B U R M A

B U N D E R G R O U N D

B U R I G H T S

M O V E M E N T F O R

A C T I O N

Documentation of violations of human rights concerning killing and arresting of monks, arrest and detention of NLD members, villagers forced to serve as porters, and rape and killing of villagers.
The following reports were compiled by the Burma Underground Rights Movement for Action (B.U.R.M.A.). They represent hard work by colleagues who are willing to risk their own safety in order to get this information out.

We are sharing this information with you because we believe that you are willing to help us take action in order to bring about positive changes in Burma so that this kind of suffering does not have to continue.

These cases do not represent the worst of what is happening in Burma today. Thousands of people barely exist in prison, isolated from the rest of the world. We can not get information about these people, nor organize international pressure which might help ease their suffering. They are the hidden political prisoners of Burma.

At the same time, villages in some areas of Burma suffer terribly under the military, and there is no one there to document the suffering or help organize pressure to force the military to observe at least some respect for human rights.

We call on you to continue your efforts to help the suffering people of Burma. Every effort is appreciated.

We hope that this short document can help you in your efforts to struggle for peace and human rights in Burma.

Burma Underground Rights Movement for Action
January, 1991
PORTERS

These two young men were forced by the Burmese military to serve as porters. They managed to escape after facing many dangers. Every year thousands of young men and women are forced to carry the heavy loads of the Burmese military into battle fields where they must also serve as human mine sweepers.

October 17, 1990

Name: Maung Pan Myint
Age: 38 years
Father Name: U Shwe Thaung
Mother Name: Daw Shwe
Address: Pa-an city, Karen State, Burma
Occupation: woodcutter

Story: Maung Pan Myint has six children: four boys and two girls. He was forced to serve as a porter by Regiment No.1 under control of battalion No.44 in June, 1990. He was forced by the military to carry heavy rice bags for military rations at the Mya Wa Di port, opposite Mae Sod, Thailand. Last month he fled from this place.

Name: Maung Myint Than
Age: 21 years
Father Name: U Tin Oo
Mother Name: Daw Mya
Address: Mataban city, Tenasserim Division, Burma
Occupation: Fisherman

Story: Maung Myint Than was forced to serve as a porter by Light Infantry No.1 in Mataban city. He carried heavy rice bags, onions and salted fish bags for military rations. The BSPP troops treated the porters very badly. Sometimes the BSPP troops brutally beat the porters. Even when the porters were seriously sick, the troops did not give them any medicines. When Maung Than asked for medicines from the troops, they threatened to beat him. Now, he has been able to flee from that military area.

Name: Maung Myint (Pho Taw)
Age: 24 years
Father Name: U Chit Hlaing
Mother Name: Daw Mya
Address: Se Sone Ward of Moulmein city, Tenasserim Division, Burma
Occupation: unknown

Story: On 25th September, 1990, two privates from Regiment No.97 drank a lot of alcohol and came into the Moe Goke Set Wine Monastery where the privates swore at all the people. Then, they shot their guns and robbed some of the people on the main road in Moulmein city. The people ran to escape from this place. At that time, Maung Myint Hlaing was going to his shop and saw this incident. So, he also ran along the main road to Thaung Yin stream. The two privates chased him. Finally, he dove into the stream but he does not know how to swim. The two privates also dove into the stream to arrest Maung Myint Hlaing but the privates could not swim because they drank a lot of alcohol. At that time, other privates also arrived at the side of the stream and aimed their guns at a boat driver to force him to go save their two soldier friends.

The army men, however, neglected Maung Myint Hlaing. For this reason, Maung Myint Hlaing drown in the stream.
PORTER NEWS

January 9, 1991

Porters

Name: Maung Maung alias Ai Suit
Age: 24 years
Father Name: Unknown
Address: Kya Khat Chaung Village in Belin township in Karen State

Contents: He was arrested on a ship which was en route from Kya Inn Sake Kyi to Moulmein on 16 February 1990 by Government troops who used him as a porter for more than seven months. After that he could flee from the soldiers' atrocities.

