

# DAWN

NEWS BULLETIN

APRIL 1990

Vol. 2 No. 8

BBC

WE -- SLORC ARE MAKING ALL OUR EFFORTS TO REMAIN IN HISTORY THAT NOBODY EXCEPT "THE TATMADAW" HAS BEEN ABLE TO CARRY OUT SUCH GREAT TASKS ----

1. PEACE AND TRANQUILITY \*\*\*
2. ENSURING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF LIVES, HOMES AND PROPERTY OF THE PEOPLE \*\*\*
3. TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATION \*\*\* AND \*\*\*
4. WE ARE NOW UNDER WAY TO HOLD THE MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION \*\*\*

EVEN AFTER THAT ELECTION, WE WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT OUR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS -- TILL A STRONG GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FORMED..... HMMMA.....





# DAWN

## NEWS BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE  
**ALL BURMA STUDENTS' DEMOCRATIC FRONT**

Vol. 2 No. 8

April

1990

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAN HAPPEN ONLY \*\*\*\*\* WHEN OUR LAND IS AT PEACE**

For more than a year now, companies from Thailand, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, Australia, United States and other countries, have begun investing in Burma. These investments are in the form of logging and fishing concessions, oil exploration contracts, export/import companies, gems and minerals as well as in tourism. This means a new and substantial income for the country after being closed off to the outside world for the past 28 years.

Burma, now listed as one of the poorest countries in the world, should welcome these investments. Yet, voices of dissent against these investments are being heard more and more often from the Burmese people themselves. Why are they opposed to investments in their country which should improve their lives and future?

The answer is simple. These investments add to the misery and oppression of the Burmese people who have already suffered for 28 years under the yoke of the Ne Win military regime. With the money earned from these investments, Ne Win and his sidekick, Gen Saw Maung, can build up the strength of their military apparatus in order to try to discourage any more democratic outbreaks in the streets of the cities. With this money they can launch aggressive military campaigns against the ethnic minorities living along the border areas and the military's goal of totally eliminating these groups by the end of 1990. The people of Burma gain nothing but more misery from these investments, and so they raise their voices against them.

These companies, both government and private, should be sensitive to the voice of the people. A dictator such as Ne Win can not stay in power for ever. Recent events in Europe prove this. Once the people win their struggle for full human rights and justice in Burma (and you can be assured they surely will win their struggle one day), they will take a close look at these companies to see which ones truly stood on the side of the people.

These companies must be warned — the people of Burma will not recognize contracts made with the present military regime, especially if those contracts have provided money for the military regime to use in suppressing the democratic movement.

To these companies, whether private or government, we say, "Be aware that your investments are short-term. We will end them when power rests in our hands, and you will lose everything".

The people of Burma have never accepted colonialism of any kind.

"Dawn". PO Box "1352. Bangkok 10500, Thailand

## ELECTION UPDATE

BBC

On the 16th Dec 1989, the Working People's Daily reported Multi-Party General Election Commission Announcement no 346 dated 15th Dec 1989. This announcement listed the political parties and organizations' and the estimated number of constituencies in which they will contest the elections.

The election committee has requested the respective parties and organizations to reply not later than 11 Dec 1989 whether they will contest in the multi-party democratic general elections to be held on 27 May 1990 throughout the country and if so, they are to inform the commission of the estimated number of constituencies in which they will contest the elections.

In reply to the Commission's request, respective parties and organizations numbering 117, which will contest the elections in at least three constituencies and above, submitted their estimated number of constituencies. And up to 13 December the 117 parties and organization submitted the estimated number of constituencies as follows:

ta) Six political parties and organization that will contest the election in 300 constituencies and above

(b) Four political parties and organizations that will contest the elections in 101 to 200 constituencies

(c) Four political parties and organizations that will contest the election in 51 to 100 constituencies

(d) 31 political parties and organizations that will contest the election in 11 to 50 constituencies

(e) 72 political parties and organizations that will contest the election in 3 to 10 constituencies

A total of 117 political parties and organizations put up nomination papers for altogether 2,412 candidates in their respective constituencies. The total number of constituencies in Burma is 481.

On the 24th Feb 1990, the Working People's Daily reported Multi-Party Democracy General Election Commission Press Release No 12/90 dated 23rd Feb 1990. It gave the following information:

( ) The situation of the nomination papers put up by Pyithu Hluttaw candidates

(1) The number of Hluttaw candidate who have submitted nomination papers....2,412 candidates

(2) The number of candidates who have withdrawn nomination papers as of 22-1-90....62 candidates

(3) The number of candidates who were turned down by the State/Division and Township Zone Sub-commissions for not being eligible to become Hluttaw candidates under the provisions of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law....14 candidates

(4) The number of Hluttaw candidates who have died 4 candidates

(5) Serving a prison term....1 candidate

( ) The number of Hluttaw candidates of Konkyan, Narphan, Pangwaing, Panyang, Mongmao and Manphant (Thanlwin) Township Constituencies where election is temporarily suspended....20 candidates

("Dawn" remark: The 14 candidates who were turned down by the State/Division and Township Zone Sub-commissions for not being eligible to become Hluttaw candidates under the provisions of Hluttaw Election Law include Daw Aung San Su Kyi, most prominent opposition leader and general secretary of NLD, and other members of the LDP central executive committee.)

