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Some Acronyms in This Issue

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| DKBA- | Democratic Karen Buddhist Army |
| IDPs- | Internally Displaced Persons |
| KPF- | Karen Peace of Front |
| TPP- | Three Pagodas Pass |
| MRC- | Mon Refugees Committee |
| NMSP- | New Mon State Party |
| SPDC- | State Peace and Development Council |
| VPDC- | Village Peace and Development Council |
| WHO- | World Health Organization |

News

Owners were Forced to Cut Rubber Plants; Fund Extortion and Movement Restriction Continued in Mon State

A Burmese Army artillery battalion under the command of the Southeast Command forced local plantation owners to cut rubber plants along the army base. Rubber plantations near Ah-bit, Yaung-daung, Hnee-padaw, Kwan-hlar, Set-thawe village southern Mudon Township and some villages in Thanpyuzayart Township were ordered to be cut down by artillery regiment No-318 based in Ah-bit village Mudon Township Mon State.

Over 6,000 rubber plants ready to produce sap and about 15,000 medium plants near the artillery battalion were identified to be cut down, according to Nai Cho, 50, an owner from Abit village, Mudon Township, Mon State.

The owner said “the plantations owners don’t want to cut it because their plantation could produce sap in the coming season. That’s why the plantations owners have been bribing the Burmese artillery battalion to avoid cleaning up their plantations.” Most owners paid 700 Kyat per plant to the artillery.

Artillery regiment No- 318 confiscated approximately 200 acres to build their battalion base in the southern part of Mudon Township since 2002 without paying compensation.

“Col. Aye Hlaing warned us that we can’t sell our plantation to others. They would seize our plants when they wanted to” the owner said.



A confiscated rubber plantation in Kyaik-pun, near Wae-kali village in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State

UN Envoy Moves Wrong Path

There is a contradiction that when UN special envoy, Mr. Gambari, declared his supports for the preparation of military dominated general elections in 2010. Surprisingly, why he did not seriously think that these elections will not bring to National Reconciliation in Burma and that could create more problems in the country.

His mission failed after he could not meet the pro-democracy oppositions and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Like previous UN envoys, he was trapped into the conspiracy of SPDC's undemocratic 7-points road map.

Both SPDC's Constitution and 7-points road map are moving forward for democratic reforms and fulfill the desires of the people in Burma including Buddhist monks, students and general publics.

If the UN envoy supports this militarized Constitution and coming elections in 2010, it is likely UN envoys support suppressing and violating the basic rights of the people in Burma. We have a serious concern that likely UN has moved wrong path as guided by SPDC, forward undemocratic and new militarized Burma that must have injustice and human rights violations.

Currently the army authorities have allowed owners to walk across the army camp only from 6 am to 5 pm to go and work in their plantation beside the army camp.

The army forced them to make permit cards for allowing them to cross the army gate, a Youngdoun villager said, "They won't allow the travelers and local villagers if they cannot show the card".

The plantation owners had paid for their photographs to the artillery to get the permit cards.

Nai Soe, 30, A Yaung-daung villager said the plantation owners are disappointed with the artillery because the plantation workers have start work from midnight to scrape the plant. Due to limited time, they face problems going to their plantation.

Residents forced to patrol their villages

The Burmese military battalion in Ye township southern Mon State is forcing villagers to work and do sentry duty near Koemai village on a daily basis.

According to a Koemai villager in Ye Township, five villagers were forced to work at the Light Infantry Battalion LIB No- 299 based in their village during daytime and guard the village at night.

LIB No-299 has been confiscating land since 1999 in southern Ye Township paying small amounts of compensation for crops but not for the land. And the army has issued an order for land confiscation again since February.

"I have to go at least twice a month to work. We have to arrive at the battalion at 6 in the evening and we are let off next evening," Nai Mxxxx Mxxxx, 35, a resident of Koe Mai village said.

If they don't want to go for duty, they have to hire other people to go to the battalion by paying about 5,000 Kyat at a time.

