month): 05

Dates: From (Year): 2023

Dates: To (Month): 01

Dates: To (Year): 2024

2. Provide the following information about your residences during the past 5 years. List your present address first.

Number and Street, Line 1: 58-59 1A 44th Ave

Number and Street, Line 2:

City/Town: Woodside

Department or Province:

State: NY

Postal Code:

ZIP Code: 11377

Country: USA

Dates:From(Month): 01

Dates:From(Year): 2024

Dates:To(Month):

Dates:To(Year):

Number and Street, Line 1: No.14 Shwe Phuu Myaw ST

Number and Street, Line 2:

City/Town: DAWBON TOWNSHIP

Department or Province: YANGON

State:

Postal Code: 11241

ZIP Code:

Country: MMR

Dates:From(Month): 12

Dates:From(Year): 2017

Dates:To(Month): 05

Dates:To(Year): 2022

Number and Street, Line 1: No.42 Anaw Mar 17th ST

Number and Street, Line 2:

City/Town: Thaketa Township

Department or Province: Yangon

State:

Postal Code: 11231

ZIP Code:

Country: MMR

Dates:From(Month): 05

Dates:From(Year): 2022

Dates:To(Month): 05

Dates:To(Year): 2023

Number and Street, Line 1: No.412 Thama Seikta 2nd ST

Number and Street, Line 2:

City/Town: DAW BON TOWNSHIP

Department or Province: YANGON

State:

Postal Code: 11241

ZIP Code:

Country: MMR

Dates:From(Month): 05

Dates:From(Year): 2023

Dates:To(Month): 01

Dates:To(Year): 2024

3. Provide the following information about your education, beginning with the most recent school that you attended.

Name of School: BEHS 4 PAZUNDAUNG

Type of School: High School

Location (Address):

Street Name and Number: 242, Bo Myat Tun St

Apt. No.: Upper Block

City: Pazundaung Township

State:

ZIP Code:

Province: Yangon

Postal Code: 11171

Country: MMR

Dates:From(Month): 06

Dates:From(Year): 2006

Dates:To(Month): 03

Dates:To(Year): 2017

Name of School: Ease Yangon University

Type of School: University

Location (Address):

Street Name and Number: Phayar Gone village

Apt. No.:

City: Thanlyin township

State:

ZIP Code:

Province: Yangon

Postal Code: 11291-11293

Country: MMR

Dates:From(Month): 12

Dates:From(Year): 2017

Dates:To(Month): 02

Dates:To(Year): 2020

4. Provide the following information about your employment during the past 5 years. List your present employment first.

Name and Address of Employer: Top Academy online English school

Street Name and Number: Kamayut Township

Apt. No.:

City: Yangon

State:

ZIP Code:

Province:

Postal Code: 11041

Country: MMR

Your Occupation: Young learners English teacher

Dates:From(Month): 11

Dates:From(Year): 2022

Dates:To(Month): 01

Dates:To(Year): 2024

Name and Address of Employer: Freelance

Street Name and Number: Remote

Apt. No.:

City:

State:

ZIP Code:

Province: Yangon

Postal Code: 11041

Country: MMR

Your Occupation: Freelance English and guide teacher

Dates:From(Month): 11

Dates:From(Year): 2017

Dates:To(Month): 01

Dates:To(Year): 2024

Name and Address of Employer: Edvantage online Japanese school

Street Name and Number: Ma Kyee Kyee St

Apt. No.: Sanchaung Township

City: Yangon

State:
ZIP Code:
Province:
Postal Code: 11111
Country: MMR
Your Occupation: Part-time Administrative assistant
Dates:From(Month): 08
Dates:From(Year): 2021
Dates:To(Month): 11
Dates:To(Year): 2021

Name and Address of Employer: Garranto Pte.Ltd
Street Name and Number: Maha Bandula Road
Apt. No.: Latha Township
City: Yangon
State:
ZIP Code:
Province:
Postal Code: 11000
Country: MMR
Your Occupation: Part-time Business development lead
Dates:From(Month): 11
Dates:From(Year): 2020
Dates:To(Month): 04
Dates:To(Year): 2021

5. Provide the following information about your parents and siblings (brothers and sisters). Check the box if the person is deceased.