The one candidate who is serving a prison term is U Tin Oo, Chairman of NLD party who was put under house arrest for destroying unity in the army, on 20th July 1989 and was sentenced to 3 years imprisonment with hard labour in December 1989 by the military tribunal in Rangoon.

Sources from Rangoon say that hundreds of popular political leaders have been put in custody e.g U Aung Lwin, CEC member of NLD, U Win Tin, CEC member of NLD etc, and if they put up their nomination papers to the election commission committee, they will be charged by the military tribunals.

(Election Update...continued)

A Multi-Party Democracy General Election Commission's announcement made in December 1989 reported that Konkyan, Narphan, Pangwaing, Pangyang, Mongmao and Manphant (Thanlwin) Township Constituencies have had their elections temporarily suspended.

(a) the total number of candidates is 2,223 of which 88 are individual candidates.

("Dawn" remark: the total number of Hluttaw candidates is 2,412 with 101 candidates dismissed for various reasons. Therefore there are 2,311 candidates remaining. This includes 88 individual candidates from political parties which put up only one or two candidates as their parties representatives. According to the election commission laws, these party's candidates can not contest under their parties name. However, they can contest in the elections as independent candidates.)

(b) the situation of the number of Hluttaw candidates who will contest from each constituency

(1) the number of constituencies in which two Hluttaw candidates will contest...26 constituencies

(2) the number of constituencies in which three Hluttaw candidates will contest...82 constituencies

(3) the number of constituencies in which four Hluttaw candidates will contest...139 constituencies

(4) the number of constituencies in which five Hluttaw candidates will contest...103 constituencies

(5) the number of constituencies in which six Hluttaw candidates will contest...72 constituencies

(6) the number of constituencies in which seven Hluttaw candidates will contest...34 constituencies

(7) the number of constituencies in which eight Hluttaw candidates will contest...17 constituencies

(8) the number of constituencies in which nine Hluttaw candidates will contest...5 constituencies

(9) the number of constituencies in which ten Hluttaw candidates will contest...4 constituencies

(10) the number of constituencies in which 12 Hluttaw candidates will contest...3 constituencies

(11) the number of constituencies in which 15 Hluttaw candidates will contest...1 constituency

Total constituencies 486

(c) the situation of Pyithu Hluttaw candidates who

will contest from the Hluttaw constituencies in various states and divisions.

(1) Kachin State.....	99 candidates
(2) Kayah State.....	34 candidates
(3) Kayin State.....	51 candidates
(4) Chin State.....	55 candidates
(5) Sagaing Division.....	242 candidates
(6) Tanintharyin Division.....	45 candidates
(7) Bago Division.....	256 candidates
(8) Magway Division.....	173 candidates
(9) Mandalay Division.....	291 candidates
(10) Mon State.....	95 candidates
(11) Rakhine State.....	154 candidates
(12) Yangon Division.....	402 candidates
(13) Shan State.....	204 candidates
(14) Ayeyarwady Division.....	204 candidates

Total candidates  
2311 candidates

("Dawn" remark: the Election Commission has not mentioned the numbers of the constituencies in various States and Divisions.)

(d) the situation of the political parties

(1) the number of political parties registered with the Commission is 235

(2) the number of the political parties whose registrations were cancelled by the Commission is 102

(3) the number of the political parties whose registrations were cancelled by the Commission as they have been found not in conformity with the political parties registration law and rules is 3

Total number of political parties left is 130 parties

("Dawn" remark: Three political parties, National Politic Front, People's Progressive Party and Ever Green Party had their registrations cancelled by the election commission on 19th Sept 1989. According to the Election Commission the registrations of these three parties were cancelled because "concrete evidence has been found that these parties are none other than an underground organization of the Burma Communist Party(BCP) insurgents organization in revolt with arms against the state. This contravenes with Section 3(b) of the Political Parties Registration Law. Hence, the Commission hereby announces with effect from today the cancellation of the registration of these 3 parties in accordance with Section 6 of the Political Parties Registration Law, by the order of Aye Maung, secretary of General Election Commission."

## VOICES FROM THE JUNGLE

I left my home on the 22nd of Oct 1988 after the brutal military regime killed thousands of demonstrators including some of my student friends, workers, doctors, teachers, lawyers and other innocent people. Thousands of demonstrators were arrested and tortured by the fascist military at that time.

I am very sad but proud of our comrades who scarified their lives in our struggle for democracy. I salute them, for they are truly brave.

