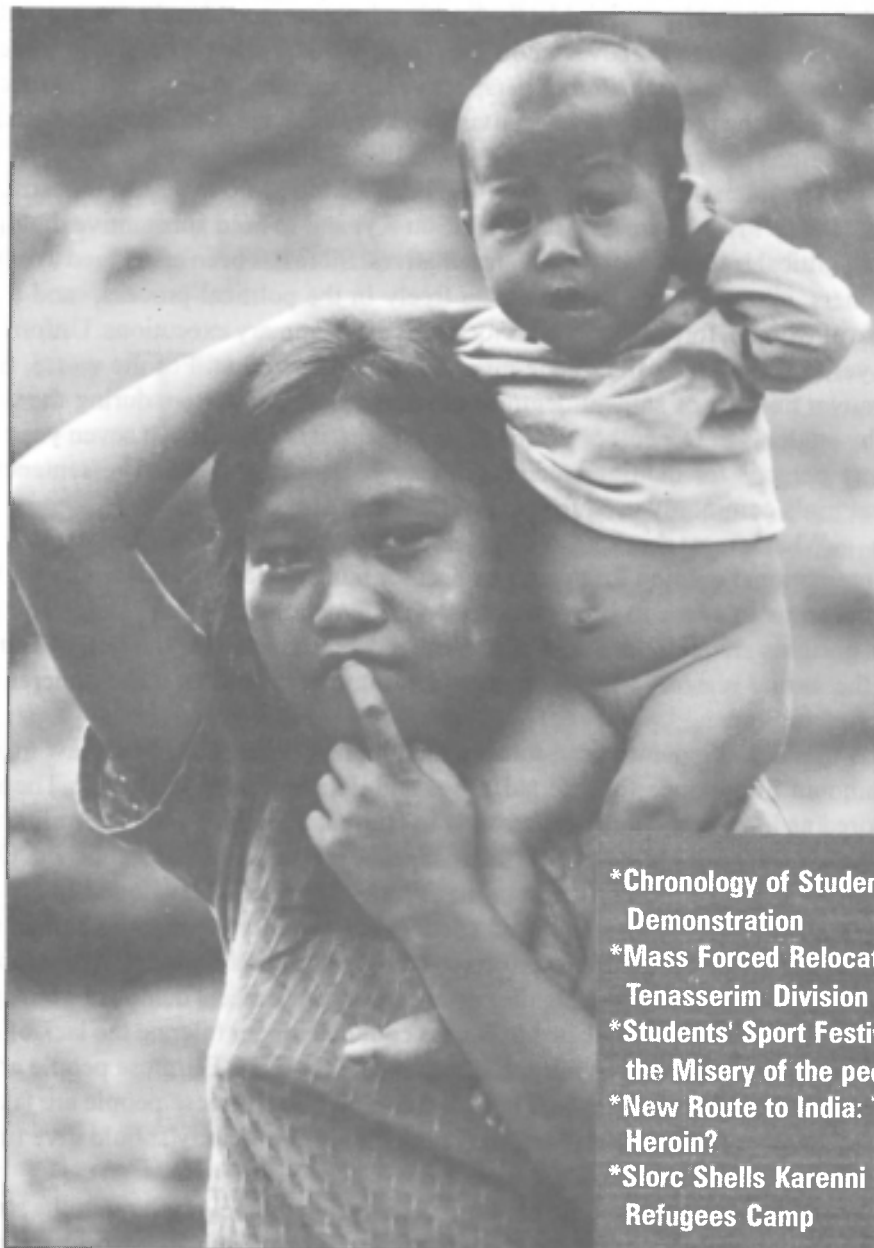


DAWN

NEWS BULLETIN

Vol: 6 No: 6 January 1997



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Burmese people need support

The crack down on the peaceful student demonstrators in December demonstration and restriction on movement of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of main opposition party (NLD) show that the military junta in Burma, State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc), is not prepared to remove its "pariah" status in the international community.

Under the rule of the military dictatorship, the people have not only been deprived of the democratic and human rights, the health, education, social and economic situation of the country also heading for devastation. The junta has expressed no desire to solve the political problems with genuine national perspective. It continues to deny political freedom, using force to quell the pro-democracy activists and, crushing the democratic and ethnic resistance organizations both inside Burma and in the liberated area.

The International community has been asking Slorc to permit unrestricted access to Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and to hold substantive dialogue with her, other political leaders and ethnic representatives. Slorc has been also urged to release political prisoners, allow citizens to participate freely in the political process, and to end torture, abuse of women, forced labor and relocations and summary executions. Unfortunately, Slorc has yet to follow the calls by the international organization. For the worse, Slorc arrested unknown number of student demonstrators and their supporters during the demonstration led by students in December, 1996. Among them, it has sentenced seven years in prison to twenty persons for inciting student protests in December 1996. The sentencing followed secret trials commonly used for the political dissidents.

What is most shocking and intolerable is that Slorc had remained unmoved to demands by international opinion for greater respect for human decency and dignity for the people of Burma so as to cease to be regarded as an international "pariah" state. The deteriorating human rights situation in Burma and Slorc's denial to listen to the will of Burmese people are the strong reasons why international community requires more concrete actions and pressure to Slorc.

To achieve democracy, fundamental human rights and rule of law in Burma are of paramount importance for internal peace and national unity in Burma. These will not be restored as long as the militarism exists in Burma; and, only when the militarism has been absolutely wiped out, can genuine internal peace and national be established. Only then, can the social and economic situation of the Burmese people be developed.

Dealing with Slorc junta and silencing on the Slorc's ongoing human rights abuses without having to make serious efforts to remove its "pariah" status will encourage Slorc to keep committing more crimes against its own people. The recent demonstration by the students clearly expresses that people inside Burma could no longer tolerate the lack of human rights and rules of laws in their country. It also indicates how the Burmese people are longing for the restoration of democracy and human rights. While Burmese people are taking their risk for the struggle for the movement, the international community should give full support for their daring sacrifice.

Today while the people of Burma are risking their everything in the struggle for the restoration of democracy, the democratic loving people around the world must stand by the people from Burma in every possible way.

**European
Commission
Cancels
GSP
Trade
Status**

The European Commission said on December 18, 1996 it had approved a decision to cut Burma's low tariff access to the European Union market because of allegations against Rangoon over forced labor.

"The European Commission has adopted (a legal instrument) withdrawing the benefits of the Community's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for the Union of Myanmar's industrial sector," the Commission said in a statement. The Commission proposed that this measure remain in force until such time as force labor practices are abolished. The issue will now go to EU Finance Ministers for their approval, probably in January.

The EU grants selected developing countries low-tariff access to its 370 million consumers through the GSP to help push along economic growth. But GSP benefits can be suspended if those that benefit from them are shown to coerce prisoners, children or unpaid laborers into working.

**Ninth US City
Bans
Business
With SLORC**

The Boulder City Council, Colorado voted on December 17, 1996, to stop buying products from Burma. The City Council also called on all companies doing business in Burma to end their operations there. The law was passed in view of the worsening situation in Burma and the perceived danger to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The 5-2 vote makes Boulder the ninth US City to adopt the "Selective Purchasing Law" on Burma.

**Pepsi
withdraws
from Burma**

PepsiCo Inc announced on January 27, 1997, it is halting shipments of soft-drink syrup to its bottler in Burma. The \$30 billion soft drink, snack food and restaurant conglomerate is the biggest company to withdraw from Burma. PepsiCo announced last May that it was selling its 40% stake in a soft drink bottling venture in Burma.

PepsiCo based its decision to sever all ties to the bottler "based on our assessment of the spirit of US government foreign policy towards Burma," Keith Hughes, a spokesman for PepsiCo in Purchase, New York. He also said the company had severed all relationships with the bottler on January 15 and all production and distribution of its products in Burma will cease by May 31, 1997.

...

"We ask a dialogue in the knowledge that it would be the best way to resolve the unhappy state of affairs in our country. The response of the Slorc is to arrest our people and to threaten much of our whole movement. But, as thinking people have come to realize, an idea whose time has come cannot be stopped or crushed. Our struggle will continue in the face of mounting repression. Address at Daw Aung San Suu Kyi upon receiving an Honorary Doctorate from Charles University, Prague."

Chronology of Student Demonstration, 1996



Policeman chased after the monk during the demonstration



'Asking for the human rights is a crime in Burma. One of the supporters of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi seen while taken to police truck.

Friday November 29, 1996

Students became angry after receiving anonymous typed letters by post telling them to stay away from politics. Students from Rangoon Institute of Technology (RIT) went to their rector and demanded that he find out who was behind the letters. The rector told the students "It's a small matter, forget it.". This enraged the students more, and they began planning a demonstration for Monday.

Monday December 2, 1996

Students from RIT, the Institute of Economics, Rangoon University (RU) - Hlaing and Main campuses - as well as more than 300 high school students marched from the Hledan Intersection to downtown Rangoon. The students sang the national anthem and carried banners saying "We don't want an unfair government". Locals gave food and water to the students and to journalists.

Many students were surrounded by soldiers near the Shwedagon Pagoda and arrested. Some soldiers grabbed the framed photos the students had of General Aung San and stepped on them. They also stepped on and ripped up the student flag, enraging the students more. According to arrested students, the soldiers who arrested them were drunk. About a hundred students were given refuge by monks in a nearby monastery. Others were rounded up in front of the US Embassy at about 5 am. People's cars were taken from them early in the morning to transport the arrested students to Kyeikkasan Stadium. Many students were then held at Kyeikkasan for six hours and then released. The Slorc checked the students' ID cards and held non-students longer.

Around this time, an RIT secret

Chronology of Student Demonstration, 1996

student union was formed. There were two committees, one was secret comprising ten members, and the other was an open committee with 12 members.

Wednesday December 4, 1996

Four students who visited the residence of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi were arrested.

Buddhist monks from Mandalay announced that the All Buddhist Monk Union had been re-established in Mandalay.

Thursday December 5, 1996 (National Day)

The National League for Democracy (NLD) planned a National Day celebration at Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's compound, but the authorities did not permit the celebration to go ahead. The NLD instead decided to hold it at the NLD headquarters, but then found that the authorities had barricaded it off. In the morning, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi went to an NLD wedding at U Tin Oo's residence. There were about 250 NLD members there, mostly from Rangoon and the suburbs, and many in NLD clothes, including the new longyi pattern for women designed by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. Several children performed dances, and a few members staged a re-enactment of a student protest being put down by colonial authorities, which the crowd loved. U Tin Oo and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi each gave short speeches.

Friday December 6, 1996

A demonstration took place at RIT in the morning at which students demanded the right to form a student union. At about 1:00 pm, 500 students went outside the campus and blocked an intersection on Insein road. The Minister



Women are treated equally in Burma as men for their participation in demonstration. Female supporters of NLD seen after arrest. The fate of her is unknown.