Name: Ah. Di
Age: 22 years
Father Name: U San Mya
Address: Unknown

Contents: He was arrested in Naung Ka Lar village in Belin area of Mon State by government troops who used him as a porter for about five months. While he was a porter, only the two spoonfuls of soybean is for his one meal. After that he could flee from the soldiers' atrocities.

Atrocities of Rangoon Troops

Soldiers from Regiment No. 5 came into Paung Da Ba Ya Village in Karen State and shot whatever they saw in the village. Some of the people were killed and some were wounded.

Dead people:
1. Name: U Ru Bi
   Age: 45 years
   Father Name: U Saw Phu
   Address: Kya Khat Chaung Village in Belin township in Karen State. (He has three children and wife.)

Name: Maung Kyant Khaing
Age: 15 years
Father Name: U Saw Pe
Address: Kya Khat Chaung Village in Belin township in Karen State. Wounded people.

Name: Maung Cho
Age: 30 years
Father Name: U Saw Pe
Address: Kya Khat Chaung Village in Belin township in Karen State.

Name: Maung Soe
Age: 17 years
Father Name: U Ye Pe
Address: Ye Kya Village in Belin township of Mon State.

The soldiers from No. 4 led by Captain Sein Thaw of Light Regiment No. 24 came a second time into Paung Da Ba Ya village in Belin Township of Mon State on 7 of September in 1990 and shot whatever they saw in the village. Two people were wounded seriously.

Wounded people:

Name: U Maung Aye
Age: Unknown
Address: Kya Khat Chaung Village in Belin State of Mon State.

Commander Maj. Soe Min and the soldiers from Regiment No. 19 came into Ka Naing Village in Pa Pon District of Karen State around mid night and arrested about 20 villagers include four women to be used as porters. The men's ages were from 13 to 65 years and the women's ages were from 17 to 20 years.

Then, the men were transferred to Light Regiment No. 5 under control of Battalion No. 44 but the four women disappeared. Although the parents whose daughters disappeared informed local authorities, they have not yet received any information about their daughters.

The four disappeared women are:
1. Name: Nan Hla Hein
   Age: 17 years
The soldiers from Regiment No. 3 Light Regiment No. 3 and Regiment No. 4 Light Regiment No. 1 arrested the people from Ka Lai Ni, Ye Pu, Kyaw Wine and Myit Kyi villages which are on Papom-Belin highway, and Kwi Lay, Kyaw Thaung Sake, Lay Kau, Me Lay and Mae Nan Than villages in The Thon District of Mon State.

The men in these villages abandoned their homes. When the soldiers could not find the men in these villages, they arrested some women whose ages were from 14 to 60 years old. Some women were about 4 months pregnant.

The soldiers forced these women to carry heavy weapons and to march in front of the columns to be human shields in the front lines.

A village woman and her three children sit in their house covering from the fear of a recent attack by Burmese troops. The troops fired their guns into the village randomly causing damage and injuries. Many of the men and women of the village were also taken away as porters.
SUPPRESSION OF THE NLD

20, Dec., 1990

Following is the list of members of the National League for Democracy Party who were detained and questioned by the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

1. U Kyi Maung Swe...Central Executive Committee
2. U Kyaw Min........Central Executive Committee
3. U Phone Thin.........Central Executive Committee
4. U Tin Hla............Central Committee
5. U Zaw Hla Oo...News and Periodical Department
6. U Kyaw Oo...News and Periodical Department
7. U Tin Maung Win...Organizer (Rangoon Division)
8. U Ba Hla.............Organizer (Rangoon Division)

Remark: the above members were released on 30-10-90.