Relationship (Mother, Father, Sibling): Father
First Name: Chan
Last Name: Dran
Middle Name:
City/Town of Birth: Pazundaung Township, Yangon
Country of Birth: MMR
Current Location:
Deceased: Yes

Relationship (Mother, Father, Sibling): Mother
First Name: Hnin Pa Pa
Last Name: Moe
Middle Name:
City/Town of Birth: Daw Bon Township, Yangon
Country of Birth: MMR
Current Location:
Deceased:

Part B. Information About Your Application

When answering the following questions about your asylum or other protection claim (withholding of removal under 241(b)(3) of the INA or withholding of removal under the Convention Against Torture), you must provide a detailed and specific account of the basis of your claim to asylum or other protection. To the best of your ability, provide specific dates, places, and descriptions about each event

or action described. You must attach documents evidencing the general conditions in the country from which you are seeking asylum or other protection and the specific facts on which you are relying to support your claim. If this documentation is unavailable or you are not providing this documentation with your application, explain why in your responses to the following questions.

:

1. Why are you applying for asylum or withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3) of the INA, or for withholding of removal under the Convention Against Torture? I am seeking asylum or withholding of removal based on:

Race: Yes

Religion: Yes

Nationality: Yes

Political Opinion: Yes

Membership in a particular social group: Yes

Torture Convention: Yes

A. Have you, your family, or close friends or colleagues ever experienced harm or mistreatment or threats in the past by anyone?:

Yes

If "Yes," explain in detail: **1. What happened; 2. When the harm or mistreatment or threats occurred; 3. Who caused the harm or mistreatment or threats; and 4. Why you believe the harm or mistreatment or threats occurred.:** I have experienced significant harm and mistreatment, primarily due to my involvement in pro-democracy activities and community aid in Myanmar. On June 21, 2023, I was arrested, detained, and subjected to torture by the police force operating under the military-controlled government. During this incident, my home was illegally raided by officers, some in uniform and others in civilian clothes, who falsely accused me of anti-government actions. This included beatings and other forms of physical and psychological abuse. My parents were also physically abused during the raid. These actions were part of a broader pattern of persecution that began following the military coup in February 2021, targeting me and my family because of our active resistance to the regime through organizing fundraisers and distributing aid to our community, which the military viewed as oppositional activities.

B. Do you fear harm or mistreatment if you return to your home country?: Yes

If "Yes," explain in detail: **1. What harm or mistreatment you fear; 2. Who you believe would harm or mistreat you; and 3. Why you believe you would or could be harmed or mistreated.:** I have a deep-seated fear of returning to Myanmar due to the substantial risk of harm and mistreatment from the military-controlled government and its police forces. Given my previous detention and torture for my pro-democracy activities and community aid efforts, I am highly vulnerable to further persecution. I fear being subjected to arrest, physical violence, and possibly even fatal harm. These fears are based on my past experiences and the ongoing violent repression directed at individuals who oppose or are perceived to oppose the military regime. Additionally, the government and its forces have demonstrated a pattern of targeting activists and dissenters, using tactics such as arbitrary detention, torture, and extrajudicial punishments to suppress opposition. My involvement in the Civil Disobedience Movement and other pro-democracy activities, both in Myanmar and from abroad, has placed me at increased risk, making my return to Myanmar extremely dangerous.

2. Have you or your family members ever been accused, charged, arrested, detained, interrogated, convicted and sentenced, or imprisoned in any country other than the United States (including for an immigration law violation)?: Yes

If "Yes," explain the circumstances and reasons for the action: I have been arrested, detained, and interrogated by the police in Myanmar due to my involvement in pro-democracy activities. Specifically, on June 21, 2023, I was taken into custody without a legal warrant by police officers, some in uniform and others in civilian clothing. They raided my home, accusing me of anti-government actions, and subjected me to physical and psychological torture in an effort to suppress my and my community's opposition to the military regime. This included beatings and sexual harassment during the interrogation. The purpose of this treatment was to punish me for my participation in the Civil Disobedience Movement and for organizing community aid and fundraisers that supported those affected by the military's oppressive policies. This arrest and the methods of torture used during my detention exemplify the regime's use of force to intimidate and silence its critics. Additionally, my parents have faced similar accusations and mistreatment, primarily aimed at coercing them into stopping their support for the community and my activities.