On the night of 15th March 1988, I and some of my friends had dinner at a small restaurant in downtown Rangoon. At that time we had exams in our medical university. We usually read our lessons up to midnight and then we would have dinner outside. On that day, we did not see many cars and people on the roads. The night seemed very strange to me.

On the 16th of March, when we went to our university, a friend told me that Maung Phone Maw, 5th year RIT student, had been killed by the riot police and some other students from RIT were seriously injured. This had happened on the 13th of March at 10:00 pm during a small clash between some local people and RIT students. Even though I had practical exams, I went to Rangoon University campus at 10:00 am. There were hundreds of students giving speeches and holding peacock flags inside the campus. Later, many more students joined the demonstration and it grew in number to several thousand. One student, who covered his face with a handkerchief, stood up and read the demands of the RIT students. Their demands were just as they only demanded that the authorities find the person who gave orders to the riot police to shoot the students. That person should be punished. They also demanded the right to form a student union which could help protect the student's rights.

About 2:00 pm, several thousand students began a march to Rangoon University (Hlaing campus). I was also with these students, shouting slogans and waving banners and peacock flags. When we arrived at the "White Bridge" (later to become known as the "Red Bridge"), several hundred military troops with armored cars and G3 guns blocked the road with barbed wire. One student spoke with the military officer asking that the wire be removed so the march could continue. He did

not agree and asked the students to go back to their campus. After some negotiations, the students agreed to go back to their campus.

Suddenly, several hundred riot police in army trucks arrived in front and behind the student demonstrators. The riot police started to beat the students ruthlessly. We could only try to run away from the riot police. I was shocked for a few seconds and then ran to the residential area nearby. When I arrived near one of the houses, I saw a female student caught by 4 riot police at the corner of the house. I clearly heard one riot police shout "Kill! Kill! Kill!" and the four police began to beat her violently. Within a few seconds she fell unconscious to the ground. I think I must have stood in a stupor watching for a few seconds. Then I ran away and came back to my university.

I have never been able to forget that brutal scene. It cut into me like a knife, and has left a scar which will never go away. I think that the military soldiers have no ability to think on their own. They only must follow orders from their superiors, and can not decide for themselves if the order is just or not. That is one reason which I finally fled my home town.

After passing my high school examination, I applied to the university of medicine as my first priority. Actually I am not much interested in medicine, but it is a popular major, my parents pushed me to study medicine, and it is easier to get a job with a medical major.

When I was in my 3rd year of medical school, I was had to practice in some hospitals in Rangoon part-time. At that time, I learned about the many problems of the people. In every hospital there are not enough medicines, beds, medical workers, nurses and doctors. The patients have to buy medicines from the illegal market at very high prices. What really made me sad was to learn that these medicines in the illegal market actually come from the hospitals where they are to be given to the patients for free. I was also shocked to find out that some doctors asked money from the patients. If they got the money, they treated the patients carefully and seriously. However, if the patient could not pay them, they ignored the patient. I learnt that many of the hospitals are filled with corruption from the highest doctors to the lowest workers. I could only

imagine that if the situation was like this in Rangoon, it must be even worse in areas outside the capital city. How can the people live under this situation?

Everywhere and everyplace is tilled with corruption. It has become normal for the people now. The character and morals of the people have been destroyed by this government. That is one of the biggest dangers for our country.

After leaving my home, I arrived at Three Pagoda Pass camp at the end of Nov 1988. I worked as a medical worker together with another 3 medical students. We faced a lot of problems such as lack of medical supplies, equipment, and lack of food and shelter.

These are malaria-infected areas. Aung Thein, Aye Htwe and another student died after suffering from cerebral malaria. I was very sad because if we can find medicine immediately for them, we can save their lives.

After working in Three Pagoda Pass for a time, I was moved to Min Tha Mee camp because of they had no medical workers. Before I left to the Min Tha Mee camp, 2 students died from malaria. One

of them suffered from cerebral malaria while in a village where there was no medicine. His friends sent him back to the camp, but along the way he \* died. The other student died after an intravenous injection of quinine and calcium.

Min Tha Mee has many problems like Three Pagoda Pass. I have learned more about medicine and surgery than the classrooms in Rangoon University could ever teach me.

I recently gave basic medical training to 30 students from our camp and sent them to some villages nearby. The people from the villages are very poor. I learned that they labor hard the whole day, their children have no clothes, no school, no education, no hospital, no medical doctor and no clear future.

Sometimes the Burmese military sets fire to the villages and accuses the people of supporting the Karen National Union.

All of the people, both urban and rural, who live under the control of the Burmese military government, suffer in more ways than you can ever imagine.



Students suffering from malaria lie in one of the make-shift clinics established in a student camp. Despite a lack of medicines, equipment and even a building, the ABSDF students have made good progress in providing medical care, both for their own members and for nearby villagers. They are willing to bear these difficulties in order to bring peace and justice to their motherland.



## PORTERS

A.