The Koemai villager, Ma Txxxx Kxx, 40, said "villagers would like to find other jobs when there is not enough work to be done at the plantations. They have to leave their work to go for the battalion duty." The villagers have to work inside the battalion where they clear the bushes near the army building and rebuild the Ye-Tavoy highway road by force.

Villagers are also forced to work in the quarters of the army officers who do not provide any food to them. Villagers have to bring their own food.

If those on security duty do not have information that strangers are around the village during patrolling, army officers punish them by torturing and beating them up.

The LIB No-299 has out up a signboard saying 'Army Land' in the areas of local land owners - Nai Win, Nai Maung, and Nai Thawar this year. The three owners are afraid their land will confiscated though the army has said they will not.

In 2007, the LIB No-299 put motorcycle owners in jail when a Captain died in an accident after colliding with a villager's motorbike while going to investigate an explosion about two miles from Koemai village.

Personal Accounts

Meeting with group of young victims of torture

During the end of July, 2008, a HURFOM reporter, met with a group of young victims who escaped from Khaw-Zar Subtown in a refugee camp at Thai-Burma border.

While the Khaw-Zar based SPDC's Infantry battalion No.31 led by Army Chief Col. Win Then and his troops launched their military operation against the small number of Mon rebel armed force near Khaw Zar area, they discovered a group of Mon kids and arrested them with the suspicion of connecting with rebel group. While the Burmese troops discovered and captured them, these boys were on their way to hunt the birds near the stream in the forest, which situated in the eastern part of Khaw Zar sub town. Four under age kids were too hesitant to respond the questions of the Army Chief.

“All questions that he asked me are dealing with the rebel group. I felt very uncomfortable in his questions and couldn't respond well. He (Col. Win Thien) though I hide the information but I have nothing to give him what he wanted to know from me,” said a 11 year old victim, Mon Chai.

While conversation with Mon Chai, he tried to show the evident of ill-treatment that the Army Chief committed to him. “I'll show you how the army commander tortured me.” Then, he fingered his remained scar on his left chin, between the lower jaw and above the throat and started to explain about his painful experiences during the army interrogation.

“As soon as they arrested us, they asked four of us whether we saw rebel member in this forest or not. As my Burmese is better than other three of my brothers, he (Col. Win Thien) targeted me with his questions. At first, he said we were sons of rebel soldier. But I quickly denied and explained that our family currently lived in Khaw-Zar town. But he did not like my answer and continued asking



Photo of young torture victims from Khaw Zar village

me about the activities of rebel. Honestly we all answered “No”. Then, he (Col. Win Thien) said “how dare you lie me” and pulled a knife out of his belt, intended to screw into my left chin, above my throat. I scared, felt seriously pain and all of us started to cry out. Then, he bullied the same thing to my brother, Mehm Htaw Chan, 13, as well. We got shocked each other when we saw bloody chin.”

According to another young victim, Mehm Pai Mon, 10, a cousin of Mehm Htaw Chan, the Commander tried to approach him by persuading with 5,000 kyat of cash if he gave information of the rebel. At that time, he was too fear to answer and then decided to avoid the up coming questions by answering in the positive way.

“I lied “Yes,” I saw a group of ten people in this forest. And then, the soldier pulled me and put me in the ground hole which especially designs for torturing the suspicion people like us. At that time, I shouldn’t lie and I was very regard after I was tortured painfully with knife like my brother experienced during their inquiry about the Mon rebel.”

Mehm Pai Mon explained that the soldier took him out of the whole and asked him again about the rebel information and beat him repeatedly. He denied every time and finally, the Col. Win Thein threaded to kill them all if continue to refuse the answers.

“I will kill all of you now if you guys are continuing to lie us,” Mehm Pai Mon repeated the order of army chief Col. Thein Win.