3.A. Have you or your family members ever belonged to or been associated with any organizations or groups in your home country, such as, but not limited to, a political party, student group, labor union, religious organization, military or paramilitary group, civil patrol, guerrilla organization, ethnic group, human rights group, or the press or media?: No

If "Yes," describe for each person the level of participation, any leadership or other positions held, and the length of time you or your family members were involved in each organization or activity.:

3.B. Do you or your family members continue to participate in any way in these organizations or groups?:

If "Yes," describe for each person your or your family members' current level of participation, any leadership or other positions currently held, and the length of time you or your family members have been involved in each organization or group.:

4. Are you afraid of being subjected to torture in your home country or any other country to which you may be returned?: Yes

If "Yes," explain why you are afraid and describe the nature of torture you fear, by whom, and why it would be inflicted.: I am deeply afraid of being subjected to torture if I return to Myanmar, a fear rooted in both past personal experiences and the ongoing practices of the military-controlled government. The nature of the torture I fear includes physical beatings, psychological abuse, and potentially life-threatening treatments, similar to what I endured during my previous arrest in June 2023. These actions are typically carried out by the police and military personnel as a method to extract information, punish dissent, and instill fear within the community. The reasons for this potential torture are directly linked to my active involvement in pro-democracy activities, including participating in the Civil Disobedience Movement and organizing community support against the military regime. These activities have marked me as a target for the government, which continues to brutally suppress any form of opposition to maintain its control. The risk of torture is not just theoretical but is based on concrete past incidents and the known tactics of the regime against those who challenge its authority.

Part C. Additional Information About Your Application

1. Have you, your spouse, your child(ren), your parents or your siblings ever applied to the U.S. Government for refugee status, asylum, or withholding of removal?: No

If "Yes," explain the decision and what happened to any status you, your spouse, your child(ren), your parents, or your siblings received as a result of that decision. Indicate whether or not you were included in a parent or spouse's application. If so, include your parent or spouse's A-number in your response. If you were previously denied asylum by USCIS, an immigration judge, or the Board of Immigration Appeals, describe any change(s) in conditions in your country or your own personal circumstances since the date of the denial that may affect your eligibility for asylum.:

2.A. After leaving the country from which you are claiming asylum, did you or your spouse or child(ren) who are now in the United States travel through or reside in any other country before entering the United States?: No

If "Yes," , provide for each person the following: the name of each country and the length of stay, the person's status while there, the reasons for leaving, whether or not the person is entitled to return for lawful residence purposes, and whether the person applied for refugee status or for asylum while there, and if not, why he or she did not do so:

2.B. Have you, your spouse, your child(ren), or other family members, such as your parents or siblings, ever applied for or received any lawful status in any country other than the one from which you are now claiming asylum?: No

If "Yes," , provide for each person the following: the name of each country and the length of stay, the person's status while there, the reasons for leaving, whether or not the person is entitled to return for lawful residence purposes, and whether the person applied for refugee status or for asylum while there, and if not, why he or she did not do so:

3. Have you, your spouse or your child(ren) ever ordered, incited, assisted or otherwise participated in causing harm or suffering to any person because of his or her race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or belief in a particular political opinion?: No

If "Yes," describe in detail each such incident and your own, your spouse's, or your child(ren)'s involvement.:

4. After you left the country where you were harmed or fear harm, did you return to that country?: No

If "Yes," describe in detail the circumstances of your visit(s) (for example, the date(s) of the trip(s), the purpose(s) of the trip(s), and the length of time you remained in that country for the visit(s).):

5. Are you filing this application more than 1 year after your last arrival in the United States?: No

If "Yes," explain why you did not file within the first year after you arrived. You must be prepared to explain at your interview or hearing why you did not file your asylum application within the first year after you arrived. For guidance in answering this question, see Instructions, Part 1: Filing Instructions, Section V. "Completing the Form," Part C.:

6. Have you or any member of your family included in the application ever committed any crime and/or been arrested, charged, convicted, or sentenced for any crimes in the United States (including for an immigration law violation)? No

If "Yes," for each instance, specify in your response: what occurred and the circumstances, dates, length of sentence received, location, the duration of the detention or imprisonment, reason(s) for the detention or conviction, any formal charges that were lodged against you or your relatives included in your application, and the reason(s) for release. If you have been arrested in the United States, you must submit a certified copy of all arrest reports, court dispositions, sentencing documents, and any other relevant documents.:

Part D. Your Signature

I certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that this application and the evidence submitted with it are all true and correct. Title 18, United States Code, Section 1546(a), provides in part: Whoever knowingly makes under oath, or as permitted under penalty of perjury under Section 1746 of Title 28, United States Code, knowingly subscribes as true, any false statement with respect to a material fact in any application, affidavit, or other document required by the immigration laws or regulations prescribed thereunder, or knowingly presents any such application, affidavit, or other document containing any such false statement or which fails to contain any reasonable basis in law or fact - shall be fined in accordance with this title or imprisoned for up to 25 years. I authorize the release of any information from my immigration record that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) needs to determine eligibility for the benefit I am seeking.