(From a report received from the KIA)

500 prisoners from Mandalay were brought to Kachin State as porters in the early part of March 1990. Among them, 120 were accused as murderers during the up-rising in September 1988. Without questioning, they were immediately sentenced 10 years each to prison. Many of them were brutally tortured on the way and 2 prisoners died when they arrived at Myikyina. The remaining departed from Myitkyina to the front lines on March 19, 1990 in 4 groups as follows.

1st group proceeded to Sadung District.....	200 persons
2nd group proceeded to Mo Gong District.....	150 persons
3rd group proceeded to Lo Hkong Township.....	100 persons
4th group proceeded to Njang Yang.....	50 persons

The first group arrived at Sadung on March 23, 1990 and the following 6 persons were able to escape on March 29, 1990 and arrived at 3rd Battalion Headquarters of KIA on April 7, 1990:

NamSi\* \_\_\_\_\_ » \_\_\_\_\_ -From \_\_\_\_\_ Charge \_\_\_\_\_ Sentenced \_\_\_\_\_

1. Hla Ngwe(22).....Ye Nan Kyaung.....Murder.....10 years
2. Win Aye (32).....Myikyania.....Army deserter.....7 yeras
3. Mut Ta(25).....Shwe Gu.....Murder.....10 years
4. Nyo Lay Maung(30).....Mandalay.....Connection.....10 years  
with KIA
5. Than Zaw(19).....Mandalay.....Murder.....10 years
6. Thein Win(35).....Shwe Bo.....Murder.....10 years

These 6 persons dare not go back home and decided to be freedom fighters along with the KIO.

## ARRESTS

The firm smack of the SLORC 'law' is clearly illustrated by the story of the 60 medical students who signed a letter protesting the continued display of Ne Win's photo in the Medical College (about the only students in higher education institutions at the present are those studying for the Final Medical Part II exams to be held later this year). While attending a lecture at the Children's Hospital about a week ago, these medical students were confronted by the Professor of Paediatrics who demanded the organisers of the protest put an end to it. An impasse of several hours ensued, until those who wished to retract were invited to leave the lecture hall. This left a defiant 18 in the lecture hall. The

result was interrogation by the Military Intelligence and subsequent expulsion, ending their medical careers before they even had a chance to begin.

On the 12th of March, about 30 students were arrested by the military while they made plans for the following day's memorial service for Maung Phone Maw who was killed by the riot police in front of the Institute of Rangoon Technology on 13th of March 1988. These 30 students are still in custody without charge. (Ost April, 1990)

## FISHING COMPANIES MAKE MONEY



Above: Victory Point on the southern-most tip of Burma. It is opposite the Thai town of Ranong, and traders regularly travel back and forth. Victoria Point is now one of the very important points for the entry of consumer goods into Burma.



Center: Thai fishing boats wait in the bay for the start of their journey into Burmese waters. Although fishing contracts limit the number of fishing boats each Thai company can use, reports suggest that many companies register several boats under the same name and can thus send out a greater number of boats than agreed on.

Right: Fishing boats come into Ranong harbor to unload their catch of fish. Local fishermen say that they can catch no fish in Thai waters as these waters have already been over-fished. Now their only source of income is from Burmese fish. A steady stream of fishing boats keep the markets in Ranong filled with fresh fish. Most of the fish are processed for use in other parts of Thailand or for export.

Burmese fishing villages are not modern, nor do they have modern equipment. They use simple methods which require very close contact with the environment in which they fish. In this simple approach to fishing, the seas along the coasts have an abundance of marine life which can feed the people.

Now, however, money-hungry companies have moved into the life-giving fish in order to reap quick profits. The environment is suffering damage which may be irreparable. The simple fishing people who have never had to depend on the sea for survival are also being destroyed.

Soon they may have to join a growing number of people who have moved into the cities to build up slum communities because they can no longer make an honest and dignified living.





## THE BURMESE PEOPLE GO HUNGRY

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A Singaporean barge rests in Ranong harbour, awaiting Burmese logs which will probably be brought down the river from Lona Phawgyi, opposite Kraburi, Thailand. Thousands of tons of logs are being taken out oi Burma, leaving mountains bear and eroded.



Center: These Burmese fishing boats are unloading their catch in Ranong Thailand. According to local sources, the Burmese boats register with Thai companies. Many fishermen irom the coastal areas of Burma are in Ranong to get jobs with Thai fishing companies. They leave their fishing villages to escape the Burmese military which is rounding up people to use as porters almost daily. Many of the small village fishermen have also had to leave their small boats and come seek jobs on these larger Thai and Burmese fishing boats as they can no longer catch fish as easily as they once did. The large-scale fishing now allowed under the SLORC military is cleaning out Burmese waters at a frightening rate, and small fishing villages can no longer survive. Once they fished their own waters freely, but now they have to become hired workers on foreign fishing boats in order to catch fish in these same waters.