Finally, the soldiers took young boys along with them and asked the boys to show the possible places of the rebel base in the forest without feeding food and water. The soldier took them the whole day. When getting dark, Nai Plai Monk and Mi Win the parents of four children was worry about their children and went out side of the village, tried to find their children. When they found their kids were captured by Burmese soldiers they were suddenly shocked.

“As soon as the commander saw my wife and I, they called us and kicked with their army walking boot three, four times. Then they asked me the relation between my kids and me. When they know I was a father of the boys they released all of us at midnight. Two of my kids’ jaws were bleeding because of seriously torture by knife,” said Nai Plai Mouk, 45, a father of four victims who temporarily survive in Baan Tom Yam refugege campe, about 400 meters far from former Halockha Mon refugee resettlement camp, on Thai-Burma border.

In the next morning, the IB No. 31 army commander Win Thein called Nai Plai Mouk and ordered him to not spread the information of torturing their family as well as traveling out side of the town.

“If they discovered me outside village again, they will shoot me to dead”, added by Nai Plai Monk.



Mon Chai, 13 year old victim showed the evident of torutre by Burmese Army officer from IB No. 31

Nai Plai Mouk and his spouse though that their life is too hard to survive as an ordinary family under the control of the evil army, Infantry Battalion No. 31 and finally they decided to flee to the Thai-Burma border, the place where their old friends and neighbors already built their new-life in their own ways.

“Situations at here are better than our native place. We don’t need to worry any fear. We all have been screamed in terror. That is enough. Now, we are going to build our life from the beginning like others who live in this camp. I am happy to see my kids are giving a change to study here,” a father of four young victims continues.

Report

Drugs problem in Burma and Drug Trafficking in Mon Areas

I. Burma: Well-known for Drug Production

Burma (Myanmar) continues to be second largest producer of opium after Afghanistan in this globe. Yet the military junta claims that it will free the country of opium cultivation by 2014. The fact - a corrupt military is known to turn a blind eye for it lines pockets and it is a main concern for the international community that whether they can end the drug problem in Burma, while the ethnic communities in various ethnic States express concern that the drug problems have increased.

Burma military junta – State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) - has quietly buried the ‘International Day against Drugs’ with the claim that the country would be drug free by 2014. A tall claim when the ground situation is exactly the reverse. The regime has claimed that its drug free campaign has cut down opium cultivation in the country where it has decreased from 140,000 hectares to 27,700 hectares in a decade.

This is for the record. The fact remains that gradually more areas are being brought under poppy cultivation with farmers into traditional farming opting for opium crops for the profits are much higher. And they have covert blessings of the regime which turns a blind eye for pockets of military officials are lined.

The regime which claims to be fighting drug production had its officials pull down posters on the anti drug day put up for the first time in key places in Myitkyina township, the capital of Kachin state in northern Burma, by Myitkyina University students. Why this lack of support to the awareness campaign in a state which is plagued by drug abuse? The answer is not difficult. The junta’s official machinery has a strong nexus with opium cultivators, drug manufacturers and traffickers.

Burma is the second largest opium producing nation after Afghanistan, according to the United Nation. Burma’s Minister for Home Affairs and Chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, Maj-Gen Maung Oo said the drug eradication programme had effectively brought down cultivation of opium in the country. But observers of the drug scene in Burma opine that there is very little progress.

In some areas where the country’s drug eradication programme is being implemented people have stopped cultivating poppy and have merely shifted to other places away from the public eye. In fact there have been instances where the military had advised growers not to cultivate poppy along the highways and roadsides and do so in the interiors. The regime has failed to provide alternative methods of livelihood to those did want to give up opium cultivation. So it is back to square one, the tall claims of the junta notwithstanding.



File photo shows a Burmese (Myanmar) security officer stands guard next to a pile of drugs...(Photo : AFP)

II. Amphetamine uses increase in Mon State

The origins of the recent influx of amphetamines into Mon State and the Thailand-Burma border via Mon State are unknown and widely debated. The Mon people claim the pills are produced by Karen ceasefire groups, while the Karen point fingers at the Mons who are main smugglers. But, a third contender is SPDC officials, who most people agree have a hidden hand in the illegal trade in some way. The question of amphetamine production is therefore a complex one, not confined to the illegal trade category.