Students praying during their sit-in demonstration at Hledan intersection on December 6, 1996.



Students marching towards the US Embassy in downtown Rangoon.



"Give us our rights to build Student Union"

of Education came and asked the students to disperse. The students demanded the right to form a student union, the release of all detained students, and for the authorities to broadcast correct news about what was happening and what the student demands are. The Minister of Education asked the students to go back to their campus but they said they would only go back if he agreed to meet with them on campus. This was agreed to, however the Minister never showed up and the students decided to go out again.

Three students from the Medical Institute - Ma Sape Phyu, May Kyaw Shin and Htun Htun Oo - were arrested while they were standing at the corner of the Institute.

At about 3:10 pm about 200 people, mostly students gathered at the intersection of Kyeikwaing Pagoda Road near Thamine and chanted slogans. Forty riot police (Lon Htein) arrived with shields and batons as well as four trucks of soldiers with guns. Six prison vans were also present. The students ran away when the riot police began moving forward.

At 5:00 pm, students started gathering at Hledan intersection in front of Rangoon University's Main campus. The crowd grew steadily, and later in the evening massed to a peak of about 3,500 people. There was a bamboo flag pole in the center of the crowd with the student's fighting peacock flag. Students held framed pictures of General Aung San, and some hand-made posters. They took turns coming up to the flag pole and giving short speeches, which were interspersed with the singing of the national anthem, student union songs and repeats of the student demands. The speakers were from several campuses, some were women and one or two high school students also spoke. According to

Chronology of Student Demonstration, 1996

a student source, there were about 60 Kachin, 30 Chin, 20 Mon, 10 Karen and 50 Shan students among the demonstrators. Students demanded the right to form a student union, the release of all detained students, no punishment for students who participated in the demonstration, punishment for soldiers who stepped on photos of General Aung San and the student flag, and for correct information to be disseminated in the official media.

There were blockades down Insein road and Prome Road by Hanthawaddy Circle to prevent students of the RIT and the Institute of Medicines from joining. However, some got through or around the barricades. Some students who had been locked in their hostels managed to sneak over a wall and joined the demonstration.

There was a skirmish on Insein Road at about 9:00 pm when some RIT students wanted to come through the blockade. Riot police pushed them back and arrested at least ten. One girl was seen hit in the back of the head by riot police and had blood running down her head. Fire trucks were ready to turn their hoses on the students, but they dispersed.

At around 1:00 am, the rector of Rangoon University came and persuaded the students to disperse, however the students repeated their demand to form student union. The rector said he could not do this, but said he would report their demands to Slorc. At 1:40 am, the students conducted one minute of silence for the people killed by the Slorc in 1988. By 2:45 am, troops moved in to the edge of the intersection. There were four rows of riot police with shields and batons on Prome Road, 2 or 3 fire trucks, and armed troops on Prome Road and Rangoon University with more waiting in trucks nearby. At 3:00 am, police turned on the fire hoses, first up in the air, but then aiming them directly at the students who had been sitting peacefully. Riot police then arrested students and locals. A Japanese journalist from Yomiuri was thrown in a truck with students by the riot police and beaten over the head. After 30 minutes, members of the Military Intelligence (MI) came over and released him.

Another clash at Hanthawaddy Intersection took place at about midnight. About 400 locals - mainly low paid workers - from Kyimyindine township wanted to walk down Prome Road and join the demonstration at the Hledan intersection. They were stopped by the Lon Htein who were hiding in a Muslim cemetery. The riot police came out and beat up the protesters. Members of Slorc's Union Solidarity Development Association (USDA) assisted the riot police by blocking both sides of the road.

Saturday December 7, 1996

University campuses in Rangoon were blocked off. Small in-campus demonstrations at RIT and Rangoon University's Hlaing campus took place at night at which students shouted and chanted slogans. At midnight, a demonstration by about 50 locals took place inside Rangoon University campus and also at the corner of University Avenue and Insein Road. When riot police arrived, the locals dispersed peacefully.

The owner of "Sein Babu" laundry in Railway Station Street, Kamayut township in Rangoon was arrested and beaten to death by riot police.

Sunday December 8, 1996

A small demonstration took place in the afternoon at RIT and Rangoon University. About 100 RU students shouted at the site of student union building and demanded that all student prisoners be released. They claimed that only 62 people had been released and others were still being held at Kyeikkasan Stadium and at distant military compounds.

Chronology of Student Demonstration, 1996

A curfew was imposed from 9:00 pm to 9:00 am for three days in the Kamayut area near RU. Universities were closed but no official announcement was made. Classes stopped, hostels were emptied, and parents were ordered to come and fetch the students and sign a letter of guarantee that their sons and/or daughters would not participate in politics in the future.

Ten male students and four female students who participated in the December 6 demonstration at the Hledan intersection were taken from their homes and arrested after being identified on a CNN report. Several people from defunct political parties were also picked up, including five from the People's Progressive Party.

A small demonstration at Mandalay Institute of Technology took place.

Two NLD (Youth) members, Han Win Aung (Insein township) and Ko Hla Aung (Sanchaung township) were arrested.

Monday December 9, 1996

At 1:00 pm, a protest took place at RU's Kyimyindine Campus. Up to 200 students held a sit-in and then marched toward the US Embassy. People in cars passed food and water to the students, while others, including employees of the state power company, applauded from windows. Riot police chased the students down lanes with rattan shields and blocked the road. Similar demonstrations took place in Dagon University. The students rode in 10 buses - one of which was displaying a flying peacock banner - and were blocked by police armed with batons and rattan shields, and dozens of armed troops. Students also held protests by the Thakeda River and the



Chronology of Student Demonstration, 1996

bridge to Thakeda was blocked by the military.

Very brief demonstrations were held between 1:00-2:00 pm at the Sule Pagoda and at RU's Botataung campus. Some students tried to stage a rally at the Sule Pagoda, but their attempts failed when riot police stopped them by closing the doors of the pagoda and deploying four army trucks of soldiers who were in "stand-by" positions. At 8:30 pm, over 100 students staged a demonstration inside the Institute of Dental Medicine and there were up to 400 spectators outside the institute. Seven trucks of riot police and soldiers showed up to break up the protest. At least five and up to ten students were picked up.

The Institute of Medicine in Mandalay was sealed off by security forces. Students from Pattheingyi Government Agriculture School in Mandalay also staged a demonstration.

Tuesday December 10, 1996

Between 9:00-10:00 am, up to 100 students from the Government Technical High School at Natmauk in Rangoon marched out of school. Two trucks of riot police and three army trucks arrived and the riot police chased the students down lanes.

At noon, some 30 people shouted slogans, blocked streets and then merged into a crowd gathered in front of the US Embassy. The protest lasted five minutes and about 20 students were arrested.

At 3:00 pm, 100 students held a sit-in demonstration in front of the main gate of the Institute of Medicine with two hand-made student flags. They shouted slogans while many monks were looking on. Riot police charged the onlookers and dispersed the crowd, but they did not enter the compound.

Free train tickets from Rangoon to Mandalay were provided by authorities in order to get students out of Rangoon.

The train from Mandalay to Rangoon was stopped in Pegu and the authorities searched suspects to prevent students and monks joining the student strike in Rangoon. Also buses going to Rangoon were stopped and suspected youths were taken away.

Nobody was allowed to go to Sule Pagoda in Rangoon. Slorc deported a Dutch woman who it said had been working illegally as a journalists covering the student protests.

Wednesday December 11, 1996

At 10:00 am, more than 400 students including medical students wearing white shirts and green longyi, held a sit-in protest in front of the No.2 Institute of Medicine in Rangoon. Witnesses said security forces arrested about 20 students amid scattered protests in the capital Rangoon.

At 2:00 pm, more than 100 medical students staged a sit-in protest in front of the No.1 Institute of Medicine. Some 20 military trucks full of soldiers were lined up in front of the Rangoon City Hall at full alert.

In Mandalay, some 300 students staged a demonstration by the palace moat. Troops entered the Mandalay Institute of Technology to break up a demonstration that involving up to 3,000 students.

Free train tickets from Rangoon to Moulmein were provided by the authorities. The rector of RIT resigned.

Thursday December 12, 1996

Waiters at the Central View Hotel (Hledan intersection) were arrested and people in that area were being closely questioned regarding harboring protesters on the night of December 5.

Remarks by Gen. Tin Oo were published in state-run newspapers in which he stated Slorc vowed to annihilate anyone disrupting its work. He said "The Slorc will never allow the recurrence of the 1988 disturbances and would annihilate any internal elements who are trying to disrupt the country".

Friday December 13, 1996

Four prominent activists were detained by the authorities - Wai Lin, former Central Executive Committee member of the Democratic Party for New Society (DPNS), Ko Toe, a leading member of the All Burma Federation of Students Union (ABSFU), Dr. Hla Myint, who was involved in the 1975 U Thants' funeral strike, and Cho Seint, grandson of Thakin Ko Daw Hmine. Another activist named U Hla Shwe was detained for questioning and later released. Other former activists who have been jailed previously were also rounded up and questioned in an attempt to connect them to the current demonstrations.

More than 100 medical students staged a sit-in demonstration on the campus of the No.1 Institute of Medicine.

Five tanks remained parked at Rangoon City Hall and soldiers in six military trucks with Bren carriers patrolled the streets of the city. Another six tanks were parked in front of the Jubilee Hall.

According to an unconfirmed report, more than 100 students



were being secretly treated in a special ward in Rangoon General Hospital for wounds sustained during the violent crackdown. No house surgeons (medical student interns) were reportedly allowed to go into this ward, with only senior doctors permitted entry.

Slorc appropriated the Thamine Textile Factory, located in Insein township and its name has been changed to the "Tatmadaw Textile Factory". The Slorc arrested 34 workers who were among many protesting over the appropriation and the changing of its name.

Saturday December 14, 1996

Five tanks remained stationed by the Sule Pagoda and troops had sealed off the No.1 Institute of Medicine in Rangoon. Most roads near Rangoon University and RIT were reopened.

Wednesday December 25, 1996

Military Intelligence Service (MIS) personnel arrested Ko Soe Tun, interim chairman of the Student union, and eight other students on Christmas Day in Rangoon. It was understood the students were holding a meeting to plan resuming student action on December 27 when the MIS detained them.

Two bombs exploded at the Kaba Aye Pagoda, Rangoon, killed five people and wounded 17.

Thursday December 26, 1996

Slorc announced that they were canceling plans to run the seventh annual International marathon on December 30. The marathon, initially planned for December 14, had been rescheduled to December 30 after the student demonstration.



"We are not afraid, we shall overcome one day."

