



Karen Human Rights Group

Documenting the voices of villagers in rural Burma

Complaint Letter

July 24, 2012 / KHRG #2012-B69

Complaint letter to Burma government about value of agricultural land destroyed by Tavoy highway

The complaint letter below, signed by 25 local community members, was written in July 2011 and raises villagers' concerns related to the construction of the Kanchanaburi – Tavoy [Dawei] highway linking Thailand and the Tavoy deep sea port. Villagers described concerns that the highway would bisect agricultural land and destroy crops under cultivation worth 3,280,500 kyat (US \$3,657). In response to these concerns, local community members formed a group called the 'Village and Public Sustainable Development' to represent villagers' concerns and request compensation.

Complaint Letter | Myitta, Mergui-Tavoy District (July 2011)¹

[From] Village and Public Sustainable Development Committee

To: Prime Minister

Tavoy Town, Tanintharyi Region

Date: 3.7.2011

Subject: Specific value of crops under cultivation

In Tanintharyi Region, the highway from Thailand to Tavoy deep sea port will go the whole way through the villages in K'Maw Thwe village tract in Myitta sub-Township. It will also go across the agricultural land of the civilians who live in the village.

That will cause a lot of grievances for the civilians who live in the village, and who rely on the plantations that are planted in the agricultural land. Therefore, the Village and Public Sustainable Development Committee members in K'Maw Thwe confirm with their signatures the loss of these plantations on the next page.

¹ This complaint letter was submitted to KHRG in July 2012 and is presented here, translated into English exactly as originally written, save for minor edits for clarity and security. It was received along with three interviews, one situation update and 424 photographs.

We are reporting the name list of the Committee members along with the specific value of the crops and sapling plants that are already planted there.

Sd.

Saw Hk---, Secretary

Village and Public Sustainable Development Committee

K'Maw Thwe Village tract

Myitta sub-Township, Tavoy District

Tanintharyi Region

Copy to:

- Minister, Ministry for the Progress of Border Areas, Tavoy Town, Tanintharyi Region
- General Governor, Myitta sub-Township
- Township police officer, Myitta sub-Township
- Resettlement and Mediator (Ital-Thai Development Co. Ltd)
- Village's committee members
- Office for receiving and accepting complaints

Village and Public Sustainable Development Committee
Myitta sub-Township, K'Maw Thwe village tract

Committee members

No	Name	Candidates' Role	Location	Signature
1	Saw Ay---	<i>[Position censored for security]</i>	Nyaw Ton	<i>Sd</i>
2	Naw Ng---	<i>[Position censored for security]</i>	Myin Kan Baw	<i>Sd</i>
3	Saw Ky---	<i>[Position censored for security]</i>	Pyin Tha Taw	<i>Sd</i>
4	Saw H---	<i>[Position censored for security]</i>	Nan P' Yok	<i>Sd</i>
5	Saw K---	<i>[Position censored for security]</i>	Th' Pyu Chaw	<i>Sd</i>
6	Saw D---	<i>[Position censored for security]</i>	Seik Pyon	<i>Sd</i>
7	Saw Gh---	<i>[Position censored for security]</i>	K'Let Kyi	<i>Sd</i>
8	Saw I---	<i>[Position censored for security]</i>	Th'Pyu Chaw	<i>Sd</i>
9	Saw N---	<i>[Position censored for security]</i>	Myin Kan Baw	<i>Sd</i>
10	Saw M---	<i>[Position censored for security]</i>	Kyin Tha Aye	<i>Sd</i>
11	Saw G---	<i>[Position censored for security]</i>	Th'Pyu Chaw	<i>Sd</i>
12	Saw Z---	<i>[Position censored for security]</i>	Kaw Se Chaw	<i>Sd</i>
13	Saw Bo---	<i>[Position censored for security]</i>	Nyaw Ton	<i>Sd</i>
14	Saw Sa---	<i>[Position censored for security]</i>	K'Meik	<i>Sd</i>
15	Saw R---	Committee member	Seik Pyon	<i>Sd</i>
16	U Saw L---	Committee member	K'Meik	<i>Sd</i>
17	U Saw H---	Committee member	Nan P' Yok	<i>Sd</i>
18	U Saw E---	Committee member	Pyin Tha Taw	<i>Sd</i>
19	U Saw B---	Committee member	K'Taw Ni	<i>Sd</i>
20	U Saw O---	Committee member	K'Taw Ni	<i>Sd</i>
21	U Saw Hp---	Committee member	K'Lat Kyi	<i>Sd</i>
22	U Saw T---	Committee member	Myit Ta	<i>Sd</i>
23	U Saw A---	Committee member	Myit Ta	<i>Sd</i>
24	U Saw Ht---	Committee member	Kaw Se Chaw	<i>Sd</i>
25	U Saw Y---	Committee member	Kyin Tha Aye	<i>Sd</i>

Village and Public Sustainable Development Committee
Myitta sub-Township, K'Maw Thwe village tract

Specific value of the crops

No	Plantations' name	Value of mature crops	Value of sapling or immature crops
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1	Areca palm	100,000 kyat	50,000 kyat
2	Cashew Plant	100,000 kyat	50,000 kyat
3	Coconut Plant	100,000 kyat	50,000 kyat
4	Djenkol Plant	50,000 kyat	30,000 kyat
5	Mango tree	20,000 kyat	10,000 kyat
6	Srewai Tree	30,000 kyat	15,000 kyat
7	Durian Plant	150,000 kyat	75,000 kyat
8	Lemon Tree	30,000 kyat	15,000 kyat
9	Lime Tree	40,000 kyat	20,000 kyat
10	Pomelo	50,000 kyat	25,000 kyat
11	Rubber Tree	300,000 kyat	100,000 kyat
12	Mangosteen	30,000 kyat	15,000 kyat
13	Marian	50,000 kyat	25,000 kyat
14	Jackfruit Plant	50,000 kyat	25,000 kyat
15	<i>Son P'Da</i> Plant	50,000 kyat	25,000 kyat
16	Guava Tree	20,000 kyat	10,000 kyat
17	Banana Plant	10,000 kyat	
18	Pineapple Plant	500 kyat	
19	Black Pepper	20,000 kyat	
20	Betel leaf plant	20,000 kyat	
21	Rakam	20,000 kyat	
22	Empty land (one acre)	500,000 kyat	
23	Cardamom Plant (one acre)	1,000,000 kyat	
Totals		2,740,500 kyat (US \$3,054.63) ²	540,000 kyat (US \$602)

Further background on the current situation in Mergui-Tavoy can be found in the following KHRG reports:

- “Mergui-Tavoy Interview: Saw K---, April 2012,” (July 2012)
- “Tenasserim Situation Update: Te Naw Th’Ri Township, May to September 2011,” (December 2011)
- “Tenasserim Interview: Saw T---, December 2010,” (October 2011)
- “Tenasserim Interview: Saw P---, Received in May 2011,” (October 2011)
- “Tenasserim Interview: Saw K---, August 2011,” (September 2011)
- “Tenasserim Interview: Saw C---, Received in May 2011,” (September 2011)

² As of July 20th 2012, all conversion estimates for the Kyat in this report are based on the official market rate of 897 kyat to the US \$1. This reflects new measures taken by Burma's central bank on April 2nd 2012 to initiate a managed float of the Kyat, thus replacing the previous fixed rate of 6.5 Kyat to US \$1.