Photo of Amphetamine pills which seized from Three Pagoda Town, Thai-

Many Mon people have concerned about the amphetamine problem in their communities. A lot of mothers expressed their concerns that

increased amphetamine production as a potential disaster for the future of Mon youths. However, use of amphetamine is becoming ingrained in the community, with many working men also using the drug regularly.

along. Trading of illegal pills is widespread in the area, especially during festivals where many people are around and eager to party, gamble and take risks.

One pill sells for 3,000 kyat in a village, and around 4,000 kyat in a school. Many Mon youth are now consuming amphetamine at an alarming rate. This trend is exacerbated by the absence of parents, many of whom work in neighboring Thailand leaving their children with elderly grandparents. According to a source from Mon State, grandparents have a harder time keeping track of their grandchildren, who frequently purchase amphetamines.

III. Amphetamines Threats to Community and Flow to Thailand

Recalling the Burma of a decade ago, Burma society today is markedly different. Drugs are threatening the society, from the older addicts who take pills to enhance their ability to work long hours down to the youths in the villages that take pills out of boredom and curiosity but soon find themselves addicted. The situation came similarly to Thailand, where many youths in the community openly using drugs even the suppression by the Thai government and military authorities have intensified.

The problems with a decaying society do not stop with drugs, although drugs are linked with villager unable to walk at night for fear of being attacked. In many villages there has been a gradual but definite increase in the number of motorcycles stolen, with many villagers certain the robberies were linked with drug use.

The uses of drugs have been widespread. Not only the youths, but also hard labourers in transportation service have used them and pose dangers for passengers. There have been several boat accidents in recent years along the Zami River from Three Pagodas Pass to Kya Inn Seiky Township, some which resulted in the death of passengers.

A boat driver said, "If I take amphetamines, I can drive for two days without breaks for food or rest. Sometimes I visit Three Pagodas Pass to buy amphetamines. I was caught by the police once, with amphetamine pills in my pocket. Fortunately, the policeman knew me and just warned me not to use drugs too much because I might get into trouble. "

On July 25 this year a member of the Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Three Pagodas Pass, Daw Khin Myo Yi and Three associates were arrested at the Thai Army checkpoint, approximately 3 miles from Three Pagodas Pass in Thailand. She was allegedly carrying approximately 10,000 pills at the time of her arrest, according to a source from Three Pagodas Pass. In accordance with Thai law, sentencing increases in length when the offender is in possession of a high number of pills.

Daw Khin Myo Yi was also an information informer for the Burmese Army in Three Pagodas Pass. She tried to investigate amphetamines for the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) and it was here she became connected with drug smuggling. Following her arrest by the Thai Army, the Burmese Army stated she had become greedy and aimed to become rich quickly.

The Thai Army recognizes Three Pagodas Pass as a drug Zone, with local sources estimating approximately 100,000 pills cross the Three Pagodas border into Thailand every day. As a result, the Thai Army has employed many locals as spies along the Thai-Burma border, and every month both Thai and Burmese people are arrested on suspicion of drug smuggling across the border.

Many believe that the Thai Army policies and ensuing efforts at drug eradication have not been successful, as they have not been able to enlist the assistance of the Burmese Army. "The Burmese Army often fails to arrest drug smugglers if they know them," said a source from the New Mon State Party (NMSP).

He went on, "There are two main reasons for this. Firstly, if they arrest drug smugglers the result hits them in the rice pot, as they indirectly benefit from drug smuggling, and may find they can no longer afford food. The second reason is that there is no Burmese prison at Three Pagodas Pass so they are faced with the problem, and cost, of prisoner transportation of suspected smugglers to Moulmein prison."