MEMORABLE Minthamee CAMP

PERRY GROBES

I have been in Thailand now for a little over six months and in this time there had been little opportunity for me to travel outside of Bangkok. A Thai NGO, my paymasters have had me chained to the desk for this time, so it took a very small amount of arm twisting to persuade me to go on a fact finding mission into the jungles of Burma.

Aung Myo Min had asked us here at my office if we would like to come and witness the monks enrobement ceremony during the period of *waso* at the ABSDF camp in Minthamee on the Tennasserin River. I was delighted to be given the opportunity to dust off my green army fatigues and walking boots ready to jump on the next bus to Kanchanaburi province. Armed with my camera and a suitable excuse to warrant the time and money spent for my holiday-sorry, fact finding mission, I left Bangkok at 5am Saturday 23/11 to be met in Kanchanaburi by Chi Ko Ko, who to my slight chagrin had been expecting the slightly prettier projects manager to be coming. I explained that she was unavailable. Unperturbed Chi Ko Ko took me to be introduced to a reporter for the Thai newspaper, who was writing a piece on the monks enrobement ceremony, and so was armed with a bigger camera and a better excuse.

Those of you familiar with NGO work will understand the shock I had when we reached the bucolic village of Teekee, our second port of call, just inside the Burmese border. Accustomed to pleasant buffets at the FCCT and power lunches at

the Shangri-la organizing multi million pound deals between overseas sponsors, fish paste and rice and hard beds seemed almost unpalatable. Yet the warmest hospitality and the convivial company of my extremely generous hosts combined with my satiated stomach meant that I slept well. In the morning I had the privilege of meeting some members of the KNU military and political command who were very confident about the ongoing fourth round talks with the Slorc, stating the only important outcome is that of democracy for Burma. After an exciting jeep ride through the jungle we arrived in Minthamee the following morning, fresh and excited about the holiday schedule lined up. For the next three evenings there would be dancing and singing supported by a festival atmosphere. Awful eh?

My joking aside, this was an extremely important trip for me to take. Not only was it my first foray into Burma, but it provided me a chance to come in contact with many Burmese. What I learnt and what I experienced I find hard to express. I suppose in some sense it gave me a focus and helped explain the work I had been doing in Bangkok. I had the privilege of meeting so many different people, from all walks of Minthamee village life. Aung Myo Min and Chi Ko Ko introduced me to officers of the student group coordinating affairs, I met soldiers who regularly come into contact with Student forces, Karen villagers who along with their families had come to Minthamee for the celebrations, an American English teacher working in the next village, I even met an ex- Slorc soldier, one of many to desert. The 200 or so students along with their 50 families have been here for over eight years.

Many of these students and others were taking part in the monk's enrobement ceremony which was being held over the three days we were there. The ceremony itself involves two stages. The first stage the laymen are taken to the monastery where their head is shaved. They are then taken into monkshood as novices, where they are to learn the *Dhamma* from the senior monk and to wear the robes as a novice. The opportunity to become

a monk is offered to winners of a lottery. Those wishing to take part place their names in a hat and several are picked out at random. The lucky winners in this case were only allowed to become monks for a week. This is part of the strict criteria laid down by camp command and the new monks have to give their word that they will not forsake their commitment as soldiers for life as monk. The following morning the monks are ordained into full monkhood on a special raft on the Tennasserim river. The ceremony lasted several hours with the new monks reciting the pali they had memorized.

In the evening, the Thai reporter and I and the many friends we had made enjoyed the traditional dances celebrated by local and not so local men and women. Aung Myo Min's work as stage manager, stage builder, choreographer etc. combined with the delightful talents of the male and female dancers attracted a large crowd of about 250 people. What an event! The Thai reporter's camera was flashing non-stop along with many firecrackers. The single men took it on themselves to join the single lady dancers on stage in an unscripted display of bravado- a sort of romantic gesture to the young ladies, all of whom can be described as nothing less than beautiful. The night was rounded off by a video session which lasted until morning with some 200 people in front of an 18 inch TV screen. The cleverer members of the audience left the dances early in order to reserve seats. I was surprised to see no arguments break out as this sort of scenario in my house over Christmas always ends in fighting.

This event was repeated on the second night, with different dances and a chance for audience participation in the form of a karaoke. The student anthem was sung with as much heart as when I had first heard it at the Burmese arts and cultural concert comme-

morating '8-8-88'. As a total outsider the events of the two evenings showed something to me. It displayed a unity. It showed me how readily the people were willing to share everything they had from mosquito nets and food to the traditions of their religion and dance. Aung Myo Min explained to me how important it was for outsiders to come and witness this as it showed that there was interest from outside and these events weren't just occurring within a vacuum. However it seemed that it didn't matter that they were. The celebrations weren't meant for anybody in particular, it was just a case of everybody coming together and having some fun.

The irony of the situation confused me and added to the attraction of 'exotic' 'otherworldly' Minthamee. For eight years the people here had lived in harmony like this. It seemed to me a world of peace and tranquillity set in an idyllic landscape of rivers and jungle. Yet its *raison d'être* was war. It was an army barracks and the men trained soldiers. It was easy for me to forget this whilst I was there but for the inhabitants who bore the scars of the long fight against the evils of the Slorc dictatorship the celebrations only provided a brief respite.



*participants of collective ordination ceremony
in ABSDF Minthamee camp.*

STUDENTS' SPORT FESTIVAL AND THE MISERY OF THE PEOPLE

Slorc launched an annual sports program across the country late last year with the motto "Burmese sport has to be made famous all over the world". However, with the use of coercion in the organization of the yearly event, the Students' Sport Festival has instead become infamous to people in Burma.

The festival is organized in different states and divisions annually and many of the student athletes come from high schools across the country join in the event. Opening and closing ceremonies are held with hundreds of student dancers and musicians.

However, students are forced to contribute money to the festival and participation in the opening and closing events is mandatory for students, keeping them away from their study. Local people are also forced to donate money to the festival in the form of a tax, and unpaid labor and other forms of work are also imposed on the civilians.

The 7th Students' Sport festival of 1996 was held in Tavoy, Tenasserim Division from December 16. Prisoners were taken from the prisons and forced to work in the beautification projects in Tavoy before the festival began. Since the beginning of this year, a special fund committee was formed in every township to collect a levy from all

business owners and people. (DAWN. Vol.6 No.1)

Small businesses like tailors, hair saloons, bicycle shops, betel shops, lottery shops and noodle shops were not spared the daily tax of between 10-20 kyats over a 12 month period. Farmers and other agricultural producers were also levied on their production. Even livestock was taxed - for example, 15 kyats for one pig, goat, cow or buffalo. All government corporations and departments were also ordered to levy a fixed rate of 150 kyats for each trip of a passenger car in the townships, 500 kyats for one trip by boat to Rangoon, and 50 Kyats for one acre of rubber plantation per day. Moreover, anyone who needed to get a recommendation letter from the Township Lorc was forced to pay 500 kyats for the festival.

Ten townships in Tenasserim Division were also each allotted to donate five million kyats. Students were not spared either. From second standard to fifth standard, students were required to give 2,000 kyats, and for the high school students the money went up to between 5,000-10,000 kyats. Students were required to pay installments from the beginning of the year. They were threatened with failures in their exams if they could not pay the money.

Before the festival, every household in Tavoy township was also ordered to give five chickens and one basket of rice (costing 600 kyats per basket) to the Convening Committee of the Students' Festival. Slorc did not provide food for the over 10,000 student athletes in the festival, but the local people were forced to contribute. As a consequence, the price of food and commodities in Tavoy skyrocketed. Farm owners in Tavoy were also ordered to donate half of their daily farm products to the committee during the festival.

Similarly, the owners of buses and cars in the region were also ordered to have their cars on standby for the use of authorities during the festival. Nothing was given in compensation to these people.

Local authorities also ordered all residents in town to repair and paint their homes with their own money to make the town beautiful in the eyes of the SLORC leaders when they arrive and open the event. People were forced to contribute their labor to repair the main road and assist on other beautification projects.

According to former prison laborers from the Tavoy golf course project, there were about 100 prisoners working as prison labor. These prisoners were from different jails in Tenasserim division and were all sent to Tavoy prison in July for prison laboring projects in Tavoy, according to U Maung Aye (50) from Mergui township and Ko Win Aung (26) from Launglon township, both of who

recently escaped to the Thai-Burma border.

The golf course project, one of the beautification projects for the annual students' festival, was for the entertainment of the Slorc officials while they were in Tavoy, according to the escaped prisoners. The prisoners said that inmates were treated badly and forced to work long hours in order to finish the project in time. They were not given sufficient food or medicine. Ko Win Aung also said there were over one thousand prisoners working at four prison labor camps on the Ye-Tavoy railway construction project. Previously, only prisoners with long sentences had worked in labor camp, but now prisoners sentenced to just three months have not been spared.

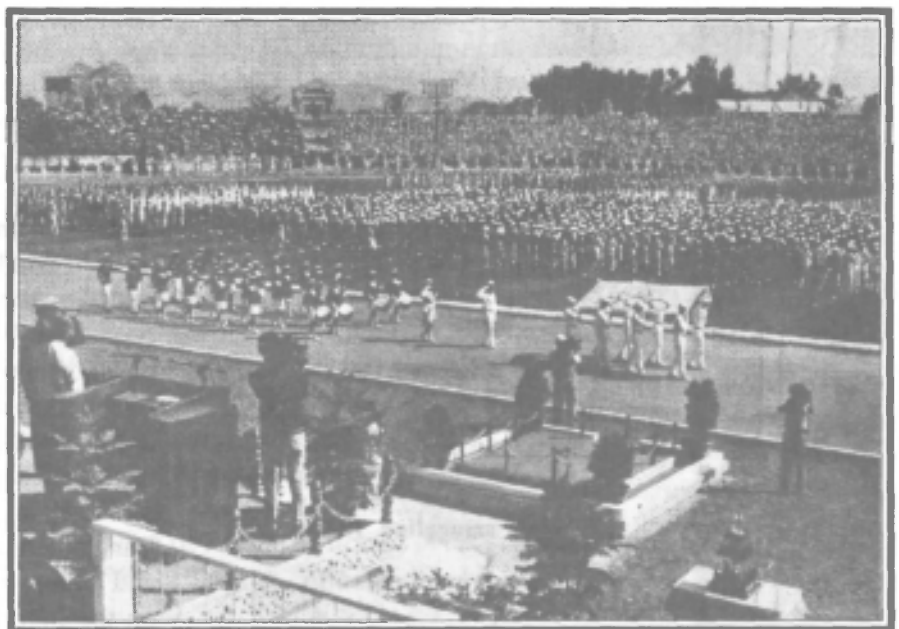
Every household and government offices in Division was forced to buy a cassette tape for 180 kyats to support the Students' Sport Festival. Those who deal with the Slorc authorities and offices were asked to pay more for the tape. One local said people who wanted to buy an air ticket from Kaw Thaug to Rangoon had to buy the tape for 1000 kyats at the Burmese Airway office. The same events were taken place at other ticket offices.