## ON THE HEROIN TRAIL

Mr Melvin Levitsky, assistant secretary of state for international narcotics matters recently charged that the Burmese military, which seized power in 1988, has been "accommodating" the activities of notorious opium warlord Khun Sa.

On March 13, a grand jury in New York indicted Khun Sa for involvement in attempts to smuggle nearly 1,575 kg of high-grade heroin to the US from September 1986 to February 1988. The Burmese government has insisted it is not protecting Khun Sa, but said any attempt by the US to seize him by force would be an infringement of Burmese's sovereignty.

The US Drug Enforcement Administration estimates that 40 to 50 per cent of the heroin reaching the US comes from the Golden Triangle area where the borders of Burma, Thailand and Laos converge.

Burma alone is believed to have produced more than 2,600 metric tons of opium last year.

(The Nation. March 22, 1990)

The Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) recently shared the information that a former member of the Kokang group (an opium-trafficking organization in the Golden Triangle) left the organization and is now staying at the KIO headquarters.

According to this former Kokang member, on July 26, 1989, Lo Sing Hang arrived at Kokang and held a meeting with its leaders. At this meeting he told the Kokang leaders in part:

"The military regime (of Gen Saw Maung) appreciates the Kokang group's achievements in capturing the Burmese Communist Party headquarters and driving them successfully out of their area. The military regime of Saw Maung hopes the Kokang will assist in eliminating the rest of the armed struggle groups. This co-operation with the military regime will certainly enable the Kokang to produce and traffic in heroin (No. 4) more easily."

Since that meeting, the military regime, Lo Sing Hang and the Kokang group have widened their drug trafficking business. Two main groups have been formed. The first group is to work closely with the military regime. They are responsible for trafficking in Mandalay, Rangoon, Thailand and India. The 99th Division of the Burma Army is responsible for transportation. The second group is so traffic in inland Burma and China.

## SEEKING SAFETY

We have received information that the second counsel of the Burmese embassy in Rome, and his entire family, has asked for political asylum through Senator Moynihan, in Washington DC, USA.

The second counsel and his family went to the United States sometime in March 1990 from Rome, Italy. When they arrived in Washington DC, the second counsel went to Moynihan's office and said that the Burmese military regime gave no hope for holding free and fair elections on May 27. He also said that most of the Burmese diplomats abroad are not really diplomats, but rather they are military intelligence agents. The situation in Burma, according to the second counsel, is getting worse and so he asked for political asylum in the United

States for himself and his family.

Hopefully, he will be granted political asylum by the United States government soon.

The All Burma Students' Democratic Front warmly welcomes these kinds of things. We understand that not all the officers in the Burmese military regime are barbaric. Many officers from the military regime really want to side with the people. Only some of the top military rulers are so barbaric, and they control all the others through threats and coercions. We encourage all other true Burmese diplomats abroad and officers in the military regime to join with the people for the good of the Burmese nation.

## ON WHOSE SIDE WILL THE MILITARY STAND?

Sources from Rangoon say that many military officers and soldiers are now hospitalized in Rangoon Mingalardon Hospital. Some of them have had their legs amputated. Most of them received their serious injuries during fighting with ethnic minorities groups along the Burmese border.

Our sources in Rangoon sent a report that one military officer who stepped on a land mine had one of his legs amputated. He has been hospitalized for 6 months already. According to the source, this soldier is very angry with the military regime. Before he was sent to the hospital, he had been ignored by the his military officers and there was not enough medical equipment or medicines to treat him properly. He told one of his close friend, "I understand now that they (military rulers) are only playing attractive military songs and taking advantage of our nationalist feelings to manipulate us. They are lying to us and asking us to protect them, not protect the country. We are only expected to protect the Ma-Sa-La (BSPP)." Prosthetic feet are made in Burma, but they are very painful, when the patients walk.

Sources in Rangoon say there is not equality, even among the military. Sons of the most high ranking military officers are also in the military. Most of the time, they stay in military base camps rather than being sent to the front lines. Many of them also stay in the military office in Rangoon, and they can get promotions very quickly. In case they do receive an injury, they are given one apartment in the center of city and one shop in Bojoykoe market.

In truth, the military hospital has enough medicines and equipment. The military blatantly uses the medicines for their own personal use. Many wives of high ranking military officers take these medicines, with the help of their husbands, from the military hospital and sell them in the illegal markets at a very high price. That is why there is always a shortage of medicines in the military hospital and patients have to purchase medicines on the illegal market where they are very expensive.

During Jan 1989, 3 military officers - Col Un Oo Lay, Commander, Col Khin Aung Ba La, Lt-Commander and Col Saw Shwe, Technical Commander from Division 66 - were forced to resign by the military authorities. They were charged with refusing to follow orders. During the fighting with the KNU in Methawor at the end of 1988, the military forces faced a serious shortage of food, ammunition and soldiers. At that time, the 3 military officers received a cable from the military authority ordering an offensive attack against Methawor. The 3 officers refused to launch the offensive attack because they lacked sufficient food and ammunition, and because they had already lost many of their soldiers in that killing field. The three officers were called back to the military base and discharged. A son of Col Khin Aung Ba La, Maj Ye Min Ba La, had earlier been killed during fighting with minority groups. All of their families were evicted from the military quarters.