10. Dr Aung Khin Sint.........Elected Hluttaw Representative, Min Ga La Taung, Nyuni Township in Rangoon.
11. U Hla Thin........Hluttaw Representative Koek, Koek Island, Township in Rangoon Division.
12. U Kyaw Than........Township Organizer (Kyaing Tong township in Rangoon)
13. Myint Soe...Central Executive Committee (Youth)
14. U Than Hlaik........Central Committee (Youth)
15. U Ko Ko Gyi........Central Committee (Youth)
16. U Moe Zaw Oo...Central Committee (Youth)
17. U Van Aung.........Youth (Rangoon Division)
18. U Van Hlaung....Central Committee (Youth), Elected Hluttaw Representative, Tat Kone Township in Rangoon.
19. U Myint........Rangoon Division Organizer

Remark: the above members were released on 30-10-90.

21. U Maung Ko........Central Committee (Worker)
22. U Maung Victor Kalatt......Elected Hluttaw Representative, Santeung Township.
23. U Kyi Min........Elected Hluttaw Representative, Mingalardon Township in Rangoon.

Remarks: the above members were released on 30-10-90.

24. U Myo Aung..........Elected Hluttaw Representative, Central Committee
25. U Soe Nyunt.........Rangoon Division Organizer

Remark: the above members were released on 30-10-90.

26. U Tin Win........Member of the Central Administrative Committee
27. U Sein Win........Elected Hluttaw Representative, Dala Township in Rangoon.
28. U Win Naing........Rangoon Division Organizer
29. U Thein Tin........Rangoon Division Organizer, South Okkalapa Township.
30. U Maung Maung........Central Committee
31. U Soe Myint.........Rangoon Division Organizer
32. U Tin Ko ko........Rangoon Division Organizer
33. U Hla Maung........Elected Hluttaw Representative, Hlaing Township.
34. U Ohn Myint........Elected Hluttaw Representative, Thakata Township in Rangoon.
35. U Ba Ni........Youth Organizer, Taungoo Township in Pegu Division.
36. U Thein Tun........Youth Organizer, Taungoo Township in Pegu Division.
37. U Thein Win........Youth Organizer, Taungoo Township in Pegu Division.

Administrative Department National League For Democracy Party

(unofficial translation)
REPORT FROM INSIDE

Name: Myat Ko Ko
Education: Final year (Mathematic Major, Rangoon University) Age: 23
Address: 16/1 ward, Thin Gan Gyone Township, Rangoon Division.

In June 1988, Myat Ko Ko was one of the student leaders who agitated the students in Rangoon University to fight against the brutal military regime. When the military intelligence searched for him in his house, he was not there. In August, 1989, he again agitated the people. On 19, September, 1988, when the regime took over state power, he left for the Thai-Burma border line.

He then snuck back inside Burma and organized the people by exposing the regime's brutal oppression, and their killing of thousands of unarmed demonstrators.

On 14 July, 1989, he was arrested by the military intelligence in Mage, Tanaynary Division. A military tribunal sentenced him to 8 years imprisonment. We believe that he also is being tortured by inhuman ways like other political prisoners of the regime in the prison.

Name: Myint San
Age: 30
Father Name: U Htay Maung
Occupation: author in Mya Wa Di Magazine

After the regime took over state power, Myint San left for the students' camp in India, near the India-Burma border line. When the military announced the amnesty to students, he came back to his house in Rangoon in February, 1990. In June of 1990, the military intelligence arrested him in his house and he was interrogated by the military intelligence (M17) who badly tortured him in Insein Prison in Rangoon. He was then released after 21 days of interrogation by the military intelligence. He is one of the supporters of the All Burma Students' Federation Union (ABSFU) and also the best friend of Student Leader Min Ko Naing and Thu Van of ABSFU.

He was arrested again and interrogated by M17 agents who forced him to write about the students in the camp. The military intelligence said that if he refused to write, he would be imprisoned longer. They asked that if they released him, would he stand against the regime or not? He answered that if the regime still abused human rights and freedom of the people, he would still struggle against the regime. The regime then tortured him badly and he was sentenced to 5 years imprisonment by a military tribunal.

Atrocities of Rangoon Troops

In September 1989, at 9:00, soldiers from Regiment No.31 came into Ai Tone village, Kyone Doe Township of Karen state and looted the belongings of the villagers, U Saw Shwe and U Aung Mying.