All high schools were closed for one month before the festival and high school girl students were kept busy rehearsing. Although, a large amount of money was forcibly taken from the local people in various forms, the girls still had to buy their own costume for the event.

Slorc authorities were also concerned about security at the festival following the recent student demonstrations in Rangoon. As a precaution, the authorities took action to prevent a possible student demonstration and some students were taken into custody before the festival. Troops were also deployed in Tavoy college compound and in high schools. Military Intelligence closely watched the student's movements in the

region and some were interrogated and questioned by MI officers. On September 29, six students were reportedly arrested for taking photo of a ruined USDA billboard in front of Tavoy township LORC. They were immediately arrested by the MI and taken to the police station. Their current situation is unknown.

Slorc's restrictions also extended to local entertainment. The *zat*, a popular Burmese traditional evening performance was not allowed to be performed for one month before the festival. Instead, they were ordered to perform every night during the sports festival without being paid. The artists, especially the comedians were under strict restrictions.



Students' Sport Festival and the Misery of the People in Tenasserim Division.

NEW ROUTE TO INDIA: Trade or Heroin?

Burma's border with India, which stretches more than 1,600 kilometers through dense jungle along the Himalayan foothills, is impossible to patrol. Now it has become an alternative route for heroin smuggling that has allowed heroin or opium to flow freely from Burma into India.

During the past eight years, the Slorc has alienated all sections of the population in Burma. The massive militarisation of the country has led to a stagnant and regressive economy. The Slorc has been trying to generate some growth in the economy with the help of certain multinational companies but even that attempt has failed.

Crippled by a stagnant economy, the Slorc has taken recourse to the criminal and inhumane option of promoting opium cultivation and processing, and exporting heroin. Foreign narcotics experts estimated the opium-growing tri-border region of Burma, Laos and Thailand yielded a harvest of 3,000 tons in this year's growing

season, a 10 percent increase over last year and about 60% of the global supply. After the opium harvest is refined, it could yield as much as 300 tons of pure heroin.

One convenient route the Slorc has discovered for the drug is into northeast India where huge quantities of heroin have been shipped. From there the dangerous drug is then sent to the Indian metropolitan cities of Bombay and Delhi. Through transit points such as New Delhi and Bombay, pure-grade "Number Four" heroin is moved on to the Middle East, Europe and the US. But a substantial quantity finds its consumers in India itself, exacting an awful toll through addiction and disease and giving rise to drug addiction and associated hazards among youth in the north-east and in the urban centers of India. In the northeastern state of Manipur, infection with the AIDS virus, spread by heroin users sharing needles, is rampant.

The drug traffic into India has been spurred on by Slorc's cease-fire agreements with three rebel groups - Khun Sa's Mong Tai Army, the Wa national Organization and the Shan State Army. These outfits, now transport heroin openly across Burma in trucks sporting "Peace Group" stickers on their windshields. With this permit, issued by the minions of General Khin Nyunt, Sec-1 of Slorc, drivers are waved through many checkpoints on roads from opium-growing areas to the central city of Mandalay. In Mandalay, the drug haul is often unloaded at a hotel and sent to Singapore via Rangoon and to India, Bangladesh and Nepal through Kalay and Tamu - two small Burmese towns on the Indian border - either in army vehicles or in river ferries owned by a military welfare association.

The surrender of drug warlord

Before the Slorc take
over in 1988, only 3%
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Because of this large
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been lowered.

Khun Sa in January last year to Slorc brought with it the expectation that the production of opium would decrease. Instead, Burma's opium harvest has jumped 9% in one year to 2,560 tons in 1996, according to the US State Department. Khun Sa was freed without any punishment for his previous involvement in drug smuggling. He has been given concessions to run a bus service and a commercial passenger airline for domestic routes. He has also invested in a hotel in Rangoon, a Burmese beach resort and a transport business in northern Burma, according to his former officer. Khun Sa presently lives in a house adjacent to that of General Ne Win, on the same beach of Inya Lake in Rangoon.

Slorc has not only given a free hand to the Wa, Kokant and Khun Sa, but it is clear that the Slorc is itself directly involved in this drug trade. To cite one incident, some Narcotics Enforcement Officers rounded up a Kokant car loaded with 20 kgs of heroin in Lashio in Shan State. Immediately, Gen. Khin Nyunt, the chief of Military Intelligence Service (MIS) intervened and the car was released without any action taken.

More and more evidence is coming to light to prove the direct hand of Slorc officers in drug peddling. Virtually all petty and large scale smugglers of heroin through Tamu have to pay a bribe of an amount ranging from 5000 to 15000 Kyats per month to the Narcotic Drug Enforcement Department, the Burmese Army Officials, DDSI-17, Immigration and Police officials. Of the amounts paid to each department or official, the highest of course goes to the Army officials.

Major Khin Maung Soe, the local army commander of Light Infantry Battalion (LIB 89) posted on the Indian border during 1989-91, is reported to have gained 12 million Kyat from heroin smuggling in just one year. Captain Than Htay Aung, Sergeant Major Hla Nyo and Sergeant Thein Zaw of the DDSI-17 have also been directly involved in the carriage and smuggling of heroin into India and importing large quantities of the drug Phensydile into Burma.

After the signing of the Indo-Burma Trade Treaty, the drug barons felt encouraged to exploit the North-East Indian route for smuggling heroin.

In 1992-93, Wa and Kokant drug mafia leaders visited Tamu to establish contacts and exploit the opportunity for smuggling heroin. They had found a new and very convenient route for smuggling heroin through north-east India through to Chittagong, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bombay and Delhi. Now huge quantities of heroin could be smuggled to these places which would then be taken to their final destinations in Europe and the US. The entry of heroin in north-east India from Burma is reported to be in four states - Mizoram (through Lungbung, Ngarchhip and Champhai); Manipur (through Behiang, New Somtal, Moreh, Kasom Khullen Kultuk and Tijsom); Nagaland (through Noklak); and Arunachal Pradesh (through Vijaynagar). Among these places, Moreh and New Somtal are considered to be the major points of entry. From the Burmese town of Bokkan near Khampat, the drug goes to New Somtal and then to Churachandpur. Heroin comes to Moreh from Tamu and is sent along the Indian national highway No.39.

Before the Slorc take over in 1988, only 3% of Burmese heroin was exported through north-east India, but now it has reached a height of 12%. Because of this large scale smuggling, the price of heroin has also been lowered. Since 1992, the price of heroin in north-east India has halved for local products, and dropped slightly for high quality

h e r o i n
f r o m
Mandalay.

The heroin
p a c k e t s
smuggled
through
north-east
India bear
the trade
mark of
"Lion and
Glove" or
" 5 5 5 ".
E a r l i e r
most of the
h e r o i n
came in

**Foreign narcotics experts
estimated the opium-growing tri-
border region of Burma, Laos and
Thailand gielded a harvest of
3,000 tons in this year's
growing season, a 10 percent
increase over last gear and about
60% of the global supply.**

one kilogram packets, but now some quantities are smuggled in smaller packets of 1/3 kilogram, obviously for sale in the local north-east Indian market.

Two new heroin refineries have also been established near the Indian border - one at Hommalin and the other at Tahan near Kalay in Sagaing Division. For the Tahan Refinery, raw-opium is bought from Tonzan township in Chin State where about 120 hectares of land is under opium cultivation. The possibility of the involvement of Slorc's agencies, and the security forces in particular, in smuggling and providing protection cannot be ruled out. Members of Slorc's army are suspected of involvement in the trafficking, if not directly but indirectly by giving safe passage or protection to the refineries in the region.

The following table shows the area under opium cultivation, the level of heroin production and of heroin ex-ports from 1987 to 1995. It indicates how these organized drug operations at the center of the Golden Triangle have received a boost following Slorc's military take over in 1988.

The comparatively little decline in production in 1995 may be due to the Slorc's war with drug warlord, Khun Sa. However, it seems there has been a truce between the drug forces and

the Slorc after a report that Khun Sa paid 400 million dollars to Slorc to ensure his safety.

To conclude, it is clear that the Slorc regime is directly involved in drug production, drug processing and heroin smuggling. The Slorc is not only politically bankrupt, it is also economically bankrupt and it needs to make money somehow to purchase arms and ammunition to crush Burma's democratic movement. Therefore, the military regime has embarked on this dangerous trafficking in heroin. The signing of the Indo-Burma Trade Treaty has also given greater scope to the Slorc and the drug barons to push heroin through north-east India and eventually to the West. By entering into this Trade Treaty, India has opened the gate for drug traffickers and this may be one of the reasons for the increase in drug addiction in north-east India in recent years. It is high time that we realize the terrible dangers of the drug trade promoted by the Slorc, which poses not only a regional threat but a threat of international dimensions, but we also take concrete steps to stop it.

References:

All Burma Students League, December 6, 1996
Cross border smuggling: Heroin and Teak into Manipur and India, by Oinam Sunil

Year	Area under opium cultivation (in Hectors)	Total heroin production (in metric tons)	Total heroin export (in metric tons)
1987	92,300	53	51.00
1988	103,200	66	66.00
1989	142,742	128	123.50
1990	150,742	180	174.50
1991	161,012	185	181.50
1992	153,700	180	179.50
1993	165,800	190	186.50
1994	175,200	195	191.00
1995	150,000	175	170.00

SLORC

HELLS

KARENNI

REFUGEE

CAMPS



Nam Ai Pyin, 19, a victim of attack seen after her death. Security and safety of the refugees along the border has yet to concern.

A unit under the command of Light Infantry Battalion 302 shelled two Karenni refugee camps in the early morning of January 3, 1997, killing two refugees and wounding eleven others, according to ABSDF sources.

The shelling occurred at 2:33 am at the two refugee camps inside Thailand about six kilometers from the Thai-Burma border, opposite Mae Hong Son. Slorc's Light Infantry Battalions 302 is situated close by on the Burmese side of the border near Border Point 9. The shelling lasted about 20 minutes in which the Slorc troops used 60mm, 40mm, RPG anti-tank launchers and AK-47 assault rifles.

According to ABSDF sources on the border, it was the first attack launched inside Thailand by Burmese troops from Karenni areas.

The two refugees who were killed by the shelling were Aike Phone, (male), aged 35, and Nam Ai Pyin (female) aged 19 and a mother of a two year-old baby. All five members of Nam Ai Phyin's family were wounded by the shrapnel. Her husband, 20 year-old Aike Ye, was seriously wounded and her daughter Nam Myint Oo was wounded in both her legs. Her father, U San Phon, 67, was wounded in his shoulders and hips and

her mother, Daw Bar Mai suffered wounds to her mouth. Nine other refugees, including a two year old girl, were seriously injured from the shelling, one of whom is U Bawga. All wounded were being treated in the hospital in Mae Hong Son.