All reports from Rangoon indicate that the military men are not as powerful as the military intelligence. Most military men are afraid of the military intelligence agents. Bri-Gen Khin Nyunt, Director of DDSI (military intelligence) is extremely powerful. Most of the military men dislike him because, although he is quite young, he has more power than others who are more senior than him.

The reports also say that the military regime is very afraid the military soldiers will become friendly with the people. Every two or three months, they rotate the troops who are based in government offices. In the same way they rotate the soldiers who guard the political detainees under house arrest such as Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, U Nu and U Than Sein, etc.

It is very clear that the military regime fears the soldiers will join with the people. They have seen the down fall of Ceausescu in Romania and they PT frightened that the same might happen to them. However, even though they try to drive a wedge between the people and the army, we have received information that some military officers and soldiers will join with the students and people. That will bring on the fall of the military junta faster as it has in other countries.

## A PORTER'S STORY

Name.....Than Htat  
 Age.....25  
 Religion.....Islam  
 Occupation....Unknown  
 Father's name..U Myint Wai  
 Mother's name..Daw Than Myint  
 Address.....Ward 2. Kar Inn Sate Kyi Town Ship.  
 Karen State

I am a high school student from Kar Inn Sate Kyi township. I left my home on the 19th of Sept 1988, one day after the bloody military coup. I was threatened with arrest by the military because I had been involved with pro-democracy activities in 1988.

In 1985, when I was 20 years old, I was forcibly sent to a military base called "Kalama Mountain" together with 1,000 villagers from Kar Inn Sate Kyi by the military. This was the first time for me to work as a porter.

I was one of 1,000 so called volunteer workers from our township and we were sent to Pa An, capital of Karen state by boats. From there we were sent by truck to Hlaine Bowe and Py Ton which is the base of Battalion 44. We had to carry food, ammunition and other military equipment from Hlaine Bowe and Py Ton to Kalama Mountain.

The military did not give any food to us. We had to carry our own money and food from our homes. In our township, every house is supposed to collect 200 kyats per month for funds for porters. We used this money and bought rice along the way.

I saw some porters beaten by military soldiers when they could not carry their loads, or walk quickly. They were left alone along the path way. Most of those who were left alone finally died. When we walked on Kalama Mountain, I noticed a very bad smell like dead bodies. I heard from some porters who had been forced several times to serve as porters that many porters who had died were buried on the mountain in shallow graves.

That trip lasted 20 days and then I was allowed to return home. At that time, my school was closed for summer holidays.

Later in 1985, another 250 villagers were also forcibly sent to Kamala Mountain. This group was not called volunteer workers. They were chosen from among the villagers by chance. Their "service had no time limitation. About 20 of them have not come back to the village yet. Most of those who do return to the village can not work after they come back. Many of them are very thin, malnourished and suffer from malaria. One 32 year-old Muslim, U Nusalim, became insane after he suffered from malaria during his trip and he had to become a beggar. He has 3 children.

In January 1987, I was arrested again in my house in the early morning by Light Infantry Division 32. About 200 other villagers in Kar Inn Sate Kyi were also picked up from their houses, the cinema hall or along the roads. We were sent to Thn Phu Zeyat and had to carry food and ammunition to Nan Koen military front line base, on the way to 3 Pagoda Pass.

The youngest porters was only 15 years old and oldest porter was 50 or 55 years old. We had only one tin box of water rice to eat in the afternoon and one small plate of rice with Napi in the evening. All of the porters who can not carry their loads are beaten severely. They are beaten more severely if they try to run away. I have seen many of porter along the way. Some of them had serious injuries all over their bodies. They had been left along the road to die and some who had tried to run away were imprisoned inside the pig pens.

This trip took 27 days.

If people in the village do not want to as a porter, they can hire some very poor villagers to go in their place. They are paid 1,000 kyats each.

In 1988, during the pro-democracy uprising. I was arrested by the military again together with 30 other villagers. We were sent to Kyet Don, one of the military front line bases, and had to carry back ammunition to Kar Inn Sate Kyi because the military was worried about security in Kar Inn Sate Kyi and they called back some of the troops from the front-line base. We had only dry rice to eat on this 5-day trip.

Stalling from the 2nd of August 1988, several thousand villagers took part in the demonstrations in Kar Inn Sate Kyi. I was a security officer in my village during that time. In Kar Inn Sate Kyi township there are 52 villages. There are about 2,000 houses with a population of about 20,000. Two hundred of the houses are Muslim.