WARNING: Applicants who are in the United States unlawfully are subject to removal if their asylum or withholding claims are not granted by an asylum officer or an immigration judge. Any information provided in completing this application may be used as a basis for the institution of, or as evidence in, removal proceedings even if the application is later withdrawn. Applicants determined to have knowingly made a frivolous application for asylum will be permanently ineligible for any benefits under the Immigration and Nationality Act. You may not avoid a frivolous finding simply because someone advised you to provide false information in your asylum application. If filing with USCIS, unexcused failure to appear for an appointment to provide biometrics (such as fingerprints) and your biographical information within the time allowed may result in an asylum officer dismissing your asylum application or referring it to an immigration judge. Failure without good cause to provide DHS with biometrics or other biographical information while in removal proceedings may result in your application being found abandoned by the immigration judge. See sections 208(d)(5) (A) and 208(d)(6) of the INA and 8 CFR sections 208.10, 1208.10, 208.20, 1003.47(d) and 1208.20.

Print your complete name: MAY THU CHO

Write your name in your native alphabet:

Did your spouse, parent, or child(ren) assist you in completing this application? No

If "Yes," list the name and relationship.

Did someone other than your spouse, parent, or child(ren) prepare this application? (If "Yes," complete Part E.): Yes

Asylum applicants may be represented by counsel. Have you been provided with a list of persons who may be available to assist you, at little or no cost, with your asylum claim? No

Signature Email Address: maythucho.usird.client@gmail.com

Signature Date: 04-25-2024

Electronic Filing Record

Part E. Declaration of Person Preparing Form, if Other Than Applicant, Spouse, Parent, or Child

I declare that I have prepared this application at the request of the person named in Part D, that the responses provided are based on all information of which I have knowledge, or which was provided to me by the applicant, and that the completed application was read to the applicant in his or her native language or a language he or she understands for verification before he or she signed the application in my presence. I am aware that the knowing placement of false information on the Form I-589 may also subject me to civil penalties under 8 U.S.C. 1324c and/or criminal penalties under 18 U.S.C. 1546(a).

Signature Of Preparer:

Date:

Complete Name of Preparer:

First Name: Ye Yint Myint Last Name: Mo Daytime Telephone Number: 646-698-2775
Address of Preparer Street Number and Name: 6034 Booth Street Apt. Number: City: Elmhurst State: NY ZIP Code: 11373 Province: Postal Code: Country:
Attorney State Bar Number (if applicable): Attorney or Accredited Representative USCIS Online Account Number (if any):
Evidence
Original File Name: Cover Letter_ May Thu Cho.pdf Category: Cover Letter
Original File Name: Statement_ May Thu Cho.pdf Category: Written Statements
Original File Name: 1962 Military Coup News Article.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: 1988 Military Coup News Article.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: 2021 Civil Disobedience Movement.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: 2021 Military Coup News Article.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: 2021 Protest Civil Movement.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: BURMA Act 2021 Congress Paper.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: Section 505 A News Article.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: UN HUMAN RIGHT COMM REPORT.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: Matriculation Certificate notary May Thu Cho.jpg Category: Other Education Documents
Original File Name: Matriculation Certificate original and May Thu Cho.jpg Category: Other Education Documents
Original File Name: NRC notary_ May Thu Cho.jpg Category: Foreign Identification Documents
Original File Name: NRC original .pdf Category: Foreign Identification Documents

Original File Name: I20_May Thu Cho.pdf Category: I-20
Original File Name: I94_May Thu Cho.pdf Category: I-94
Original File Name: passport_May Thu Cho.pdf Category: Passport
Original File Name: visa_May Thu Cho.pdf Category: Visa
Original File Name: Birth certificate notary_May Thu Cho.jpg Category: Birth Records
Original File Name: Birth certificate original_May Thu Cho .pdf Category: Birth Records
Original File Name: Family Member List notary May Thu Cho.jpg Category: Other Identification
Original File Name: Family Member List original and May Thu Cho.pdf Category: Other Identification
Original File Name: 1962 Military Coup News Article.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: 1988 Military Coup News Article.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: 2021 Civil Disobedience Movement.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: 2021 Military Coup News Article.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: 2021 Protest Civil Movement.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: BURMA Act 2021 Congress Paper.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: Section 505 A News Article.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: UN HUMAN RIGHT COMM REPORT.pdf Category: News Article
Original File Name: Preparer Signed Document.pdf Category: Preparer Signature
Supplement B, Form I-589
Additional Information About Your Claim to Asylum