The Slorc commando unit left uniforms and literature published by the breakaway KNPP faction, known as the Karenni National Democratic Party (KNDP), in an attempt to blame the faction for the attack. As they left the camp, the attackers also razed rice stores.

According to sources from the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), the breakaway faction is based at Daw Nyi Khu along with Infantry Regiment 430, in Demawsoe township.

Citing the long distance between Daw Nyi Khu and the Thai-Burma border, sources on the border near Mae Hong Son believe that the attack was not carried out by the renegade group, but rather by Light Infantry Battalion 302, which is based near the border.

In a similar incident in 1994, the Slorc troops launched an offensive against a large Mon refugee camp known as Holockani near Kanchanaburi. Throughout 1995 and 1996 the Democratic Karen Buddhist Organization

launched scores of similar attacks on Karen refugees, killing over forty people and kidnapping scores of others.

The Thai army responded to the attack by sending additional army and Border Patrol Police to the checkpoint outside the camp, but it was not

and called on the Thai government to provide improved protection for this and other camps which are perilously close to the Burmese border.

"These attack on unarmed civilians were clearly in violation of Common Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, prohibiting violence

against non-combatants, to which Burma is a signatory" Human Rights Watch/Asia said in a press release. It also called on the Slorc to ensure that no further attacks take place on unarmed refugees, and called on the Thai Government to improve security in the camps so that any attempts by troops to enter Thailand and commit such abuses will be repelled.



Nam Ai Pyint A victim of attack, seen after her death

clear if they planned to remain there permanently.

Karenni camp-2, where the attack was carried out, houses over 6,000 refugees from Burma's Karenni state, half of whom fled Burma during 1996 as the Slorc implemented a forced relocation of 20,000 villagers in Shardaw and Ywathit townships in Karenni state. Since the attack over 2,000 residents of the lower part of camp-2 have fled the area. They were prevented from moving deeper into Thailand by Thai Border Patrol Police, and are believed to be hiding in the mountainous jungle which marks the border between the two countries. While there is an office of the Thai Ministry of Interior in camp-2, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), does not have a presence there and the camps are supported by non-governmental organizations.

New York based Human Rights Watch/Asia expressed their concern regarding the attack

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Human Rights Profile.....



Name	Private Win Zaw
Date of Interview	January 4, 1997
Battalion	LIB 429, 99 Division, Bawlake township
Parents' name	U Chit Maung and Daw Chit Mi (deceased)
Address	Sin-te village, Promé, Pegu Division.
Spouse's name	Ei Yon (21-year-old Karenni)
Date of defection	December 16, 1996
date of arrival	January 1, 1997

I joined the army merely because I did not have other work to do. I hoped the work in the army would be better than the other odd job. I joined army on December 8, 1988. After my six-month military training, I was assigned at LIB 54, Loikaw, Karenni State. I was assigned there 1989-92. From 1992 to 1996, I was assigned at LIB 429, Bawlake township, Karenni State. The commander of the division was Lt-Col. Kyi Nyunt and second commander was Major Chit Oo. My platoon commander was second warrant officer Khin Maung Ohn. He always treated his privates badly and beaten them up whenever he was not in good mood. It became custom in the army that the superior beat his lower soldiers. Nobody took any action against this bad habit even though the inferior reported to the officers. I was beaten by Khin Maung Ohn several times.

During last year, the financial department of our division lent some money to the ranks and files in the division. For private the department lent 12,500 kyats and for corporal 13,500 was lent. They department later monthly deducted from our salaries. In December, I was lent 12,500 kyats by the department when our platoon stationed at Shardaw. Warrant officer Khin Maung Ohn used up all my money at the gambling den. When I asked the money to give me back, he did not give me and beat me up. I could never forgive and tolerate anymore. I was waiting for the opportunity to run away from the army. As soon as when I had a chance, I fled with my wife and G.3 rifle.

There is a big gap between the officials and low rank soldiers in every aspect. Only the superior officials are granted privilege in terms of social, financial and others. While the officials are enjoying their privileges, the low rank privates especially those with families face insufficient food and supplies. Low rank soldiers are having a miserable sky-rocking prices of commodities. It costs 1000 kyats for a bag of rice, 60 kyats for a *Pyi* (Burmese scale) of rice, about 200 kyats for a viss of chicken and 8 kyats for an egg. While we are struggling hardly to survive with it, the superior officials are enjoying in their luxurious lives with the money earned from their taxation of porter fees as well as black money from the timber and animals smuggling. This is one of the main reasons for large number of defectors recently. Some defected or deserted with their whole family. When the deserted soldiers are reasserted, they are sentenced to three years in prison and later sent to *Wunson* Porter Division No.1, based in Loikaw township, Karenni State. From LIB.429, about six soldiers including Private Myint Naing, Private Ah Tun are still in prison for desertion from the army. I think at least 50 deserters are being held in *Wunson* Porter Division.

Many young soldiers also deserted from the army because they were forced to join the army without their will. Since 1994, every family who has more than three sons in the Karenni State has been ordered to give one son for army recruitment.

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Human Rights Profile



Name	Bu Mei
age	around 20 year old
Address	Daw Hlar Ku village, Shadaw township, Karenni State
parents' name	Ne Rei and Ne Mei (both deceased)
religion	Karenni, Christian
arrived to border	last week of October
place of interview	Karenni refugee camp (2)
date of interview	November 20, 1996

My village has been given an order by Slorc to relocate to Shardaw since last February. Some villagers fled to Thailand, but none moved to the Slorc's designated area in a fear of more abuses by the Slorc. Some also remained in the village because they neither wanted to go to the border refugee camp nor to the new relocation site in Shardaw. I decided to remain in village with my foster mother as she was so old (70 years old).

In September last week, a military column of IB No. 306 suddenly arrived to our village. They randomly arrested the villagers who could not escape immediate. Many ran way outside of the village. I tried to run away, but I was caught by a soldiers. They grabbed and taken to the place where they were stationing in the village. Some villagers mostly children and elderly were also arrested.

I did not understand Burmese so that I did not know what they said to me. However, I a little

bit understood their mime and body language that meant they would kill me if I attempted to escape. They asked me many questions that I did not understand at all. The officer got mad at me and the soldiers kicked with their military boot into my chest and legs. I could not stand up due to their beating all over my body. You can see the scare in my body as the result of it. No food or medicine was given. Then they tied robe at my neck, hand and waist with the tree.

At night, the soldiers came and gang-raped me. I could not remember how many. I screamed and asked for help, but vain. When I refused their will, I was beaten up. They punched and splashed into my face. It occurred every night until I was escaped. After ten days, they untied the rope and then I ran away. I did not know the route to border. Fortunately, I met some other Karenni village who were on the way to the border. So I joined with them and arrived here at the end of October.

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Some could afford to find the substitute person by paying large sum of money. But many could not, so that their son had to join the army without their will. They are forced to serve in the army at least five years. Some desert while they are in the training school and some desert when they have a opportunity. There are many under-aged soldiers in my battalion. About 30 are under-aged soldiers in which 15 are only 13-14 years old children. Many of them wish to run away from the army. I am sure they would run away when they have a chance.

A division of LIB 429 is currently stationing at Shardaw and monitoring the forced relocation sites in the township. A motor-road construction between Shardaw-Tatamaw is being built up with forced labor of the local people. All the trees beside the motor-road have been cut down by the order of commander Lt-Col. Kyi Nyunt. It aimed to prevent the ambush attack by the ethnic forces to the motor-road in the future. there is no tree along the road and forced laborers are working under the torching sun.

A farmers in Dipeyin township, Sagaing division staged a strike against the Slorc's policy of rice purchasing. It was happened due to dissatisfaction of the farmers who were forced to sell their paddy to State Law and Order Restoration Council at the rate of 14,000.00 Kyats per 100 baskets where the market price is 35,000.00 Kyats.

The protest started by the farmers from Inpin village of Dipeyin township and they went on street and marched to Dipeyin town. More than 3,000 farmers from Ohndabin, Pauktaw, Khada and Methae villages located along the car road to Dipeyin joined the protest.

While the farmers were marching on the way to Dipeyin the University students joined hand in hand with them and guide them to be systematic and peaceful demonstration. They shouted their demands while on the way to Dipeyin.

Their demands are as follow;

1. Stop unjust repression upon peasants.
2. Reduce the heavy taxation upon farmers.
3. Stop force-buying of crops by inappropriate price.
4. Allow to form independent peasants union.

Despite the threat of gunpoint by the arm forces led by the Township Law and Order Restoration Council, chairman U Tin Htoo and police (O.C) U Than Oo, the peasants rally advanced to Dipeyin.

After half an hour of the arrival of the rally at Dipeyin, the Divisional Lorc chairman and commander of North West Command Maj. Gen. Hla Myint Swe asked the peasants for a negotiation. When the peasants rally enter the Saya San Hall at Dipeyin, the Slorc people used video cameras to film each and every one, who participated in the rally.

When the farmers discussed with Maj. Gen. Hla Myint Swe, they demanded to stop forced buying of paddy and crops by unsuitable price and demanded to sell fertilizer to those farmers who sell paddy to the Slorc. Beside that they complained regarding the false

statistic and data forwarded to higher officers by the Township Lore in which they have shown less acreage of paddy growing fields. They also complained against the corruption of irrigation department where has been an usual practice of talking money from the farmers while irrigating their fields.

Maj. Gen. Hla Myint Swe responded as follows;

1. Farmers demands will be forwarded to the higher Slorc authorities.
2. If there is any problem for peasants they can represent those things step by and systematically.
3. This act of demonstration of farmers is an act which provoke instability of the state law order and also against the present rules and regulations.
4. Those we can forgive the recent peasants' protest but we can't bear any such repeated activities in future.
5. Such actions will be drastically responded.

Soon after the above mentioned discussion, the farmers were sent back to their respective villages by buses arranged by authorities.

On that very night military forces entered the concerned villages and arrested those who actively participated in the rally. Among the persons arrested up to now, Ma Moe Moe a Mandalay university student in also included. Family members of anyone is not allowed to meet those arrested and nobody knows the venue of their detention.

The chairman of the Dipeyin Township Law and Order Restoration Council summoned one person from each house hold to attend the independence day meeting at Min Swe village without fail. There he told that the chairman of Divisional Law and Order Restoration Council and the Divisional Commanding Officer is very much angry with the recent demonstration of farmers and he warned that this kind of farmers' action will be strictly responded in the future.

Slorc Hands Over Namtee Sugar Mill To The KIO

As an economic privilege, the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) handed over the Namtee Sugar Mill, situated in Moekaung Township, Kachin State, to the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) which reached an cease-fire agreement with the Slorc in 1994.

The mill was not in operational condition at the time that Slorc handed it over to the KIO because the workers had sold off the tools from the mill when they heard the news that this mill was going to be given to the KIO. The KIO is now purchasing the necessary equipment for the mill from China's Yunan Province. There are about 100 workers working in that factory, and the KIO has also hired a number of skilled workers. The salaries of the workers vary from 2,000 Kyat to 10,000 Kyat a month.

The KIO has spent a lot of money on this mill. However, it has not been able to gain any profits as production at the mill has not yet begun. Furthermore, the KIO is having problems in transporting essential equipment and machine spare parts from China.

During the period of the Burmese Socialist Program Party (BSPP), there were two sugar mills in Hsarhmaw and Namtee within Kachin state. Hsarhmaw Sugar Mill was shut down when Infantry Battalion (IB) No. 105 was established there in 1980. Namtee sugar mill was poorly run under the BSPP's so-called Economic Projects and had a low production rate.

At that time, people were being forced to grow sugar cane, and the government paid them low prices for their crops. Therefore, sugar cane growers left for Pharkang jade mine area to find another livelihood. The departure of the sugar cane growers resulted in a lack of raw materials for the mills. The KIO now has to organize the local people to grow sugar cane for them.

It appears that the business ventures granted by the Slorc to the cease-fire groups

are not in operational condition when they are awarded. Regarding such ventures, local people watch with interest to see if they can be turned into profitable enterprises.

Students are being disturbed by not granting permit to attend the school

Local authorities from collage of Kalay town, Sagaing division already announced that the collage would be reopened on 20th January 1997. But in their announcement students who want to attend the collage should obtain permit from Township Law and Order Restoration Council.

The students from Tamu town have no chance to attend the collage because, they are not granted permit by Tamu township Law and Order Restoration Council chairman Capt. Kaung Zan Oo.

Custom of Monywa blocked all trucks carrying goods from Mandalay To Tamu

Since January 9, 1997 trucks carrying goods from Mandalay to Tamu border town of Indo-Burma border were blocked by custom of Monywa Sagaing division. As such the prices of basic commodities rise up in Tamu (Indo-Burma border areas).

Though the border trade between Indian and Burma had been opened since April 12, 1995, the merchants and traders are transporting goods unofficially by bribing all the check points along the way.

The merchants who got import, export license from Tamu said if they transport officially, there are many formalities and take time. The taxes are very much high as well. So, they usually transport all kind of goods unofficially.

In border trade if we compare two countries, goods exported from India side are much greater than Burma. Border trade is only one side. That's why trade minister Gen. Tun Kyi is very much angry with this situation and threatened that he was going to close border trade.

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Two Chinese women arrested by the Slorc troops

On December 4, 1996, over 30 soldiers from the Slorc Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) No. 319 which is under the command of Banmaw Strategic Command (Slorc), arrested two Chinese women on Sino-Burma border. This incident was reported by timber workers from the border area.

The workers from China are working on logging concession in the Palumbum range near Nalone village, Momauk township, Kachin state which is under the control of Kachin Independent Organization (KIO). Soldiers from LIB No. 319 outpost located close to the logging area came and arrested the two women who were collecting traditional herbs for medicine in that area. No one knows that where they have been taken and they have still not been released yet. Similarly, on November 21, 9 Slorc troops from Dawphoneyang outpost in Momauk township pass over the KIO Khalayan outpost also arrested five Chinese logging workers. These logging workers were released after 40,000 Yuan (Approximately \$ 5,000 US) bribe paid to the Slorc officers, a Chinese logging businessman said.

In the last year dry season, the KIO was selling logging tender of hardwood to the Chinese private businessmen in KIO controlled area along Sino-Burma border. However, the Slorc Northern Military Command also made a secret agreement with Chinese logging companies from Paotian district, Yunan province since last October. Therefore, observers interpret the situation as a deliberate interference in the KIO's business activities.

KIO started selling logging tenders to China after their cease-fire with Slorc in 1994. Despite this, Slorc's military columns often come and seize goods or money and beat the people who are working in that logging concession area. At the end of 1995, LIB No. 437 of Painne Slorc military outpost which is situated near Nalone village, Momauk township, led by Maj. Sein Pu arrested 17 men, 2 women, 3 logging trucks, 24

mules and seized jewelry and one walkie-talkie. In addition, they raped two 22-year-old Chinese women. One woman died from the gang-rape by the Slorc soldiers and the other one managed to escape. The logging company also had to give a bribe of 2 million Kyat (Approximately \$ 13,793 US) to Capt. Ko Myo and also had to pay bribes of 10,000 Kyat (Approximately \$ 69 US) for each logging truck.

In this dry season, if the Slorc's military columns interfere the logging concessions of the KIO, with whom it has a cease-fire agreement, it would be military tension between the KIO and the Slorc, said the observers.

SLORC Pressures KIO to Relocate Villagers

Locals in Moemauk town, Banmaw District, near the Sino-Burma border, informed the ABSDF that the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) has pressured the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO) to relocate villagers in the area to designated areas under military control.

One of these designated areas is Nalone village. The primary school the Slorc has set up there has had to be closed because the village has only about ten households.

The locals also told the ABSDF that the military is pressuring the KIO to allow an army outpost and police, customs and immigration to be stationed at Loizar village on the border. However, they say due to the small size of the village, this is not practical.

The locals believe these demands by the military are just the beginning of what the military does to armed ethnic groups after it agrees to a cease-fire with them.

Mass forced relocations in Tenasserim Division

Since the new Coastal Region Military Command was founded at the beginning of this year, people from the coastal region have suffered a new wave of human rights abuses.

These abuses have been carried out under the command of the new Regional Military Commander in Tenasserim Division, Brigadier General Thiha Thura Sit Maung, who has received high military awards while leading campaigns against the Shan communists in 1977 and for the recent occupation of Three Pagodas Pass. He was educated at Rangoon University and is considered a very brave, cunning and talented soldier.

According to local sources, Slorc created this new regional command headquarters for the following reasons: to divide the armed revolutionary forces; to build up military power to control the local population; to develop Tenasserim division as an economic region; as a preliminary operation to ensure all resistance to the Ye-Tavoy railway and gas pipeline construction during the coming dry season will be countered; and to stabilize the military's power in the region.

Sit Maung has developed a harsh strategy to end ethnic self-determination movements in the Tenasserim area. On June 6, 1996, in Theyet Chaung township, he outlined this strategy in some detail. The major tactics he

announced were:

1. if the insurgents fire a gun in any of the villages, this village is to be relocated within seven days,
2. if an insurgent group attacks inside Slorc territory, all the villages that the insurgent groups came through will have to move,
3. if any Slorc soldiers die during the fighting, the village that is nearest the fighting will have to pay compensation amounting to 50,000 kyats for each dead body,
4. if the insurgents take military equipment or food, the nearest village will have to pay the full cost,
5. if any Slorc arms are lost the nearest village will have to pay compensation amounting to 15,000 kyats,
6. the village where any battle takes place will be burnt down and any insurgent supporter exposed (Slorc's rationale is that the rebel soldiers can be seen in the jungle. However, if they are not visible, the assumption is that local people must therefore be hiding them. These people who are supporting the rebels must then be exposed).

The order for the relocation was issued by the newly established Coastal Region Military

Refugees mostly women and children fleeing due to the mass relocation in Tenasserim division.



Command under the Slorc's ongoing "Four Cuts" campaign in the area, which aims to cut off finance, food, intelligence and recruits to the ethnic armed forces. According to the order, the Slorc authorities accused the local people of failing to obey previous orders that demanded them to report the activities of ethnic armed forces and ABSDF students.

Slorc has been conducting a mass relocation operation in Tenasserim Division since May 1996 that has resulted in more than 25,000 people to be forcibly removed from their villages to new areas under Slorc control.

Altogether over 5,200 families from 79 villages in Tenasserim, Boke Pyin and Kyunsuu townships in the Tenasserim Division in the southern coastal region of Burma have been affected by the forced relocation.

Under the forced relocation, families were ordered to move out from their native village within a very short period of time, and leave behind all their belongings. Slorc threatened that any one found in their native village after the deadline would be killed without any further questioning.

During this forced relocation, brutal massacres have also been taking place in the area by the military. In June, 1996, 87 people were killed

in Kyunsuu township on Don Island, and in May another 36 people were killed in the island's Eastern Mergui township. One eyewitness said all of the victims were innocent people working on the island and had no connection with the armed groups in the region.

In May, seven family members including an infant were brutally shot and killed by Light Infantry Battalion (LIB) 358 in Bokeypyin township in Kyein-me Taung. Six civilians were also killed by a military column led by Major Htun Hla from LIB 17 in Tenasserim Township in Pawa Chaungwa.

In addition to this, people living near military barracks are arbitrary arrested and forced to work in the construction of new military bases, and they have experienced other forms of human rights abuses by the military. They are also subjected to being moved from their villages to new places under military control in the aim to cut support to the armed resistance forces in the region. These people are also made available any time the military needs forced labor and porters. As a result of the forced relocation order, people have had to leave their homes and property behind when they move to a new place. This suffering continues in

their home where they are subjected to forced labor and being used as porters. As a consequence, these abuses have created an increasing flow of refugees to border areas..



Newly-established Coastal Region Military Command has intensified more brutal abuses. Refugees on their way to border.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

List of the villages under mass relocation order in Tenasserim division

No.	name of village	township	households	nationality
1.	Kaw Ma Pyin (east bank)	Tenasserim	65	Karen
2.	Wah Swey	"	40	Karen
3.	Hnod Kathit	"	35	Karen
4.	Ka Wat	"	170	Karen
5.	Kyauk Pyu	"	20	Karen
6.	Lu Khee Pha Do	"	20	Karen
7.	Pyin Kadoe	"	90	Burmese
8.	Pain Chaung	"	75	Karen
9.	Moe Myay	"	102	Karen/Burmese
10.	Ein Pyin	"	15	Karen
11.	Bud Sa Nwin	"	21	Karen
12.	Ton Pyaw Kyi	"	200	Muslim
13.	Ton Pyaw Nge	"	275	Muslim/Burmese
14.	La Tha	"	100	Burmese
15.	Hmwe Shaung	"	65	Burmese
16.	Doo Kyo	"	35	Karen
17.	Lay Mile	"	15	Burmese
18.	Yekhan Chaung	"	55	Karen
19.	Kyauk Talon	"	40	Burmese
20.	Nga Yant Ein	"	62	Karen/Burmese
21.	Anar Chaung	"	40	Karen
22.	Pawa Ywama	"	185	Burmese
23.	Pawa Htaukma	"	unknown	Karen
24.	Mee Laung Kwin	"	165	Burmese
25.	Pawa Htein	"	135	Karen/Burmese
26.	Pawa Kwinshe	"	unknown	Karen
27.	Pawa Phardo	"	unknown	Karen
28.	Pawa Phope	"	unknown	Karen
29.	Pawa Pindaw	"	185	Burmese
30.	Pawa Ohn Pin Kwin	"	unknown	Karen
31.	Pawa Myay Pyar	"	55	Karen/Burmese
32.	Pawa Yaung Makyo	"	35	Burmese
33.	Thet Ke Kyin	"	unknown	Burmese
34.	Le Thit (East bank)	"	90	Burmese
35.	Te Khun Net Saung	"	8	Burmese
36.	Pe Lin Mo	"	25	Burmese
37.	Shan Pon	"	150	Burmese
38.	Shaw Taw Maw	"	227	Burmese

List of the villages under mass relocation order in Tenasserim division

No.	name of village	township	households	nationality
39.	Mai Thway	"	175	Burmese
40.	Ywa Thit	"	85	Burmese
41.	Kwat Thit	"	75	Burmese
42.	Oo Yin Gyi	"	35	Burmese
43.	Kyauk Talon (Chaung Nge)	"	25	Shan
44.	Kywe Kayan (Chaung Nge)	"	40	Shan
45.	Taung Pain (Chaung Nge)	"	20	Shan/Burmese
46.	Hton Khar	"	20	Shan
47.	Shan Eindaw	"	70	Shan
48.	Kyauk Chaung	"	15	Karen
49.	Kan Malai	"	40	Shan/Burmese
50.	Kauk Yun	"	20	Shan/Burmese
51.	Thein Khun	"	500	Shan
52.	Sin Khaung Ai	"	20	Burmese
53.	Ta Kwat Taung Pain	"	150	Burmese
54.	Htan Pin Gone	"	100	Karen
55.	Thin Bon Kyun	Kyun Suu	33	Burmese
56.	Pet Dai	"	197	Burmese
57.	Kamar Chaung	"	56	Burmese
58.	Than Pyar	"	43	Burmese
59.	Banda Ne	"	38	Burmese
60.	Myaing Tha	"	53	Burmese
61.	Kan Tha	"	38	Burmese
62.	Kyun Tha	"	40	Burmese
63.	Taung Kanlant	"	30	Burmese
64.	Kyauk Tan Nge	"	60	Burmese
65.	Pyin Tha	"	112	Burmese
66.	Taung Naut	"	40	Burmese
67.	Sit Bu	"	185	Burmese
68.	Tapaung Taung	"	170	Burmese
69.	Taung Kanlant (Sit Bu)	"	60	Burmese
70.	Layyin Kwin	"	40	Burmese
71.	Kaw Kanin	"	62	Burmese
72.	Kyauk Kon	"	169	Burmese
73.	Kyauk Peik	"	123	Burmese
74.	Sin Kuu	"	95	Karen
75.	Si Ton	"	30	Burmese
76.	Ye Aye	"	150	Burmese
77.	Kalin Bell	"	unknown	Burmese
78.	Chaung Ka Phee	Bokepyin	300	Burmese
79.	Taw Wai Maw	Bokepyin	80	Burmese

Farmers In Irrawaddy Division Face Arrests

A report from inside Burma shows that farmers in Irrawaddy Division were arrested for not meeting the rice selling quota posted by the Burmese military authorities. A number of farmers had been detained and sentenced up to one year with hard labor for the crime.

After the last harvest the farming communities in the Irrawaddy Delta found that their crop output had dwindled compared to that of the year before. They blamed the bad weather for having such a scanty yield. But the State Law and Order Restoration Council (Slorc) did not blame the weather; they held farmers responsible for not being able to supply the pre-determined amount of rice to the Slorc.

Farmers in Burma are required to sell a part of their crop at fixed price to the government in accordance with the acres they own - 420 kg per acre.

The authorities determine the price of rice in advance. This has been in practice since the Slorc seized power in 1988.

Ever since, the military regime has doubled its efforts to buy more rice from farmers at pre-determined prices. Rice is one of main foreign currency earners in Burma.

Reportedly there had been mass arrests of farmers who were not able to come up with the quota in the Delta. Some of the farmers have been sentenced to a prison term for the crime and sent to labor camps.

In order to meet the quota, many farmers had to sell their assets including homes, paddy fields and cattle to buy the necessary amount of rice from other areas to fill up the quota. This rice was then sold to the Irrawaddy Division Law and Order Restoration Council.

The report also mentioned that the farmers who had nothing to sell other than their paddy fields had run away from their homes with their families and that some other farmers who were old and feeble committed suicide because they could not

escape like others.

Due to the problems that have arisen during the last harvest, the population of farmers in that area has decreased and consequently the paddy fields have been left uncultivated.

U Win Htein, a close aide of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, was arrested early this year for collaborating with farmers in the Delta region to video the paddy fields with dry plants under the Slorc's special programs. He was later sentenced to 7 years imprisonment.

In an attempt to solve the problem, the Slorc later released the farmers who had been imprisoned for not providing enough rice. The farmers however had to sign agreements for the fiscal year 1996-97 to sell Slorc the pre-determined quota of rice from the new harvest plus the amount left unpaid by the farmers.

These problems were especially rampant in the townships of Bo Galay, Kyait Lat, Phya Pon and Daedaye in Irrawaddy Division.

The following is a partial list of farmers who were arrested and who spent time in labor camps.

Note: The names of the farmers and villages have been changed for security reasons.

[1]

Name:	U Ba San
Father's Name:	U Mya Gyi
Address:	Ywa Thaya village, Kyait Lat township, Irrawaddy Division.

U Ba San was sentenced to jail for one year with hard labor and was later sent to Shwe Laik Kyin prison labor camp. He owns six acres of paddy fields. He was not able to sell the full amount of the quota. At the time of reporting, he still owes 1,995 kilograms of rice to the Slorc.

[2]

Name : U Than Kyi
 Father's Name: U Myint Hlaing
 Address: Ywa Thaya village,
 Kyait Lat township,
 Irrawaddy Division.

U Than Kyi was sentenced to jail for one year with hard labor and was sent to Shwe Laik Kyin prison labor camp. He owns 30 acres of paddy fields. He still owes 12,600 kilograms of rice to the Slorc.

[3]

Name: Ko Kyi Nyo
 Father's Name: U Htaik
 Address: Ywa Thaya village,
 Kyait Lat township,
 Irrawaddy Division

Ko Kyi Nyo was sentenced to jail for one year with hard labor. He owns 20 acres. He still need to sell 7,000 kilograms of rice to the Slorc.

[4]

Name : Ko Aye Ko
 Father's Name: Unknown
 Address: Baka Gyi village,
 Kyait Lat township,
 Irrawaddy Division.

Ko Aye Ko was sentenced to jail for one year with hard labor. He owns 20 acres of paddy fields and has still 4,200 kilograms to repay to the Slorc.

[5]

Name : U Maung
 Father's Name: U Gyi
 Mother's Name: Daw Win Win
 Address: Mar Mar Gon village,
 Kyait Lat township,
 Irrawaddy Division

U Maung has 10 acres of paddy fields. He still has to repay 3,500 kilograms of rice to the Slorc. When he heard that he would be arrested for this crime he committed suicide by hanging himself.

Continued from page 24

Although the merchants are not transporting goods legally they have to pay taxes unnecessarily in order not to close border trade.

CEMETERIES MOVED FOR HOTEL PROJECT

Slorc has been ordering the relocation of cemeteries to areas far away from the city limits and families are told to pick up the remains.

Very short notices were given to move the remains to the new sites, and Slorc has warned that graves left unmoved by the deadline will be bulldozed. The target has been Christian cemeteries and recently Kyandaw cemetery, the biggest cemetery in Rangoon. Kyandaw cemetery is where the late leaders of Burma, including former presidents and Prime Ministers of Burma as well as the members of thirty comrades were bombed. Some months ago, the Christian cemetery next to the Rangoon Zoological Garden was first ordered to move. Families brought remains from that cemetery to a larger cemetery located at Na-nat-taw.

Today, Slorc has made plans to use the site of the Na-nat-taw cemetery and Kyandaw cemetery for a hotel project. The project is reported to be financed by Japanese concerns and the drug kingpin, Khun Sa, who is being given a royal treatment by the generals who rule Burma. The United States has indicted Khun Sa on drug charges but the generals refuse to extradite him.

Christian families in the meantime are reported to be picking up the remains of their loved ones at Na-nat-taw cemetery and reburying them at a site at Ye Wai new cemetery near Shwe Nyaungbin on Rangoon-Pegu road.

Even the dead are restless and no longer free in Burma these days.

Slorc extorts money from villagers in Taungoo District

Slorc troops have over the last few months extorted some 465,000 kyat from villagers north of Rangoon, according to ABSDF sources.

The extortion has been carried out in Taungoo District by troops from Tactical Command (1) which is under the command of Aung Naing Tun.

According to sources in the Taungoo area, families living in Bawgali village were forced on November 27 last year to pay a total of 272,000 kyat to the military unit. Each family was forced to pay 800 kyat - 300 kyat for porter fees and 500 kyat for permanent porter fees.

Commander Aung Naing Tun's troops also

extorted money for porter fees from the following villages:

Kaw Thaytae	150 families	45,000 kyat
Kawsoekho	80 families	64,000 kyat
Wathokho	24 families	12,000 kyat
Kalaw Medaw	50 families	56,000 kyat.
Lelko	-	16,000 kyat

Reports of extortion by Slorc troops have also come from the area surrounding Htan Tapin, also located in Taungoo District. Slorc troops have been operating in the area in small groups, conducting patrols and laying in wait for KNU troops.

Arbitrary killings in Papun district by Slorc

While Slorc is claiming that peace and tranquillity exists in most of the country, human rights violations, particularly in the ethnic-controlled areas, continue unabated. Innocent villagers are subjected to arrest, and extra-judicial killings under the Slorc's four cuts campaign under which forced relocations and other forms of abuses are commonly practised.

The forced relocation campaign recently mounted in Karen, Karenni and Shan State areas aims to wipe out the ethnic armed forces from the region or to isolate them from the local people and to force them into a "cease-fire agreement". Villagers in the region have easily become the victims of human rights abuses by the Slorc troops during this brutal campaign. According to the Slorc's orders, any one found in the "free-fire zone" will be shot and killed without any questions and everything will be destroyed in the area.

One recent atrocity took place on November 6, 1996 in Papun district. Two Karen villagers were killed and other ten villagers were arrested and tortured by a joint military column of

Slorc Light Infantry Battalion 341, led by Lt-Col. Hla Phone Kyaw, and some DKBA troops. These villagers were arbitrarily rounded up while they were harvesting their paddy fields near Paw Ka Del village. All the paddy fields and huts were burnt down before the troops left the place.