On the 18th of Sept, 1988 the army and police forces occupied our strike headquarters at the

Buddhist religious hall in Kar Inn Sate Kyi. The next day, 1 and 300 other villagers (mostly students) fled to the Thai-Burma border and arrived at They Boe Bo camp. We arrived on the 15th of Oct 1988. At that time there were about 2,000 students in the camp from all over the country. Later our group moved to Kyet Don, which is on the front line.

## THREATS AGAINST FREE ELECTIONS

On the 21st of April 1990, the Bangkok Post newspaper reported, "Although the military government says it may relax existing restrictions ahead of the May 27 polls, a curfew remains in force nationwide and gatherings of more than four people are forbidden." The newspaper further stated, "Western diplomats contacted in the city said broadcasts announcing the lifting of martial law in some areas referred only to the ending of the authority of regional military courts. They (SLORC) are trying to show people that things are relatively normal and that is simply not true." One foreign diplomat said, "Certainly the repressive atmosphere has not lifted."

Diplomats say in recent months passive resistance has grown, especially among the students. This includes the wearing of bamboo hats which is the election symbol of the main opposition party, the National League for Democracy party. One diplomat said there were also reports that some youths were wearing rice stalks around their ankles as a sign of disrespect to the pro-military National Unity Party which uses rice stalks as its symbol.

A diplomat said in some areas military authorities had tried to restrict the sale of bamboo hats, saying that they were made from protected forestry products. One election candidate complained that a consignment of 300 hats he had ordered to give to his campaign workers to protect them from the rain in the coming monsoon season had been cut to 30 by military order.

"It's difficult to give figures, but it is absolutely certain that arrests are still going on," a diplomat said. During last week's annual water festival, a time at which criticisms of authority are traditionally aired, at least 10 students were arrested in Rangoon, reliable Burmese sources there said. Diplomats said there were reports of more arrests the following week.

Sources of "Dawn" inside Burma report that the military intelligence and SLORC are threatening to arrest the candidates from the NLD party if they do not resign from the NLD or drop their candidacy in the elections. One candidate from NLD in the Irrawaddy Division was threatened with arrest by military intelligence agents 2 times. The military-intelligence agents asked him whether he would resign from the NLD party or would rather be arrested. "We already have enough proof to arrest you," they said. When that failed, they threatened to do something to his parents. Finally he agreed to write the resignation letter and had to give one copy to the military intelligence. After that another person succeeded his position. The new candidate was contacted by the military intelligence who showed him the first resignation letter and asked him many questions. They tried to create misunderstanding between the member of the NLD party.

We receive many reports like this from areas throughout the country. However, we can not mention the names of the persons involved, or where they are located as this would be extremely dangerous for them.

## SUPPORT FROM FRIENDS

Dawn News Bulletin received a copy of a letter written to Mr. Tim Lauer, Vice Presidents of Exploration, Unocal from Mr. Paul G. Hawken, SMITH & HAWKEN COMPANY in California.

February 2, 1990

Mr. Tim Lauer  
Vice President of Exploration  
Unocal  
P.O. Box 7600  
Los Angeles, CA 90051

Dear Mr. Lauer,

Smith & Hawken is a mail-order garden supply company offering teak furniture as one of its products. The furniture we sell amounts to several million dollars worth of business each year which, for nearly a decade, was manufactured with Burmese teak. We have entirely discontinued our involvement with Burma for several reasons which I'd like to share with you here.

Because of the serious consequences of tropical deforestation and its importance to our customers, we made considerable efforts to verify that our teak was produced in an environmentally sustainable manner. I personally made a visit to Burma to investigate production methods and view the teak forest first hand. Although Burmese officials were very cordial and hospitable, after conducting extensive research on our own, we found they were not particularly forthright in providing information and responding to our concerns. Additionally, the more we learned about the political situation, the more we despaired of being able to contribute positively to the lives of the Burmese people through our trade. Sadly, neither of our objectives were being met; vast areas were deforested and no one benefitted but the ruling class.

Our frustration turned into action once we learned of the events occurring in the latter part of 1988. Years of mismanagement and corruption exhausted the country's resources as well as the patience of the people who had shouldered the burden. Tens of thousands of students, Buddhist monks, civil servants and even some members of the military took to the streets and began calling for democratic reform. In

Sept 1988, the army opened fire on these unarmed demonstrators killing thousands. To placate the international community and restart foreign aid programs, free elections were promised for May of this year by the new regime. But knowing it lacks popular support, the military arrested the main opposition candidate and just last week forbade her from participating in the election knowing she could win even when behind bars. Other tragic stories including the snatching of people from the streets of Rangoon for military service are only too common. Forced to carry heavy loads of ammunition in difficult terrain, these people are beaten and forced to serve as human mine sweeps. The US has confirmed reports of torture and killing of jailed political prisoners as well. Ordinary Burmese continue to suffer while the military sells off valuable resources like oil, teak and fishing rights so it can finance its war against minority groups and buy weapons from Pakistan and Singapore. Our business decision became easy after learning of these events. We could not, in good conscience, continue using Burmese teak so we stopped altogether.