IV. Drug Suppression in the Border Areas

Although the New Mon State Party (NMSP) agreed ceasefire with Burmese Army, it has cooperated with Thai army and drug eradication authorities in suppression against drug traders. On May 16 Friday 2008, over 3,000 amphetamines were seized and a smuggler arrested by NMSP near Three Pagodas Pass (TPP) town on the Thai-Burma border.

Saw Moe Win, 38 years old, is from the Karen ethnic minority was arrested with evidence of smuggling amphetamines. According to the NMSP, the amphetamines were linked with the activities of the armed ceasefire group Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA).

The smuggler had hidden 18 packets of amphetamine underneath the jacket he was wearing. Each packet contained 200 pills. He was arrested while driving his motorbike across the NMSP checkpoint near the Thai-Burma border. The pills were MDMA, type WY+R, and according to the smuggler they originated in Pegu division.

This arrest was not an isolated incident in the area; in February the NMSP arrested a smuggler for attempting to traffic over 8,000 pills. The NMSP, in a bid to stop narcotics smuggling in their area of control set up the anti-drug department in 2002. Thai border military authorities have encouraged the NMSP to take action against narcotics smuggling in keeping with the Thai government's policy of 'War on Drugs'.

After the NMSP started taking action against narcotics smuggling, the TPP border, especially in the NMSP controlled areas there has been less drug smuggling and fewer arrests in the Thai military border check point. In the past, at least 10 smugglers were arrested yearly at the Thai military border check point and it was easier to access drugs on the TPP border.

The TPP border Township is under the administrative control of the Burmese military government. Ethnic cease-fire groups including the NMSP, Karen Peace of Front (KPF), Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA) are also based in TPP and have some control over the area. The majority of residents in TPP are

ethnic people including Mon, Karen and Lao. Most of the families depend on logging and furniture trade for their survival.

At Thai Baht 150 per pill on the border of Thailand's amphetamine prices are nearly double those in the neighboring Burma town of Three Pagodas Pass where a single pill is usually Thai Baht 90. Once inside they can then travel further into Thailand to places like Mahachai, one of the biggest Burmese migrant workers' towns in Samut Sakhon province near Bangkok, and where a single pill sells for at least Thai Baht 200.

“They (Burmese authorities of TPP) never used to administer any consequences for drug dealers when they arrested them with a small amount of pills, and they readily accepted bribes from dealers with larger quantities. Now they have no control over a problem that is increasing every day,” a resident close with TPP authorities said.

V. Beyond the Border: Drug Addiction in Mon Migrant Communities

There has been serious drug use problems among the Mon migrant workers in Malaysia, because many migrant workers wanted to commit in the hard works and to forget their loneliness and about far away from their families.

Even in the Annual General Meeting hosted by the Mon migrant community in Klang, near Kuala Lumpur, Mon migrant workers leaders were expressing to oppose drug uses and to elect those who did not use in their leading labour leaders. A meeting organizer said, “I propose that leading members lead the working committee by taking an oath to stay drug free and prove their worth as good role models.”



A Drug smuggler (middle) arrested by members of New Mon State Party on Thai-Burma border

The Mon migrant workers communities in Malaysia are organized each other under the name of Mon Refugees Committee (MRC), as they believed that most of them fled from their homes not only because of economic purposes, but also because political persecution and human rights violations committed by SPDC authorities and troops of Burmese Army.

The general meeting was organized with objectives to help each other and aimed to gather together in order to support promoting development initiatives in their home villages in Mon areas southern part of Burma. MRC and Mon migrant workers has really helped the Mon communities in Mon areas to hold Mon National Day, build Mon national schools, set up clinics in local villages.

However, a serious negative impact to the migrant communities is a flow of drugs from Burma brought by smugglers by boats and other transports. Community workers say that the high rate of drug-abuse in compounded by the easy availability of a range of drugs circulation among the migrant community. However, the major drug traffickers and dealers are difficult to identify and health workers worry that those responsible may escape accountability leaving the innocent to face the consequences.

A story of Wan, from Kao Wao News

“I don’t want to think about home, I need to make my life happy here,” said Mehm Wan. Wan, 30, who left his village five years ago, flew in from Rangoon with a valid Burmese passport, but lost his legal status when he over-stayed. While some are successful at finding legal status, many thousands of undocumented workers reside in the poor suburbs, many having to live out in the open.

“My work is not stable and I am finding it impossible to send money home to feed my family.” Wan currently works in a car repair shop, but now faces a debilitating drug addiction. Wan tells how he became addicted to drugs to escape loneliness and forget about his loved ones at home.

“My co-worker gave me a pill one day and said this will make you happy, I had no idea that I would become addicted to them,” he said. “Now I earn about 30 Riggitt a day, but spend 20 for a drug called ‘Pea’ (Bean in Burmese language). I have to take 3 suits (9 tablets) to get high,” he explained.

An average drug addict spends about 6 US dollars a day on their habit, said social workers, noting that it had a serious impact on the families of addicts, draining them of financial resources.

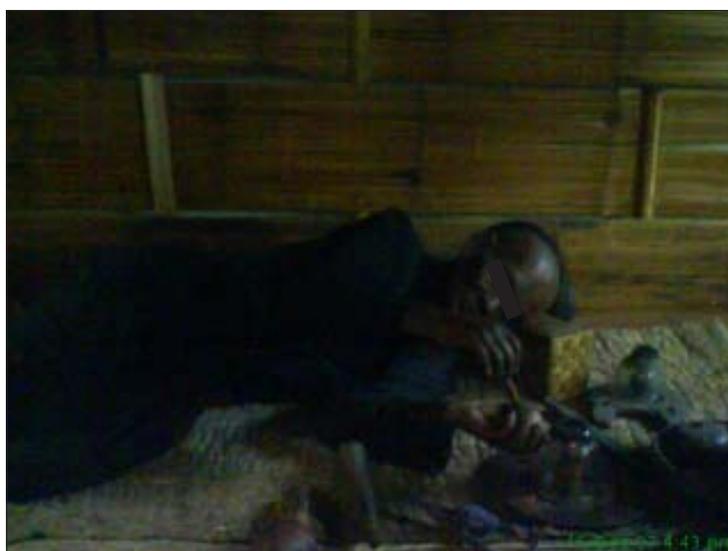
Most Burmese face new social circumstances living away from their traditionally conservative village and are ill-prepared for the life of a migrant worker. Social workers say that the Burmese in Malaysia are in need of psycho-social programs that inform them about the risks associated with unprotected sex, as well as drug and alcohol abuse.

With ever greater number of young people leaving Burma to escape human rights violations and poor economic prospects, the governments of host countries that use their cheap labour to support their burgeoning economies need to implement education programs for young migrants who face many challenges living away from their families.

Growing Drug and HIV Problem

Another growing concern is the spread of HIV. A World Health Organization (WHO) reported in 2006 stated, “Illicit drug use and a lack of sex education among the immigrant population in Malaysia is fueling the spread of sexually transmitted diseases in the country.”

“There has been a complete lack of commitment by the governments of both Burma and Malaysia to develop community-based outreach services. As a result, drug abuse and HIV are increasing by the day,” said a Mon volunteer social worker, Nai Mon Nyan. He went on, “A major factor in its increase in living in limbo as an illegal migrant, but also the drugs are readily available on the street, especially among the community.”



A drug user at Thai-Burma refugee camp

“A couple from Yangon lives here and they don’t work like the rest of us in the factory. But they make more money than us by selling drugs, these tablets come from Penang. The pills, known as Pea, are sold for 3 Ringgit for one set (3 tablets) but some addicts use up to 6 sets a day,” said a social worker from Klang.

Opium use has a long history in Malaysia, especially among migrant Chinese labourers who brought the drug with them when they migrated, along with the British who controlled the opium trade early in the 20th

century. But with the increased popularity of drugs during the 1960's and the Vietnam War, the number of those addicted to heroin grew sharply.

