အမျိုးသမီးများအဖွဲ့ချုပ် (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ)
WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF BURMA

The Women's League of Burma Strongly Condemns the Rape of a Postpartum Woman by the Military Junta in Akllui village of Tedim township, Chin State

Date : November 19, 2021

The Women's League of Burma (WLB) strongly condemns the gang-rape of a mother of four children from Akllui village of Tedim township in Chin state by three military junta soldiers at her home. She was assaulted between 11 P.M to midnight on November 11, 2021.

Forty soldiers arrived in Akllui village on November 7, 2021. After their arrival, three junta soldiers entered the home of a mother of a one-month-old baby around 11 P.M on November 11, 2021. They interrogated and investigated her and her husband on allegations that they had ties to members of the People's Defense Force (PDF).

Despite the couple's insistent denials that they had no affiliation to the civilian armed groups, the soldiers refused to accept their testimonies. They began to threaten them, and forced them to switch off the lights in their home. One of the soldiers took the husband to the back of the house and aimed a gun at his head before slamming his head on a glass table where he sustained injuries. The remaining two soldiers went into the bedroom and told the woman to put her young baby down, and forced her to lie on the bed. Guns were aimed at her and they threatened to kill her. She was raped repeatedly while she begged for mercy.

After some time, two of the three soldiers came back. They threatened the husband and the other one raped the mother again in front of the husband and left. At midnight, the three drunk soldiers returned and forced the husband to watch while two of the soldiers raped the woman again.

The soldiers confiscated the couple's phone, power-bank, and a cash amount of 18 000 Myanmar Kyats and gold earrings. They made the husband escort them on a motorbike to a local liquor shop; and beat and tortured the husband when they found out that the shop was closed.

This case of a harrowing gang-rape against a post-partum mother in Akllui is further evidence that impunity still continues for the Burma military's systematic use of rape as a weapon of war and sexual violence against ethnic women. Since the coup on 1 February 2021, sexual violence has become more widespread.

WLB calls for urgent action to hold the military junta accountable through international accountability mechanisms for their crimes against humanity, genocide and war crimes.

Therefore, WLB urges the following:

1. United Nations Special Rapporteur on Sexual Violence in Conflict must immediately and effectively investigate and take action against crimes of sexual violence which are committed by the military junta

2. The military junta must immediately be held accountable and brought to justice by being punished through international mechanisms for crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide, including conflict-related sexual violence.

3. The military junta must be immediately referred to the International Criminal Court (ICCC) and brought to justice for their systematic perpetration of violence against women and girls.

4. The National Unity Government (NUG) must condemn the instrumentalization of violence against women as a conflict weapon, as well as all forms of ongoing human rights violations; and effectively sets out plans and mechanisms, and take actions in accordance with the "Joint Communique of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and United Nations on Prevention and Response to Conflict-related Sexual Violence".

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