The troops tortured the villagers and took three women who were raped by the soldiers.
OPPRESSION OF MONKS

MONKS WHO WERE WOUNDED ON 8-8-90 IN MANDALAY

20th, September of 1990.

Monks and students took to the streets in anti-regime demonstrations in Mandalay on 8, September of 1990. This was the second year anniversary of the nationwide demonstrations which took place on 8, September 1988.

Security forces opened fire on the demonstrators. According to the students and The Nation newspaper the security forces beat and bayoneted the demonstrators who were mostly monks and students as well as some working people. Two students and two monks were killed by the security forces, The Nation said. According to a students' report, 10 monks were wounded. 14 monks were beaten and 5 monks were arrested. Actually, the number could be much higher than the following list suggests.

Those Wounded:

1. Shin Ah Sein Na
   Age-17 years
   Mingy Building, Moe Gaung Monastery
   Wounded on left shoulder with punctured lung and shattered shoulder.

2. U San Di Mar
   Phayagyi Monastery
   Wounded on right knee

3. Shin Nyein
   Phayagyi Monastery
   Wounded on right shoulder.

4. U Tey Za Ni Ya
   Age-26 years
   Pyin Gwin Building, Taung Ta Man Monastery
   Gunshot wound on head and on shin.
   Three stitches required.

5. Shin Kay Tha We
   Age-18
   Father's Name: U Lun Kyi
   Mother's Name: Daw Hla May
   Kyan Gin Building, Taung Ta Man Monastery,
   Superficial gunshot wound below knee requiring three stitches

6. U Thuria
   Kyaung thi building, Pagan Monastery
   Superficial gunshot wound on shin.

7. No Name Given
   Nyaung Kan Monastery

8. Shin Thuria
   Pagan Monastery
   Gunshot wound on arm.

9. No Name Given
   Phayagyi Monastery
   Arms Bowl broken by bullet

10. Shin Thondara
    South Htilin Monastery
    Gunshot wound on arm, arrested but later released.

Those Beaten:

1. Shin Wizaya
   Nandi Thaynar Rams monastery
   Beaten on shins and calves

2. U Kawithara
   Phayagyi Monastery
   Beaten on arms and head.

3. U Pyin Nya Wia
   Phayagyi Monastery
   Hit on right cheek by gas cannister, beaten and arrested.

4. Shin Suusa
   Phayagyi Monastery
   Serious injuries on arms and head. He has still not recovered from head wound.

5. Shin Theik Kha
   Phayagyi Monastery
   Beaten on the ground after being hit by tear gas cannister. He was seriously injured.

6. U Zanka
   Tayoke Tan building, Gway Cho Monastery
   Beaten.
WHAT INVESTMENTS DO TO BURMA

Following the military coup in September of 1988, it has been reported that the military regime had only US$8 to US$10 trillion in reserve. With this small amount of money, they could not pay their soldiers, or keep the infrastructure of the country running.

In December of that same year, the Supreme Commander of the Thai military, General Chawalit, visited Burma and his old friend General Saw Maung, who was then in charge of the ruling council called the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). The result of that meeting was the opening up of Burma to Thai and other foreign investments in logging, fishing, and oil exploration.

Much needed cash started flowing into the hands of the military, making it possible for them to raise the salaries of their soldiers (and thus increasing their loyalty), and also making it possible for them to upgrade their military in order to more effectively oppress the people.

Since then, millions of dollars have flowed into Burma, benefiting the few wealthy and powerful, and leaving the masses struggling under a reported 27.2% inflation rate. Actually the inflation rate is much higher since the majority of the people have received no increase in income while prices of necessities have skyrocketed at an uncontrolled rate.

The suppression and murder of monks in Mandalay and elsewhere throughout the country is possible only because the military regime now has money, made through foreign investments, to keep its military machine alive. While they have this income, they will never sit down to negotiate a peaceful settlement.

These investments must be stopped to save the lives of the people of Burma!
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GNP per Capita
Comparison of 1988 and 1990

BURMA 1988 - 1990

GNP per Capita

- 1988 US$200
- 1990 US$276