Despite a long history of drug abuse with opium addiction the response to illicit drug use today has been largely punitive with current goal of the Malaysian government to achieve a drug-free society by 2015. Malaysia's war on drugs is an intensive effort of education, advertising, testing rehabilitation, harsh mandatory penalties for drug use and the death penalty for possession of relatively small amounts of heroin, cocaine or marijuana.

VI. Possible Involvement of SPDC Commanders in Drug Smuggling



An opium plantations in northern Shan State

Amphetamine comes from Shan State having good taste and it has high decree. There were different kind types of amphetamine such as YL, WZ and others. Some of Burmese businessmen today aware of the clue of business how to get rich quickly. And they worked like millionaires rich from Shan people Law Sa Hang and Khun Sa.

Firstly, they bought amphetamine from Shan State and they distributed to different areas in Burma. Today, the transportation is good in the country and the opium traders even can come to home. There some people who were aware of technique how to

make amphetamine in Mon State. So, they do not have to go Shan State. They bought those machines from Thailand according to someone. Those who produce amphetamines were powerful as the Burmese army and the ethnic army group.

Accordingly to confidential sources, there are several places in Mon and Karen State producing amphetamines. He told me he went to Karen State in In-duu area of Pa-an Township, the ethnic army Karen group DKBA produced amphetamine in their battalion. There were people crowded in the battalion included men and women. Many of them were businessmen in town and those who smuggle Burmese migrants into Thailand.

A story of retired Burmese Army officers in drug trafficking:

Many Burmese businessmen in towns in Mon State approached the Burmese Generals and trafficking amphetamines. This was a true story in Kxxxx village businessman in Mudon Township. He was a former Burmese Army soldiers and he knew some of Burmese generals and senior officers. He was in prison several years for trafficking amphetamines. Many people from the community believed that after he was released from prison, he never stopped for trafficking drugs.

Fortunately, after he was released, he was used to continue his drug trafficking by a support of a General. The local police in town did not dare to capture him as they know his contact. There was one time the town police searched his house. Before the two police checked his house, he checked the police first then he allowed the police searched his house. The police did not find any amphetamine and lastly they found two cans of gold hide on the roof. The police have to go back as they didn't see any thing. According to the source from the community, the police said they found him he wore army higher rank uniform on the way he was back bought amphetamine from Shan State. This was why they needed to find out his house. The police they found his uniform and they did not dare to say anything.

Information on HURFOM and Invitation for Feedbacks from Readers

Dear Readers,

Human Rights Foundation of Monland (HURFOM) was founded in 1995, by a group of young Mon people. The main objectives of HURFOM are:

- Monitoring the human rights situation in Mon territory and other areas in southern Burma
- Protecting and promoting internationally recognized human rights in Burma,

In order to implement these objectives, HURFOM produces the monthly "Mon Forum" newsletters. If publication is delayed it is because we are waiting to confirm information, and it comes with our heartfelt apologies.

We encourage you to write to us if you have feedback or if you know someone who you think would like to receive the newsletter. Please email or mail a name and address to:

HURFOM, P. O. Box 2237, General Post Office
Bangkok 10501, THAILAND
E-mail: [hurformcontact@yahoo.com](mailto:hurfomcontact@yahoo.com)
Website: <http://www.rehmonnya.org>

With regards,

Director
Human Rights Foundation of Monland

According to amphetamine trafficker in village, many Burmese general have linked amphetamine trafficking business. Even in the Burmese battalion, you can find amphetamines, he said. Those who trafficking amphetamine were relatives or family members of high rank military officers. When they traveled, they kept amphetamine in military cars and are not searched by polices. This was how the way amphetamine flows to different towns and cities in Burma.