Meanwhile, the military is courting foreign investments and I understand Unocal may begin oil explorations. I strongly encourage you to reconsider any involvement in Burma. Not only does potential political instability make any investment an uncertain venture but the social situation must be considered as well. Doing business in Burma will only strengthen a regime that has shown blatant disregard for basic human rights and greater economic prosperity is not likely to change this. Please join with us in co-sponsoring a full-page advertisement in the New York Times in May of 1990 condemning the Burmese military regime and discouraging all foreign business enterprises until democratic reforms have taken place in a country that has become the Romania of Asia.

I hope you will discontinue all negotiations until such reforms are in place. Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Paul G. Hawken



## NEWS FROM INSIDE

During June 1989, 6 or 7 robbers who claimed to be members of the All Burma Students' Democratic Front, robbed Tha Yet Kone village near Kyaut Kar village and Margue, north Burma in Tasserain Division. When they robbed the village, they covered their faces with cloth. Unfortunately for them, the Tha Yet Kone villagers fought back and caught them. After the villagers uncovered the robbers faces, they discovered that one of them was the head police officer from their village and the others were also policemen from their village.

During February 1989, a military soldier raped an 18 yearold female student from Kyut Thet ward, Margue Township, north Burma. After the soldier raped her, he forced a bottle inside her vagina. Blood oozed from her mouth and vagina and shortly after that she died.

Another female student from Margue was raped by military soldiers in Margue. After she was raped, her breast and sex organ were cut by the soldier with a knife.

A female high school teacher, Ma Yee Nwet, age 18, from Kyue Kuu village. Margue was also raped by 3 military soldiers at the same time. According to a report from students in Min Tha Mee camp, Ma Yee Nwet claimed that she was called by the military officers in Margue to ask about her activities during the pro-democracy movements. Her sexual organ was hit by the bayonets of the soldiers because she shouted during the interrogation.

These areas are under the control of Light Infantry Divisions No. 101, 103 and 17.

Since the end of last year, the military and police from Pu Law township, Tesserain Division, have arrested 4 or 5 villagers every days at about 8:00 pm. These villagers are put in prison in Pu Law township and military officers asked money from them. They demand 500 kyats for a male and 200 kyats for a female. If the villagers cannot pay the money, they will not be released and will be sent to the front line as porters and human mine sweeper.

On the 11th Nov 1989, a member of Min Tha Mee camp, Ko Hla Wai, age 40, was arrested in the house of Ma Hla Yee at night in Ah Htat Paue village, Pu Law township. He is originally from Pu Law township. No 2 ward. He left his house following the military coup. He had returned to the

village for the purpose of distributing educational materials and collecting data on human rights abuses by the Burmese military regime. The house owner, Ma Hla Yee and her family were badly beaten by the military. The students in Min Tha Mee camp said that they heard a report Ko Hla Wai was killed by the military soon after he was arrested

Another student from Min Tha Mee camp, Ko Nyunt Tin, was arrested by the military in Ta Pout village, Pu Law Township during an organizing trip.

Since Oct 1989, each house from Ywe Taung village, Kyaut Lake village, Min Win village, Ahkma village, Chaung Hla village and Kind Taw village in Pu Law township has to give 5 kyats every day to the military and each village must give 5 viz of chicken per day.

A teacher from Shan Taung village, U Shwe Hla, said that his ducks were killed by military soldiers and eaten. When he complained, the military soldiers said, "You gave your ducks to the students to eat when they arrived here, but you did not give any to us when we arrived so we will just take them."

Military officers, Capt Mya Than and Maj Win Thein from Na Hta village, Pu Law township, called in the female villages who took part in demonstration during 1988 for questioning. However, they not only interrogated the women, but also raped them.

Many of the NLD members from Pu Law township, Tesserain Division and Kan Paut township in Mon State have been arrested by the military and sent to the front line as porters.

The family of school teacher Ko Han Lin (information officer from Min Tha Mee camp) arrived in Min Tha Mee camp recently. His four children and wife left their house because of the continual threats of arrest by the military authorities. They took 4 days to come to Min Tha Mee camp from their home town. Ko Han Lin was a leader of the strike committee in his village during the pro-democracy movement in 1988.

The wife of Ko Gyon Shein (audit officer from Min The Camp) was arrested by the military in Margue recently. Ko Gyon Shan took part in demonstrations during 1988 and he suspects that, because of his anti-government activities, his wife was arrested by the military.



AfiSDF students contribute as much of their time as possible to helping villagers. This includes providing medical care and opening schools for the children. Despite lack of medicines and other equipment, these projects continue, and are an important part of building up the people's trust. They also are important in organizing the people to work together to solve local problems. The task of building the new Burma must start with the grass roots, and that is where ABSDF lives and works.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED