MS. ZIN MAR AUNG is a former political prisoner, imprisoned for 11 years because of her political activism. She is dedicated to promoting democracy, women’s empowerment, and conflict resolution in Burma. Following her involvement in the 1996 and 1998 pro-democracy student uprisings and subsequent imprisonment, she established a cultural impact studies group to promote the idea that democracy is compatible with Asian culture.

Ms. Zin Mar Aung created and leads a self-help association for female ex-political prisoners and a political science school in Rangoon, which teaches and empowers civil society activists in the country’s changing but still challenging environment. She is also the co-founder of a women’s empowerment group, and is currently spearheading an organization to raise awareness of issues affecting ethnic minorities in conflict areas. Her visit to Washington is, in part, organized by the McCain Institute for International Leadership.