Twelve villagers, two men and ten women, were taken by these troops. After an all-night interrogation the two men were shot dead the next day near the Klo Mu Khee stream. They were Saw Pho Htoo, a 26-year-old Karen villager from Mae Yehta camp, and Phar Htu Khar, a 20-year-old villager from Paw Ka Del village.

As of the beginning of December 1996, the Karen women from Mae Yehta camp and Paw Ka Del village were still being detained at Pa Khe Kyo military camp. However, two women managed to escape on November 16, 1996 and the following are interviews with these women.

[1]
 Name: Naw Bla Mu (a)
 age: Naw Mu Mu
 50 years old
 parents' name: U Maung Thein and
 Daw Welmu
 address: No.2 section,
 Mae Yehta camp
 date of arrested: November 6, 1996
 marital status: married with two children

[2]
 Name: Naw Kaw Ye Hmu
 age: 50 years old
 parents' name: U Kar Do and Daw ToGar
 address: No. 2 section,
 Mae Yehta camp
 date of arrested: November 6, 1996
 marital status: widow with three children

We were arrested while we were working in our paddy field near Paw Ka Del village in Papun district. There were two male and ten female villagers from Paw Ka Del village and Mae Yehta camp. The troops from LIB 341, led by Lt-Col. Hla Phone Kyaw, arrived at our paddy and rounded

up all the people. I saw about 16 DKBA soldiers with their badges on their arms along with the Slorc soldiers. The DKBA soldiers were under the control of the Slorc commander. As soon as they rounded us up, the two men were tied at the hands, but the women were not. They soldiers asked where we were from and if we had any relations with the KNU forces. We all said no to the latter question, but they did not believe us. They ordered us to go along with them. We did not know where we were heading to. Before we left, they burnt down all our twelve paddy fields and nine paddy barns. These fields belonged to Phar Se Moe (21), U Bu Kyay (45), Sae Phlay Htoo (50), Pha Ochi (50) and Phar Gay Kyay (49), all from Paw Ka Del village.

We slept at the paddy field that night. The DKBA soldiers guarded us. They said they would kill us if we attempted to escape. We were given a small piece of fish paste and a plate of rice. On the first night, two men were singled out and taken away from us. Later we heard their screams while they were under interrogation. They did not come back to us that night. Late in the night, two soldiers came to our place and grabbed us. We screamed



Extrajudicial killing is commonly practiced in Burma. A dead body, tied both hands behind was deserted by the Slorc soldiers in Papun district.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

and called out for help and then they left. We did not dare to go back to sleep on that night.

The next morning, on November 7, two men were shot dead near the Lko My Kee stream.

Their hands were tied and they were shot in the back. The column moved to another place that night. During that night four women were taken to the soldiers and questioned about the relations with the KNU troops. They were:

- (1) Naw Bla Kho 16 yrs Paw Ka Del village
- (2) Naw Lwe Chel 15 yrs Paw Ka Del village
- (3) Naw Khee La 25 yrs Mae Yehta camp
(9 months pregnant)
- (4) Naw Kae Ye Hmu 50 yrs Mae Yehta camp

The other women were:

- (1) Rokko Amo 30 yrs Mae Yehta camp
- (2) Naw Da Hel 45 yrs Mae Yehta camp
- (3) Naw Kaw Ye Paw 60 yrs Mae Yehta camp
- (4) Naw Pho Mu Gay 12 yrs Mae Yehta camp
- (5) Naw Ye Hel 45 yrs Mae Yehta camp
- (6) Naw Bla Mu 50 yrs Mae Yehta camp

We were taken along with the soldiers and we saw there were two civilian porters with the column. We were ordered to carry the 30 RPG shells while we were under arrest.

We escaped when they ordered us to look for water on November 16, 1996.



All the belongings and paddy barns were burnt by the Slorc.

ABSDF

PUBLISHES

"PLEADING

NOT

GUILTY"

The ABSDF will to publish a new report that offers a rare insight into the corrupt state of Burma's judiciary.

The report, entitled 'Pleading Not Guilty In Insein', is a translation of an official report on the trial of 22 political prisoners which was held inside Insein Prison in Rangoon. It is apparently the first time under the Slorc that an official report on the trial of political prisoners has found its way to an opposition group and been made public.

The trial was held in March last year and the report written by the judge who presided over the case, Deputy-Divisional Judge of Rangoon Division Court, Kyaw Htun. The document, which was smuggled across the border into Thailand, details the evidence and testimonies presented at the trial and the judge's summary and verdict.

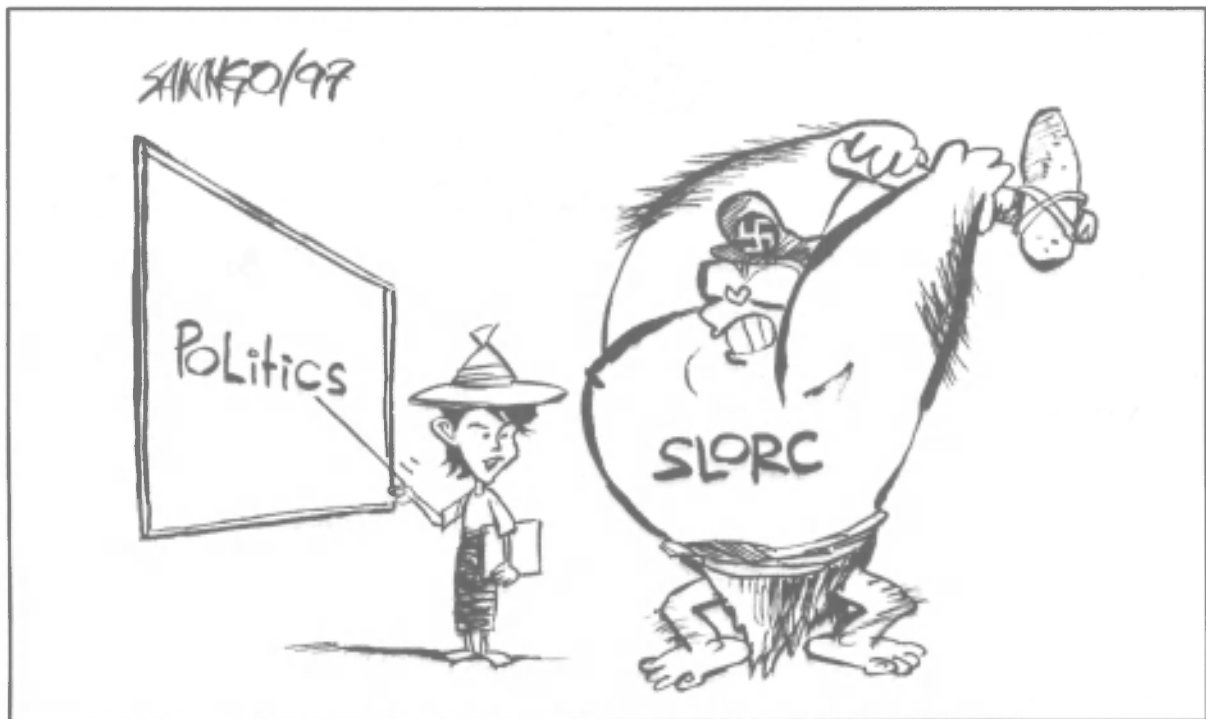
The document demonstrates the complicity of the judiciary and how the judiciary has accepted the use of

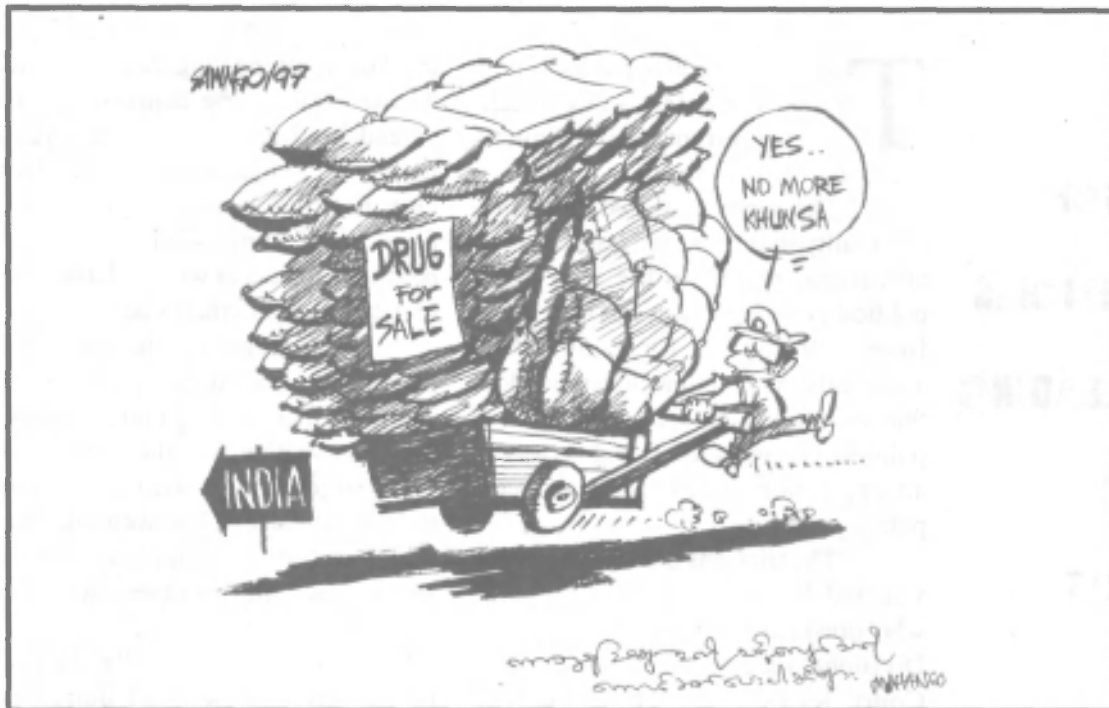
interrogations, beatings and torture as a means to obtaining confessions. The defendants were denied legal counsel for the trial, and the document shows how political prisoners are denied freedom of expression in not being permitted to read or write or have access to national or international news.

The judge reported that all 22 prisoners pleaded not guilty to the charges either on the grounds that what they had written was the truth or that the charges and/or evidence against them were false. They were all found guilty and all sentenced to a further seven years imprisonment with hard labor.

Since the trial, U Hla Than died in custody, officially of pulmonary tuberculosis. A request by him to be allowed to die at home was rejected reportedly because he refused to resign from the NLD. The other 21 prisoners remain in prison.

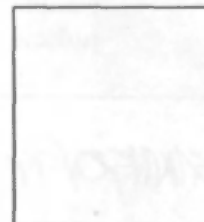
'Pleading Not Guilty In Insein' will be available from late February.





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