According to source from the Mon ceasefire group, the Burmese army only said that drug smuggling was a business activity. They want many ceasefire group to deal in it and stop them speaking politics. On the other hand, when the military officers are transferred to the border areas, they always find out how they can get money for their families and this involves the taxes from drug smuggling in their controlled area.

Even so, they are not completely indifferent to the problem and with prominent arrests have been forced to accept it is a serious problem with major potential consequences. Most recently, in Rangoon several Burmese Generals' family members have been detained for abusing their power and trafficking drugs. The Chief of the Bureaus of Special Operations Number One, Lieutenant-General Ye Myint resigned following the arrest of his son, Aung Zaw Ye Myint, on suspicion of drug trafficking and possession. With some movie stars and music celebrities also involved in Burma's trade is heavily based with those in power and there fore places a great on the well-being of Burma.

VII. Slow Action: UN's Crop Substitute Program

The world reported that Burma produced opium was the second largest of Afghanistan. According the UN reported on this year Burma produced opium still a largest amount it. However, the junta slammed the UN reported and claimed that the country has declined the opium production. The WFP's involved in crop substitute program in Northern Burma, in Shan State, he UN believed that the substitute program might help the local people in Shan State growing bean or corns.

There were several reports from the Burmese activists reported the UN's crop substitute programs weren't successful for the Shan people. Many people were lack of food and they are poor and paved their life to be divorce or break up family. Some people said many people were get poor and for stress out and they used opium and they became drug addictions.

According to people from Shan State, Palaung ethnic, many poor people stop growing opium after WFP implement the crop substitute program. But there are number growing poor. Some people have to sell their farm because they are poor and another season was they do not have benefit from the crop substitute farm. Some rich people in the area bought the land and grow opium as cooperation with the local authority. When the local military authority crack downed the opium farm in the area. But, the authority did not target to the rich people farms. This is the drug link between the local rice people and the army.

Villagers arrested on suspicion of rebel supporters

HURFOM, August 26, 2008

Eight villagers were arrested for being suspected rebel supporters and put in wooden stocks for two days and beaten by a local Burmese Light Infantry Battalion in Yebyu Township, northern Tenasserim division on the last August 16, 2008.

"They were detained after a member from Monland Restoration Party surrendered to LIB No. 282 and informed the battalion that some individuals from this village secretly assisting the rebel group," said a villager from Alae-Sakhan village, Yebyu township, northern Tenasserim division.

According to the source, totally eight villagers were arbitrarily arrested on the last August 16, 2008, after a man from Monland Restoration Party Surrendered since two weeks ago. However, five victims were released after the army found they were innocent.

Mi Wut, spouse of Nai Rot, 45, a village headman of Kywe-Thalin village and another victim, Nai Shwe, 65, are still under detention at the army base LIB No. 282 at Alaesakhan village, Yebyu township.

"The rebel member alleged that Mi Woot had sent food to Mon rebels in the past that is why she has been detained," the source added.

Recently the local tactical commander Col Kyaw Myint is taking action and monitoring the movement of Mon rebels in the northern part of Tenasserim division. Colonel Kyaw Myint also warned the villagers if one villager who kept the Mon rebel at his/her houses or if the fighting happened in the village; they (the Burmese soldiers) will arrest the villagers and they will also burn down the whole village.



Burmese troops are walking in front of their barracks at LIB No. 282 (Photo: HURFOM)

On the other hand, the Mon rebel group led by Nai Bin released 12 villagers from Cha Bon village after taking them hostage for levy. Naval troops of the ruling junta arrested these people for interrogation.

Following the movement of the Mon rebel group, Burmese Army troops ordered villagers to clear the bushes along the main road of Ye-Tavoy. Each family in the area has to take responsibility of clearing bushes, which is nine miles long.

Following the movement of rebels, local troops ordered villagers not to go to plantations and farms to cut off contact with Mon rebels.

HURFOM

P. O. Box 2237

General Post Office

Bangkok 10501, THAILAND

E-mail: hurfomcontact@yahoo.com

<http://www.rehmonnya.org>

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